

Small Group Leaders Notes for Week of 1/28/2007

This Weeks Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:6

“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.”

This Weeks Lesson: Numbers 13 & 14, A Story About Leadership

1. Read Chapter 13:1-2 again, what did God promise to the Israelites through Moses?

God told the Israelites that He would give them this land He had promised. He told them to go and explore the land He was giving over to them. He did not ask them if they thought they could take it on their own!

2. Why do you think the spies (other than Caleb and Joshua) were reluctant to let God lead them into this Promised Land? What is at the heart of the matter?

Lack of trust and failing to believe the promise of God combined with great fear and lack of personal strength and dependence on self, kept them from following God’s plan. They depended upon what they knew they could do to determine what they did next.

The issue is trust and believing what God has promised. I must ask, do I really believe what God says? Do I trust Him? These are important questions each of us must battle daily. Our actions will indicate our belief.

In a great study called Experiencing God by Henry Blackaby (I highly recommend it for every small group), he says this; “the crisis of belief is a turning point where you must make a decision. **You must decide what you believe about God.** How you respond at this point will determine whether you go on to be involved with God in something God-sized that only He can do, or whether you will continue to go on your own way and miss what God has purposed for your life. This is not a one-time experience. It is a daily experience. **How you live your life is a testimony of what you believe about God.**”

3. Who did the Israelites side with in this decision? Do you find it easier to go with human logic than to go with God? Does following God at times require going against the culture?

The Israelites used reason to determine that the majority of the spies were right and Joshua and Caleb had a bad idea. Human nature seems to always follow the logic of man rather than God. When a step of faith is called upon, it rarely makes logical sense to the human mind.

4. What was the consequence of the Israelites rebellion?

Numbers 14:18 says “the Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished. So God forgave them (verse 20) but He also punished them (verse 22).”

Daily Reading Schedule:

This week we will read the story of 12 spies and how Caleb and Joshua trusted God’s promise. We will also read a couple other stories of men who made a name for themselves, God’s way.

Day 1 - Numbers 13

Day 2 - Numbers 14

Day 3 – Judges 6:33, 7:1-18 - Story of Gideon

Day 4 - 1 Chronicles 14:8-16 – Story of David and the Philistines

Day 5 – Hebrew 11 – By Faith