

FLOURISHING IN GRAD SCHOOL
WEEK 11: STAY THE COURSE

*"Don't doubt in the dark what God has shown you in the light."
- Corrie Ten Boom*

NUMBERS 9: 15 - 23

¹⁵ On the day the tabernacle, the tent of the covenant law, was set up, the cloud covered it. From evening till morning the cloud above the tabernacle looked like fire. ¹⁶ That is how it continued to be; the cloud covered it, and at night it looked like fire. ¹⁷ Whenever the cloud lifted from above the tent, the Israelites set out; wherever the cloud settled, the Israelites encamped. ¹⁸ At the LORD's command the Israelites set out, and at his command they encamped. As long as the cloud stayed over the tabernacle, they remained in camp. ¹⁹ When the cloud remained over the tabernacle a long time, the Israelites obeyed the LORD's order and did not set out. ²⁰ Sometimes the cloud was over the tabernacle only a few days; at the LORD's command they would encamp, and then at his command they would set out. ²¹ Sometimes the cloud stayed only from evening till morning, and when it lifted in the morning, they set out. Whether by day or by night, whenever the cloud lifted, they set out. ²² Whether the cloud stayed over the tabernacle for two days or a month or a year, the Israelites would remain in camp and not set out; but when it lifted, they would set out. ²³ At the LORD's command they encamped, and at the LORD's command they set out. They obeyed the LORD's order, in accordance with his command through Moses.

Read the passage out loud together. Give everyone five or so minutes on their own to review it. Invite study members to note things that stand out and add a comment or question about it on their sheet.

Discussion Questions

The tabernacle functions as the place of God's presence in the midst of his people. What happens when it is set up? How does this cloud function in the community?

When it comes to discerning God's will for our lives, perhaps it feels as though having a cloud by day and a flame by night would be pretty nice. How do you discern God's will? How does he lead you?

How did you decide to start graduate school? What led to the decision to come here? Did you sense that God was leading you in the decision?

Which is harder for you: To go or to stay? To start something or to finish it?

Sometimes our resolve can wane. How are you doing at this moment with regard to your program? How are you feeling about the decisions you made in getting to this point in time?

Corrie Ten Boom once said, "Don't doubt in the dark what God has shown you in the light." What does this mean? Would you say it's dark or light for you right now?

Are there other things from the passage you want to comment on or ask about?

Spend a few minutes filling in the table below. When you are finished, discuss these final questions together and then pray for one another and for this group. Often God uses multiple inputs to guide our decision-making including the wisdom of his people. Where do you need God's guidance or direction or affirmation? How might this group help?

<i>Where do you need God's guidance or direction or help?</i>	<i>How could this group help you discern?</i>