

Why Pray?
For the Sake of God's Glory in the World
Numbers 14:1-24

Moses was a great intercessor. Twenty of his prayers are written down for us. In this message, we looked at one of those prayers in Numbers 14:13-19. We can learn a lot from Moses about how to communicate with God.

Before we look at the prayer, remember every prayer has a context. The backstory is the story of the twelve spies sent into Canaan to survey the Promised Land. Take a moment to summarize the account.

1. What word do Joshua and Caleb use to describe the behavior of the Israelites in verse 9? How does this strong word accurately describe the situation?

2. God is ready to disinherit the Israelites and start over with Moses. How is God “testing” Moses in verses 11-12?

Moses, however, intercedes for the Israelites. Read Moses’ prayer. His prayer gives four guidelines:

- *When you pray, describe your situation and talk it out with God.*
- *When you pray, center your appeal on God’s reputation.*
- *When you pray, plead God’s character.*
- *When you pray, boldly ask for something specific.*

3. Why does Moses’ example encourage us to tell God “our story/situation” since He already knows it?

4. What is the main thing Moses prayed for? How should this re-shape how you pray?

5. Moses based his prayers on the character of God. Why is that important? How do we know what God’s character is like?

6. Why are effective prayers also specific? How can we eliminate vague, general prayers from our acts of intercession? How does God get the glory when we pray specifically?