

Sermon Questions for Life Groups

He Wanted That Mountain

(Num. 13& 14; Joshua 14:6-15)

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*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions
or family or personal devotions*

1. Review Numbers 13:25-33, 14:5-9 and 14:20-25. Pastor Gary pointed out several characteristics of Caleb. For each of the following, 1) consider how Caleb lived it out, 2) speak of someone you know with the same characteristic, and 3) consider how you measure up to that character quality in your own life.
 - a. whole hearted
 - b. conviction
 - c. tenacity
 - d. would not settle for less
 - e. influencer
 - f. would not waiver from the vision
 - g. emboldened by confidence in the Lord
 - h. not afraid of difficult tasks

2. Numbers 14:24 indicates that by “having a different spirit” it leads to being “wholehearted”. What are some aspects of wholehearted Christian living today?

3. Recall Pastor Gary’s example of “tenacity.” In thinking about your own Christian witness to family, friends, neighbours or co-workers, how do you try to achieve a balance between giving a loving witness and with possibly being perceived as dogmatic, extreme, stubborn or too tenacious?

4. For the 10 spies out of 12 who gave a negative report, put yourself into their shoes, would you have given the same report based on what was seen? Have you ever given a less than optimistic evaluation about a potential project or movement based on your ‘objective’ and ‘rational’ thinking? Any current-day examples in our church?

5. Considering the history of the Israelite people and God’s provision to this point, how did the other spies fall short in their walk with God?

6. As demonstrated in the Number's passage, faithfulness towards God is often not welcome by those around us. Read James 1:12 and Romans 5:2-4 to consider the benefits of faithfulness.
7. Caleb is a demonstration that we do not have to lose our vigor and passion, no matter how long we have been in the faith. Read Hebrews 12:1-3:
 - a. What are some of the stumbling blocks and snares that cause us to tire and to become discouraged in our faith journey?
 - b. What are some of the things we can do to help run our race with perseverance?
 - c. How do these apply to our "run" as a church?
8. Discuss Pastor Gary's statement that we need to accept and believe the Bible in whole or none of it. Do you agree? Are there still problem areas in the Bible for you that you find difficult to defend, e.g. creation, the age of the earth, the great flood event, etc.? As you share different struggles, help each other with how to respond to these challenging questions or Biblical teachings.
9. What difference(s), if any, is there between being confident of God's sovereignty and trusting God with your children? Pastor Gary mentioned that we often will trust God to the end of the earth for our own lives, but that somehow we don't have the same confidence for our children's lives. Is this true and if so why is it so? Read Deuteronomy 6: 1 – 9 to see how we help our children's confidence in God as well as be reassured as parents?
10. Caleb had a vision for the glory of God, do you have your own personal vision from God? If this is still a work in progress, have you given thought and prayer to possible things you can attempt for God? Read Isaiah 54: 1 – 5, discuss what it means here to enlarge your tent.
11. Caleb wanted a mountain (Joshua 14:20). Are you a Caleb? What marks you as a Caleb?