

## SMALL GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

Take some time to pray together as you begin.

1. Have you ever found yourself in a tough spot where you compromised your faith because of fear? How did that turn out for you in the end?
2. Can you describe a situation where you were victorious in your faith over fears? Remember that Caleb & Joshua's lives were clearly in danger but they still chose to obey God (Numbers 14:10). Share with the group how your stand for Christ worked out in the end.
3. Not every courageous act ends well on earth. Many martyrs were faithful unto death and did not experience victory until they faced Christ in heaven. Nevertheless, it is always right to obey God regardless of the earthly outcome. Be careful not to forget this.

Open up the Word: As you seek God, remember that it is not good to just know "about" God – we need to know Him personally. Learn from the Israelites and choose to live differently today through faith. Read from 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 together. Pay close attention to the purpose of the warning stated in verses 6-7. The parallel passages to these verses are listed in the left column as a reference if needed.

<b>ISRAEL'S WILDERNESS EXPERIENCES IN 1 CORINTHIANS</b>	
Exodus 32:4–6	1 Corinthians 10:7
Numbers 11:4	1 Corinthians 10:6
Numbers 16:41–49; 17:5, 10	1 Corinthians 10:10
Numbers 20:11	1 Corinthians 10:4
Numbers 21:5–6	1 Corinthians 10:9
Numbers 25:1–9	1 Corinthians 10:8
Numbers 26:65	1 Corinthians 10:5

Pray for each other to be courageous, obedient, humble, followers of Jesus Christ able to stand against temptation.

## "Risk-Taking Obedience"

Mark Thompson / 10.23.11

An example of true faith:

**Genesis 12:1-2a:** The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

- 2 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.
- 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

<sup>4</sup> So Abram left, as the LORD had told him....

Simple lessons from Abraham:

- His \_\_\_\_\_ were open to hear God speak
- His \_\_\_\_\_ was clear to consider God's vision for his life
- His \_\_\_\_\_ was conditioned to receive God's blessings
- His \_\_\_\_\_ were ready to move under God's direction

**Israelite leaders called to scout out Canaan:**

**Numbers 13:1-2:** The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> "Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders."<sup>3</sup> So at the LORD's command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites.

## Instructions to the 12 spies:

**Numbers 13:17-20a:** When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, "Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. <sup>18</sup> See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. <sup>19</sup> What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? <sup>20</sup> How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land."

## The conflicting sides of the report:

**Numbers 13:26-27:** They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. <sup>27</sup> They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit."

**Numbers 13:28-29:** "But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. <sup>29</sup> The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan."

**Numbers 13:30:** Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it."

## 10 weak leaders win over the Israelites:

**Numbers 13:31-33:** But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." <sup>32</sup> And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. <sup>33</sup> We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

## The pity party erupts

**Numbers 14:1-3:** That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. <sup>2</sup> All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! <sup>3</sup> Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" <sup>4</sup> And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

## Key Truths to live out today:

**Hebrews 11:1-2:** "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. <sup>2</sup> This is what the ancients were commended for."

1. Decide to \_\_\_\_\_ God even in \_\_\_\_\_ circumstances
2. Believe that God honors our \_\_\_\_\_ ... always
3. Remember that it is \_\_\_\_\_ to disobey God than to trust Him

**Hebrews 11:6:** "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."