

INTRODUCTION

Home Alone (not enough time for this)

NEED

Join the Rebellion: Everyone Counts is our new series. We are taking you through the book of Numbers to understand the storyline, the Gospel, and how the Holy Spirit uses this book to change your life. Numbers starts out all about...numbers. But then ultimately, we see the book as a bunch of stories about Israel's rebellion while in the wilderness.

BIBLE

Numbers 1:1-5, "1The Lord spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying, 2"Take a census of all the congregation of the people of Israel, by clans, by fathers' houses, according to the number of names, every male, head by head.

God told Moses to count up the people. Why is this? Its because God was revealing His faithfulness. **God loves to promise the impossible.** Hundreds of years earlier, God promised Abraham that he would be a father of a great nation. The problem was that Abraham was both childless and in his 70's. Just like now, grandfathers weren't having children back then. Miraculously, Abraham and Sarah have a baby when he was in his 90's. He wasn't a cradle-robber. She was in her 70's when she had Isaac. Isaac made it more possible for Abraham to have a family. Would Abraham have a nation, though?

Numbers 1:44 - 46 "44These are those who were listed, whom Moses and Aaron listed with the help of the chiefs of Israel, twelve men, each representing his fathers' house. 45So all those listed of the people of

*Israel, by their fathers' houses, from twenty years old and upward, every man able to go to war in Israel—
46all those listed were 603,550.”*

Check it out! Hundreds of years later, God has been faithful. He loves to promise the impossible. **God always keeps His promises.** With 600,000 able bodied men for war, we could say that this is over 2 million people. That is more than the total amount of people from Williamsburg to Virginia Beach (Hampton Roads has 1.7 million people).

Here's the point. **God loves to count people because people count.**

God loves to give us numbers in the Scriptures to show His power!

GOSPEL

Acts 2:41 *So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.*

God is bringing thousands to faith! This was the fulfillment Pentecost which was one of the feasts we talked about a few weeks ago. This passage is talking about the first day that Jesus poured out His Holy Spirit on His followers. They began sharing the Gospel with the people in Jerusalem and 3,000 of them gave their lives to Jesus!

Revelation 7:9-10 *9After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation*

belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Revelation 7 is all about God's final promise kept. We see here a countless number wrapped around the throne of Jesus to worship Him as King! These are all of those who gave their life to Jesus while on earth. God not only promised Abraham a great nation, but God promised His Son Jesus an eternal kingdom.

God is all about the numbers! We are all about the numbers. We're not saying bigger churches are better or smaller churches or worse. What we're saying is God is all about growth! God is not just about spiritual growth, but God is also about numerical growth as well.

When I was the Student Pastor at First Baptist Woodstock which was 7000+ people a week in attendance, I asked the Executive Pastor his number one piece of advice to lead well there. He told me, "Focus on relationships."

We count everyone because everyone counts.

God is all about the numbers because every number has a name, every name has a story, and every story will lead to an eternity.

In other words, God is not just about the people, He's also about the person.

The way to grow numerically is by focussing on people individually.

Reaching and Teaching is our strategy.

We want to reach the lost and teach the saved.

Passion for Growth, Why I do Student Ministry.

1. Student Ministry is normally a person's last stop before hell. Most people get saved by the age of 18.
2. Jesus called teenagers to be His disciples and world changers (only 7-9% of our country claim the truths that are essential to the Gospel)
3. 70% of churched teenagers leave the church and never return to a church faithfully again.

Growth of Liberty Students: Hampton

- Baptisms: 56 from July 2015 on Sundays and Wednesdays
- Salvations: 32 since January on Wednesdays
- First Timers: 251 since January on Wednesdays
- Average Attendance Wednesday 274, Biggest Glo Night 350

Numbers 10:29-32 ²⁹And Moses said to Hobab the son of Reuel the Midianite, Moses' father-in-law, "We are setting out for the place of which the Lord said, 'I will give it to you.' Come with us, and we will do good to you, for the Lord has promised good to Israel."
³⁰But he said to him, "I will not go. I will depart to my own land and to my kindred."
³¹And he said, "Please do not leave us, for you know where we should camp in the wilderness, and you will serve as eyes for us."
³²And if you do go with us, whatever good the Lord will do to us, the same will we do to you."

God counts everyone because everyone counts.

Watch Moses beg one person to go with them. We must beg those close to us. Do whatever it takes!

God is not just about the people, but He's also about the person.

God has placed specific people in your life to focus on individually.

The way we grow numerically is by focussing on people individually.

STORY

Nephews giving their life to Jesus.

Talking to Joey until 2am Saturday night.

LIFE

Who's Your One?

In this series "Join The Rebellion" through the book of Numbers, we're going to be talking about salvation. The summer is a great way to bring

friends in to give their life to Jesus. Who can you bring next week? We will be talking about heaven! The week after that, we're going to be talking about snakes in the wilderness. We might even be bringing in snakes! This month will be a great opportunity for your friends to get saved!

Next month, August, we're going to be teaching you all month how to lead your friends to Jesus as we study the book of Deuteronomy. The series will be called "White Flag."

How to invite your friends to church.

- 1. Be excited.**
- 2. Be persistent.**
- 3. Be smart.**

Some of you have been blessed with having just a few really close friends – deep impact. Invite them!

Some of you have been blessed with having many friends with wide-spread of impact. Invite them!

I wonder how many people are represented here tonight. Maybe you need to Join The Rebellion.

- 1. Always be excited about numerical growth.**
- 2. Always be excited about individual growth.**