

Numbers Bible Study Assignment

August 11, 2022

Reading Assignment: Numbers 13-14

Discussion Questions

1. Given God's repeated promise that the Land of Canaan would be a "land of milk and honey" (Exodus 3:17, Leviticus 20:24), why do you think Moses wanted the spies to report on the goodness or badness of the land?
2. Why do you think it took 2 men to carry the cluster of grapes (Numbers 13:23)? What does that imply about the land of Canaan?
3. Give a modern example of someone (or a group of people, like a church congregation), when faced with a good news / bad news situation, focusing only on the bad news.
4. Have you ever had to be the "lone voice of reason" – supporting an idea or course of action when all others were against it? If so, what happened?
5. Give an example of a community of faith resisting a risky course of action. Why do you think it's so difficult for congregations to risk doing something new?
6. How does Caleb defend the idea of invading Canaan? How did this differ from the observations/opinions of the other spies?

7. When did Joshua join forces with Caleb? What did he do to show his support?

8. God's reaction to the Israelites' fear/complaining in Numbers 14:12 is to tell Moses he will wipe them out and start over with Moses and his descendants, and Moses intercedes for the people. Give another example of God threatening to kill off the Israelites and Moses interceding on their behalf.

9. Moses was able to change God's mind (Numbers 14:20). What do you think this implies about human relationships with God?

10. In Numbers 14:29 and 14:32, God states that the current generation of Israelites' "dead bodies shall fall in the wilderness" – if the Lord no longer planned to kill them, how do you think they would die? What scriptural evidence supports this?

11. Why do you think the naysayer spies "died by a plague before the Lord"? Why might it have been a bad idea to leave them alive?

12. What information did the Israelites have that indicated that their invasion of Canaan would not be successful in Numbers, Chapter 14?

August 4 Assignment – Numbers 15-16