

# MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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This week, Senior Pastor Marty Grubbs continued in our *Fearless* series with a story from the Old Testament when the Israelites were close to entering the Promised Land. Focusing on the wrong things, the Israelites feared the people before them and forgot what God had done for them in the past. God's faithfulness can conquer fear, but we have to lean into his promises.

- Fear is when we forget what God did in the past and underestimate what he can do in the future,
- Fear will call you back to the comfort zones of the past,
- Fear delays God's plan for you,

## SCRIPTURE: NUMBERS 13-14

**13** 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. <sup>4</sup>These are their names:

from the tribe of Reuben, Shammua son of Zakkur;

<sup>5</sup>from the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat son of Hori;

<sup>6</sup>from the tribe of Judah, Caleb son of Jephunneh;

<sup>7</sup>from the tribe of Issachar, Igal son of Joseph;

<sup>8</sup>from the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea son of Nun;

<sup>9</sup>from the tribe of Benjamin, Palti son of Raphu;

<sup>10</sup>from the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel son of Sodi;

<sup>11</sup>from the tribe of Manasseh (a tribe of Joseph), Gaddi son of Susi;

<sup>12</sup>from the tribe of Dan, Ammiel son of Gemalli;

<sup>13</sup>from the tribe of Asher, Sethur son of Michael;

<sup>14</sup>from the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi son of Vophsi;

<sup>15</sup>from the tribe of Gad, Geuel son of Maki.

<sup>16</sup>These are the names of the men Moses sent to explore the land. (Moses gave Hoshea son of Nun the name Joshua.)

<sup>17</sup>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." (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.)

<sup>21</sup>So they went up and explored the land from the Desert of Zin as far as Rehob, toward Lebo Hamath. <sup>22</sup>They went up through the Negev and came to Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, lived. (Hebron had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) <sup>23</sup>When they reached the Valley of Eshkol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs. <sup>24</sup>That place was called the Valley of Eshkol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there. <sup>25</sup>At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

<sup>26</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>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.”

<sup>30</sup>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.”

<sup>31</sup>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.”

**14** 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.”

<sup>5</sup>Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. <sup>6</sup>Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes <sup>7</sup>and said to the entire Israelite assembly, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. <sup>8</sup>If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. <sup>9</sup>Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them.”

<sup>10</sup>But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the tent of meeting to all the Israelites. <sup>11</sup>The Lord said to Moses, “How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I have performed among them? <sup>12</sup>I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they.”

<sup>13</sup>Moses said to the Lord, “Then the Egyptians will hear about it! By your power you brought these people up from among them. <sup>14</sup>And they will tell the inhabitants of this land about it. They have already heard that you, Lord, are with these people and that you, Lord, have been seen face to face, that your cloud stays over them, and that you go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. <sup>15</sup>If you put all these people to death, leaving none alive, the nations who have heard this report about you will say, <sup>16</sup>‘The Lord was not able to bring these people into the land he promised them on oath, so he slaughtered them in the wilderness.’

<sup>17</sup>“Now may the Lord’s strength be displayed, just as you have declared: <sup>18</sup>‘The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.’ <sup>19</sup>In accordance with your great love, forgive the sin of these people, just as you have pardoned them from the time they left Egypt until now.”

<sup>20</sup>The Lord replied, “I have forgiven them, as you asked. <sup>21</sup>Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, <sup>22</sup>not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times— <sup>23</sup>not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it. <sup>24</sup>But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it. <sup>25</sup>Since the Amalekites and the Canaanites are living in the valleys, turn back tomorrow and set out toward the desert along the route to the Red Sea.”

## **JOHN 14:27**

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What stood out from Marty's message?
2. Read Numbers 13:1-30. What was the mission of the 12 men from the Israelite tribes?
3. What was the report back to Moses and the Israelites? What would have been the reaction of the people?
4. Read Numbers 13:31-33. What did 10 of the 12 report?
5. Read Numbers 14:1-4. How did the people respond to the report of the 10?
6. Read Numbers 14:5-25. How did God respond to the fear of the Israelites?
7. When have you listened to the wrong voice? What has happened when you have responded to fear rather than to God's promises?
8. How can we pray for you?

## **PRAYER**

Ask God to reveal to you those areas where you are reacting to fear and forgetting his faithfulness. Read John 14:27, and lean into God's promises of peace. Commit to following God's voice when the path you're on gets rough or a fork in the road appears. Remember what God has done in the past, his faithfulness. He is bigger than any road block or difficulty.