

"A New Shepherd"

Numbers 27:12–23

28 November 2021

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Is there a particular transition/change you have experienced that was particularly difficult? How did you manage it?

WORLDVIEW

2. In the light of the text in Numbers, discuss this quote: "We to send these young people where we cannot go: into the future."

How can we prepare the next generation to faithfully advance the cause of Christ as members of BBC?

When do our children become a part of this "next generation"?

INTO THE TEXT

3. "Moses did as the Lord commanded him." We see this phrase 22 times in the book of Numbers. In the midst of his failures, Moses was obedient, which showed that he believed and cared for the flock. What should obedience look like for us today? How does our obedience display care for God's flock?

GOING DEEPER

4. Moses had a Numbers 20 failure (see Numbers 27:14) and yet he remained concerned about the future of God's people and that he would finish well (vv. 22–23; see Deuteronomy 34:9–12). How does this provide us with hope when we fail?

5. One sobering lesson from this text is that the Lord holds the leadership of his people accountable, just as he holds his people accountable (vv. 12–14). Discuss the relevance of this to leaders in the church (James 3:1; 1 Timothy 5:19–25).

6. Joshua was God’s appointed replacement, not Moses’s. Discuss how the local church can discern God’s appointed leader(s).

What role to the Scriptures play in this? See 1 Timothy 3:1–7, 8-13; Titus 1:5–9.

What is the congregation’s role in this?

7. Joshua had attended “Shepherd’s School” under Moses for forty years. He received on-the-job training and mentorship under Moses. In what ways can the local church prepare for additional elders and for the next pastor-teacher?

8. Discuss your ideal for pastoral-transition. Here are some questions to consider.

When do you think a pastor should step aside?

What process would you like to see in such a transition?

What role should you play in this?