

# Fearless Obedience to God

Because God can always be trusted to keep His promises, His people can courageously obey Him in fearful circumstances



**GOD'S STORY**  
THE TRANSFORMATION FOR ADULT LIFEGROUPS

**Numbers 13-14**

**April 26, 2020**

(Numbers 13:26-31) <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."

(Numbers 14:6-9) <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."

(Numbers 14:17-23) <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."

## COMMUNITY – CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- Do you tend to defer to the majority opinion and go along with the crowd? Or do you tend to speak up for what you want?
- How does this work when the group is trying to decide where to go to eat? How does it work when the church is struggling to find and obey God's will? Have you ever seen a group of Christians be talked out of following God because of fear or challenges? What happened?

## CONTENT – EXPLORING GOD'S STORY

Have a volunteer read Numbers 13:26-31

- The scouts' report of a good land with large cities and abundant produce must have been enticing to the Israelites after many months in the desert. Caleb and the other scouts all saw the same evidence. What led them to make different recommendations (vv. 30-31)?
- What kinds of fears keep people from obeying God today (either individually or as a group)?
- What's keeping you from obeying God? What action is He calling you to take? What reasons are you giving to justify your choice not to obey?
- How can we distinguish between wise caution and faint-hearted disobedience? What will it take to obey even when afraid?

Have a volunteer read Numbers 14:6-9

- What points did Joshua and Caleb make as they appealed to the Israelites not to rebel against the Lord's command? Why did they say the people should not be afraid?

- In the end, whose argument was more persuasive? Why?
- Is fear a sin? Why or why not? What is the relationship between trust and obedience?
- How would truly believing "the Lord is with us" (v. 9) impact your willingness to obey in a situation you are facing today?

Have a volunteer read Numbers 14:17-23

- What did Moses ask the Lord to do? How did God answer him?
- What truths about God did Moses declare and depend on (vv.18-19) when he asked the Lord to pardon the Israelites?
- What was the result of the Israelites' disobedience? Is this outcome a demonstration of God's faithful love? If so, how?
- If God forgives wrongdoing and rebellion, why must we still experience the consequences of our sinful choices? Is that a contradiction? Explain.
- How would you say this example compares to the way God handles our disobedience today? Explain.
- In what ways have you already begun to know God's rest? What is keeping you from knowing God's rest more fully?

### COMMISSION – ENGAGING IN GOD'S STORY

- How has disobedience in the past affected your relationship with God? What steps can you take today to restore your relationship and receive God's forgiveness and mercy?
- What advice would you give to a friend who is having trouble moving beyond regret for past disobedience to the Lord?
- How has God shown you mercy despite your failure to obey? How has that helped you understand His character? How does this affect your obedience today?

**PRAYER:** Close in prayer, asking God to keep your group members faithful to Him and to help them accept His plans for their lives. Pray that as they grow in their faith and see God's fulfilled goodness to them, their fears will take a back seat and they will testify to God's hand of blessing on their lives.

### CONTINUE TO JOURNEY THROUGH GOD'S STORY

Bible Reading Plan:

DAY 1 – Numbers 20, 27:12-23  
 DAY 2 – Numbers 34-35  
 DAY 3 – Deuteronomy 1-2  
 DAY 4 – Deuteronomy 3-4  
 DAY 5 – Deuteronomy 6-7

KEY VERSE: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

H.E.A.R. Method:

Highlight a verse or two.  
 Explain what the text means.  
 Apply the verse to your life.  
 Respond to God.

Our team has put together Bible study resources to encourage and inspire you as you engage in God's Story. Visit [chetscreek.com/gods-story](http://chetscreek.com/gods-story) for videos, study guides, and more.