

- 1 **Take time to discuss the following question: “Do God’s blessings always make life easier?”** Push past a simple yes or no answer. Think of how God’s blessings might actually make life more complex or more difficult. (For an example from this week’s text, think of when God multiplied the people of Israel in Deut. 1:9-10.)

 *When has an answered prayer or blessing from the Lord made things more difficult or complicated in your life? What was that like? What did you do? How did you respond to God’s work?*

 *What would you tell someone who is struggling with the difficulty of God’s favor or the challenge associated with his blessing?*

- 2 **When it came to Moses and the multiplied people, it wasn’t just the number of people that created a burden, it was their character (Deut 1:12).** They were people who complained, argued, and stirred up strife.

 *What are 3-4 qualities in people that make the responsibility of leadership a blessing, and what kind of qualities in people make it a burden?*

 *Write down your 3-4 clearest lines of authority: \_\_\_\_\_  
In what specific ways can you make leadership a joy for them? What insights can you glean from (Heb. 13:17)?*

- 3 **Read Deut. 1:16-17. How did Moses advise those who were selected to rule in Israel?** How were they to judge?

 *How does Moses’ advice apply to your own situations? Think of opportunities for conflict-resolution, decision-making or leadership.*

 *As you consider your own opportunities to act with fairness and justice, what is significant is there to the phrase, “the judgment is God’s” in Deut. 1:17?*

