

Week 5—Numbers 13-14

Begin each day of your study by asking the LORD to speak to you through His Word.

Day 1

1. Read Numbers 13:1-25. Describe the specific mission given in 13:1-25 to the twelve spies and their experiences in carrying this out.

2. What was Moses' intention for sending out the spies? What can this teach us about the balance of faith and wise planning?

3. Read the note below. What do you know about the significance of names in the Bible? What significance do you attribute to Moses changing Joshua's name here? How does this foreshadow Jesus and what He did for us?

Hoshea the son of Nun— Notice that Moses would change his assistant's name from Hoshea, which means "desire for salvation," to Joshua, which means "the Lord is salvation." Joshua is also the root word for Jesus in Hebrew.

Day 2

1. Read Numbers 13:26-33. Do the spies deny the goodness of this land? If not, what do they deny? What does this teach us? What happens when we focus on problems instead of God's power and faithfulness (notice especially v. 31)?
2. Why did the people focus on the giants instead of the fruit? How can we do the same thing in our lives? What is the remedy?
3. Can we stop "giants" (fear) from entering into our lives? If not, how can we face them when they come our way based on these verses?

The descendants of Anak— This group were renowned for their great stature/height and possibly derive from the Nephilim (heavenly beings) or "sons of God" in Genesis 6 who intermixed with human women and bore children. This is perhaps why they were so feared. Goliath was a descendant of this race or one like it.

Day 3

1. Read Numbers 14:1-9. What is the effect on the rest of the Israelites after the spies' report? What can this teach those who may lead others in some way (i.e. parents)?
2. How is it possible the people would not trust in the power of God after all they have experienced or heard? Does this ever happen to God's people today? When does this happen to you?
3. What do you notice about Caleb and Joshua's response to the spies? Why did Joshua and Caleb say that the Israelites *could* defeat their enemies? How was their focus different from the others? In what ways does a person's perspective define his or her reality?
4. How would you define courage? Does courage mean lack of fear? Why or why not? What are some of the most potent kinds of fear that keep people from boldly going forward in the face of adversity?

Day 4

1. Read Numbers 14:10-38. What is God proposing to Moses (cf. v. 10)? How does Moses respond? What does this show us about him yet again? Would you have done/said the same thing? Why or why not?

2. What lessons in prayer and intercession can you learn from Moses in Numbers 14:13-19?

3. How does the LORD describe Caleb in these verses? Do you know someone like Caleb? Who? What makes him/her that way? What steps could you make in your life to become more like Caleb?

4. Notice Numbers 14:3 again. What are some of the reasons the Israelites gave to refuse to enter the Promised Land? Now read vv. 32-35 again. Would this be true for their children? What lesson, if any, do you take from this?

They will meet their end in this wilderness; here they will die— Because of this judgment from God, Israel's entry into the Promised Land was delayed until forty years after the Exodus from Egypt until this faithless generation all died.

Day 5

1. Read Numbers 14:39-45. What does God's judgment teach us about refusing to trust God? Is this comparable in any way to our situation as followers of Jesus today?
2. Chapter 14 has been called the key to the book of Numbers. Why might this be so?
3. How would you feel if you were Moses at the end of this story? From what you know, how does he respond? What can we learn from him about handling bitter disappointments in our lives?

Conclusion

1. What most stood out to you as you studied Numbers 13-14 this week? *Why* do you think this was the case?
2. What is the Holy Spirit prompting you to *do* as a result of this? Be prepared to share with your group!