



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of January 28, 2018

Note to Discussion Leaders: Have members read the Bible passage in the group meeting. This is a “worship discussion” guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. Read through this guide before meeting with the group. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for the time of meeting together, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Numbers 13:1-33 “So We Seemed”

- When do you struggle with unbelief?

¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² “Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel. From each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a chief among them.” ³ So Moses sent them from the wilderness of Paran, according to the command of the LORD, all of them men who were heads of the people of Israel. ⁴ And these were their names: From the tribe of Reuben, Shammua the son of Zaccur; ⁵ from the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat the son of Hori; ⁶ from the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh; ⁷ from the tribe of Issachar, Igal the son of Joseph; ⁸ from the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Nun; ⁹ from the tribe of Benjamin, Palti the son of Raphu; ¹⁰ from the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel the son of Sodi; ¹¹ from the tribe of Joseph (that is, from the tribe of Manasseh), Gaddi the son of Susi; ¹² from the tribe of Dan, Ammiel the son of Gemalli; ¹³ from the tribe of Asher, Sethur the son of Michael; ¹⁴ from the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi the son of Vophsi; ¹⁵ from the tribe of Gad, Geuel the son of Machi. ¹⁶ These were the names of the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Hoshea the son of Nun Joshua.

- What was the LORD’s command to Moses? What promise was the basis of this command?

¹⁷ Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan and said to them, “Go up into the Negeb and go up into the hill country, ¹⁸ and see what the land is, and whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many, ¹⁹ and whether the land that they dwell in is good or bad, and whether the cities that they dwell in are camps or strongholds, ²⁰ and whether the land is rich or poor, and whether there are trees in it or not. Be of good courage and bring some of the fruit of the land.” Now the time was the season of the first ripe grapes.

- What are the particulars of the mission?

²¹ So they went up and spied out the land from the wilderness of Zin to Rehob, near Lebo-hamath. ²² They went up into the Negeb and came to Hebron. Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi, the descendants of Anak, were there. (Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) ²³ And they came to the Valley of Eshcol and cut down from there a branch with a single cluster of grapes, and they carried it on a pole between two of them; they also brought some pomegranates and figs. ²⁴ That place was called the Valley of Eshcol, because of the cluster that the people of Israel cut down from there.

- What did the spies see & experience in the land of Canaan?

²⁵ At the end of forty days they returned from spying out the land. ²⁶ And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the people of Israel in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh. They brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷ And they told him, “We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. ²⁸ However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. And besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there. ²⁹ The Amalekites dwell in the land of the Negeb. The Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the hill country. And the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and along the Jordan.”

- What good report did the spies bring to Moses, Aaron & the people? What bad report did the spies bring?

³⁰ But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it." ³¹ Then the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are." ³² So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. ³³ And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them."

- Why did Caleb interrupt the report? How did the other spies respond?
- Sometimes, we are tempted to think more highly of ourselves than we ought. In this account, unbelief means that the Israelites are thinking too little of themselves. This is because they thought little of God and His promises. Where in your life today are you tempted **to doubt God's** Word to view yourself as a grasshopper rather than as a child of the King?
- Take time to pray together.
 - Where do you need courage to trust and follow Jesus according to His promises?
 - Are you struggling with doubt? Confess your sin and ask Him for faith.
 - Thank God for the confidence that comes from the finished work of Jesus Christ, His indwelling Spirit, and His Word.

*Questions about this week's study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org
To hear sermons and access past study guides visit www.wepc.org/archivedsermons*

Sermon Notes

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Numbers 13:1-33](#).

There is a God who has spoken and acted in time and in space most powerfully and profoundly in Jesus Christ.

Why is it necessary to "spy" out the land?

- To help the people understand the challenges
- To help them see how God has kept His promises

Where do the spies go?

- Why is Hebron highlighted? ([Genesis 23:19](#))

What do the spies bring back?

- Produce and confirmation
- A good report-- and a bad report

A matter of perspective

- "...which I am giving..." (1)
- "... to which you sent us..." (27)
- Resources versus challenges
- The mob

Three of the dozens of promises to the people of God:

- "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive them" ([1 John 1:9](#))
- "Behold, I am with you always" ([Matthew 28:20](#))
- "In Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive" ([1 Corinthians 15:22](#))