



## **Just Brave Enough- When going *against the crowd***

### ***Numbers 13-14***

I like this entire passage from Numbers because to me there is so much packed into a small section of Scripture and I think we could get so much from this, not just the bravery of two men against the crowd, but of so much of life...

The basics of the story are this: spies were sent out to inspect the land and they returned with their report but the people were afraid and didn't want to go take the land promised them. However, two of the men that explored the land, Joshua and Caleb, were in favor of moving into the land. When the people rejected the idea, they spoke up and the result of course was that they received the land of milk and honey that the others were denied.

Let's look at a few key verses- Read:

#### **Numbers 13:26-32**

**Numbers 13:27** – so the land is good and the people can see it- (look at v23).

**Numbers 13:28** – Notice the first word of the sentence: “BUT.” What does that tell us? A disclaimer is coming...

**Numbers 13:30** – What boldness- remember v26 says that the “whole Israelite community” was present for this report. So Caleb is stepping up to make his point in the face of the entire community.

**Numbers 13: 31-32** The other men on the trip step up against Caleb here, so he is outnumbered. Then in verse 32 they begin to spread gossip and dissention. Pretty typical of today's world too...

In the face of all the things they had seen with their own eyes, and heard with their own ears the people are still afraid, still unbelieving of God's promises and words...

Picture the scene- the “whole assembly” is present and so far one voice has spoken up and said move forward while the others are openly against that process. (Joshua has yet to be brought into the conversation). Based upon what we know and see in today's world I can picture anger and harsh words being thrown around and shouting at each other as the meeting goes on... So we have one against the crowd.

**Q-** When thinking about going against the crowd, or being *just brave enough*, who comes to mind to you in today's world?

**Q-** Have we ‘seen’ anyone in today's world be brave against the crowd?

**Q-** Has there been anyone in your life, someone you admired, or looked up to that would fit into the going against the crowd category?

**Q-** How has that influenced your life?

# **life group study guide**

## **January 3, 2014**

**Q-** Where do you see yourself going against the crowd?

Chapter 14 brings another complete set of circumstances as God himself intervenes...

Here we see punishment and reward and even an appeal to God to change his mind about something...

Let's read a few key verses-

### **Chapter 14 Verses 5-9**

Joshua and Caleb are making a case to the people based upon what the people already know- that the land is both good and it had been promised to them...

**Q-** Where else do we see people rejecting what they already know?

### **Read verses 10-11**

I have always liked this story of courage- I think it gives great insight into the courage we see from Joshua throughout his book. My character is geared toward action and this story fits my character. But here, we now see the consequences of failing to believe and the rewards of believing- (could this Old Testament story be a hint of things to come in today's times?)

Notice God's words in **verse 11** – **Q** do you think God may still be asking that question for today's world?

**Read 26-32** Here we see both ends of the scale- Punishment for the wicked and reward for the righteousness. The reward for being brave and speaking out against the crowd- for doing what was right in God's eyes.

In an earlier set of questions, we discussed going against the crowd- and mentors that may have shown us that very thing-

Let's turn that thought process around a bit-

**Q-** Why do you think someone would not have the courage to stand against "the crowd?"

**Q-** Where have you seen someone who did not stand against the crowd?

**Q-** Were there consequences to that decision?

**Q-** Over the course of so many of our conversations we have mentioned that someone somewhere set an example to us- known to them or not, they set an example- So- who might be watching us, seeing the example we are setting- seeing if we are able to stand against the crowd?

...What will they see from us when it's our time to be brave when we have to go against the crowd?