

# Joshua & Caleb's Lesson

Week of Oct. 28 - Nov. 3, 2019

## Introduction

This passage demonstrates how important faith is by showing what happens when God's people fail to trust in God. God wanted to get His people home as fast as He could after 400 years in slavery. To see how big His promise was, He even let them send scouts ahead. It was a place filled with bounty, but also with giants. The choice was, Go forth in faith or retreat in fear? The Israelites were so close to walking across the threshold into the Promised Land. They could even taste it; milk and honey were flowing just over there!

## Lesson Numbers 14:1-12

**14** That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. **2** 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! **3** 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?" **4** And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

**5** Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. **6** Joshua son of Nun and Caleb, son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes **7** and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. **8** 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. **9** 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.”

**10** But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the tent of meeting to all the Israelites. **11** 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? **12** I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they.”

## Questions

1. This Bible passage is about the importance of faith in God. What does it mean to put faith in God? What practices do you use to strengthen your faith?
2. Caleb and Joshua were trustworthy and attempted to convince the Israelites to remain faithful. Who are trustworthy and faithful role models for you?
3. During the assembly of the people, “the glory of the Lord appeared at the tent of the meeting”. When have you experienced God’s presence in a special way?
4. Israel provoked God’s wrath with their unbelief. Have you ever wanted to rebel against God? When have you questioned God? How do you overcome feelings of doubt?
5. In today’s world, we are sometimes confronted by people who incite fear or inspire despair. How do you demonstrate hope and courage for God’s promises?

## Prayer

Lord, God, help me to put my faith in you. Help me to believe your promises. Forgive me when I experience paralysis by analysis. Thank you for faithful role models and thank you for your presence in my life. Amen.