



EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

Session 1: The Journey

Suggested Week of Use: September 7, 2025

Core Passage: Numbers 9:15-23

News Story Summary

Recently, Christian communities across the United States have debated a striking development: Believers turning to artificial intelligence (AI) for spiritual guidance. This trend includes everything from daily devotionals to interactive “Christian” counseling apps. While some appreciate the convenience that AI provides, religious leaders and ethicists question whether technology can—or should—serve such a role, given its lack of spiritual authority and moral grounding. Christian leaders don’t deny that AI could assist in many areas of study and spiritual growth. However, they note that the appeal of accessibility and personal responses doesn’t justify the dangers of cultivated content that sounds good but is filled with theological errors, misinterpretations, and syncretism. Since AI cannot experience a personal relationship with God, believers must be discerning and filter results through the truth of God’s Word. In addition, results from a computer can never replace the accountability and encouragement of community.

For more about this story, search “Churches and AI faith guidance.”

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, ask adults how they use artificial intelligence (AI) on a regular basis. Note that many of us use some form of AI every day through things like navigation apps or voice-activated assistants (like “Siri”) on our phones. Say: *In some ways, we follow AI’s directions without giving it a second thought.* Point out that AI does come with deeper ethical questions when it is used in certain areas of our lives. Share the information regarding the debate over using AI for spiritual direction or Christian counseling. Allow time for adults to discuss why it’s important to be discerning about our sources of direction in life. Explain that today’s session begins a study of Numbers and Deuteronomy by focusing on the spiritual direction the Israelites relied on during their time in the wilderness.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, remind the group that because artificial intelligence now touches nearly every area of our lives, developing discernment is crucial for a believer. Say: *There is a note at the bottom of every ChatGPT window reminding the user that it “can make mistakes. Check important info.”* Affirm that this is great advice for believers since God has given us the only perfect source for spiritual direction. Say: *He provides His Holy Spirit and His Word. We must always “check important info” in the light of what He says is true and right.* Challenge adults to reflect on God’s presence and direction among the Israelites in the wilderness as they face various decisions during the upcoming week.