



Faith for the Promised Land

Date: June 2, 2024

Text: Numbers 14

BIG IDEA

Israel has been grumbling against the Lord repeatedly on their journey toward the Promised Land. The Lord leads Moses to send out 12 spies to spy out the land, one of whom is Joshua. When they returned, all twelve gave a good report of the land, but ten of them discouraged Israel from entering. They stated that the people occupying the land were too powerful for them. The Lord, angry at the discouragement of His chosen people, commanded that none who agreed with this disbelief would enter the Promised Land. Just as those who failed to trust God missed out on the promise, we too can miss out on walking out God's promises here on earth if we fail to have faith and follow Him.

Conversation Starter

- Have you ever felt intimidated on the verge of a promising new start?
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COMMENTARY #1

(Numbers 13:1-16) The Lord leads Moses to send out 12 spies to spy out the land, one of whom is Hoshea (Joshua's birth-name). Hoshea experienced a name-change, like many other characters of the Bible. Moses renames him Joshua. Notice Joshua experiences this name change *before* he is ever tasked with taking territory. Name changes in the Bible often signified the beginning of a new season; a stepping into a calling; a new identity.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you agreed to a false name? Accepted an identity that is tied to sin in some part of your life? (For example, telling yourself your temper is “just part of who I am”?)
 2. Are there hurts, habits, or hang-ups that are enslaving you? Have you convinced yourself these things will never change (Romans 6:16)?
 3. How would adopting the Lord's story about who you are in Christ make an impact on this part of your life (Romans 6:16-19, Galatians 5:1, Hebrews 12:1-2) ?
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COMMENTARY #2

(Numbers 13:17-27) Notice that as a spy, Joshua had walked in the Promised Land and even experienced its fruit; he got a “taste” of the promise. This taste prompted him to greater trust, and he probably lived the rest of his life in fervent faith that he would one day get back to that land. In a similar way, God allows us glimpses and tastes of what living in the fullness of His promise

might look like. He has “set eternity in our hearts” (Ecclesiastes 3:11) and we get tastes and glimpses of that eternity along the way to grow our trust and hope.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you had glimpses of what living in eternity with Jesus will be like? Can you share an example?
 2. Have you met someone who lives their life with trust and hope in the Lord? Share.
 3. When have you lived in or experienced this hope?
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COMMENTARY #3

(Numbers 14) Here we discover Joshua is one of only two who had faith that God could give them the land; that He would keep His promises. “Faith” wasn’t something that leaders like Caleb & Joshua lacked, it was something the other 10 spies and all the people lacked. This story reminds us that to enter the Promised Land, we need more than just leaders with faith—we need the people to have faith!

Discussion Questions

1. Have you experienced a time when the discouragement of a few brought down an entire group?
2. Can leadership (whether in church or work environments) truly do all that they need to without participation from those they’re leading?

3. Why is it important for *all* people to live out faith and not just “church leaders?”

GOING DEEPER

Read Romans 6:21-23.

Satan wants us to be chained to sin, but freedom is available through Christ for a new life now as well as in eternity. If you are wanting help with a hurt, habit, or hang-up in your life, having someone you trust to talk it over and pray with you can make a huge difference.

One way to do this is to form a [discipleship band](#). These are small groups (3-5 people) with members of the same sex who meet on a regular basis to answer the question posed by John Wesley: “How is it with your soul?”

Another way to meet with a helpful group is to attend one of Asbury’s [Freedom Nights](#) with Celebrate Recovery. More info on CR can be found under “Additional Resources.”

Finally, if you know someone who is struggling, Asbury would love to help support them! We don’t have to fight alone. Invite them to come, meet us, and find out about life groups.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Asbury offers Freedom Nights with Celebrate Recovery:

<https://weareasbury.com/celebraterecovery/>

GROUP ACTIVITY

Read Hebrews 12:12-14.

Break up into small groups to pray words of encouragement over one another. Pray for each person's identity to move from the old narrative of slavery to sin or of being wounded into the identity of freedom and renewal found in Christ.