



Living Water
Church

Diving Deeper: A Gather Group discussion guide
or personal devotional guide



Faith or Fear

Introduction: The Lord promised the people of Israel that He would give them the promised land. Moses sent 12 spies to look at the land and bring back a report of the land. Joshua and Caleb came back and said, "We can take this land that God has given us." Ten of the men said that the people were too great and that there was no way to advance. Some were moved by faith while others were moved by fear.

Text: Read Numbers 13-14

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: Discuss/Write about a situation where a moment of decision arrived and you were torn between believing and trusting God, or focusing on the circumstance around you?
2. We live in a world of broken promises. The husband who breaks his promise to his wife and leaves, the friend who tells the confidential news, etc. What is the difference of when we make a promise and when God makes a promise?
3. The twelve men who were charged with spying out the land all heard the same promise from God. They were all aware that God had promised them this land. Why did they all not come back with confident faith? What made Caleb have such strong faith? Why did the ten other men have so much fear?
4. Life is full of various situations and circumstances. Some are really great and are easy to navigate through. Some are difficult and seem impossible. How will faith keep you grounded through the trials? Write/Discuss
How will fear cause you to stumble through the trials? Write/Discuss
5. The ten men that were moved by fear impacted the whole congregation in a negative way. They voted Moses and Aaron out and got new leaders who would take them back to Egypt. Why do so many people go back to the very thing that enslaves them when life gets tough? How have you made this error or how have you seen this happen?
6. The fear spread like a cancer and all the people rebelled against God. Have you ever noticed how negative, critical, and divisive people can have a negative impact on others? Discuss/Write
7. What was the consequence for those who would not believe God's promise? What is the danger in choosing the path of fear and disobedience?
8. Discuss/Write about this statement: God will allow you to wander in the wilderness if that is the path you want to travel? How have you either experienced this or witnessed this?
9. What was it about Caleb that was different than the others? How can you walk in the path of faith?

Think About it:

We live and die by the choices we make. The people of Israel had an opportunity to experience the mighty deeds of God and continue that walk all the way to the promised land. However, they focused on the people and problems, rather than the promise of God. They feared man rather than fearing God. It cost them dearly. Everyone 20 years and older died in the wilderness. The only two who were able to enter in the promised land of that generation were Caleb and Joshua. When faced with trials . . . make sure you are moved by faith and not fear.

Moving Forward:

Walk in faith this week believing the promises of God. No matter what situations you find yourself in or trials that come your way, make sure to rely on the word of God and place your hope in His mighty hand. Know that the Lord promised to never leave you or forsake you. If you are a child of God, then He has you in the palm of His hand! Walk by faith, not by sight.