

Dream Big

Joshua 14:6-15

Have you ever thought about how many times a little occurrence has surprisingly BIG consequences? Drop a pebble into a still pond and watch the ripples work their way outward in concentric circles that seem to go on and on. A small shift of inches or feet in the earth's crust can send shock waves for miles and redefine an entire landscape.

In a similar way, God loves to take small, ordinary, and surprising people and accomplish huge things for His glory. All through the Bible, and all through history, God has sent ripples of His glory and power through the world as people like you and me have learned that their dreams and prayers can grow as big as the God they love.

“Never underestimate the power of a single prayer. God can do anything through anyone who circles their big dreams with bold prayers. With God, there is no precedent, because all things are possible.” - Mark Batterson

Icebreaker:

Most of us have had big dreams at some point in life. Over time those dreams have either come to pass or faded with time. Share a BIG dream you have or had. Are you still praying to see it through?

Where do you go when you want to get face-to-face with God and seek to dream big dreams for Him?

1) The first lesson in dreaming big is PERSEVERE IN GOD'S PROMISES. Read Joshua 14:6-9.

What promise had Caleb hung onto? How would you have reacted if you had not received what was promised to you for 45 years?

Caleb was 85 years old at this time but he was still looking forward to the expectations of his future. What have you been stuck on in your past that has kept you from looking to the future God has in store?

Caleb didn't allow the passage of time or the disappointment of having to wait to curb him from persevering in God's promises. The writer of Hebrews was referring to people like Caleb in Hebrews 6:11-12. Read this passage and consider the promises from scripture you may need to persevere in today. How have you become lazy in “demonstrating diligence?”

2) The second lesson in dreaming big is CLAIM THE PROMISE. Read Joshua 14:10-12.

How would you characterize Caleb's attitude in these verses? What promises of God do you need to claim and have the same attitude about?

Caleb didn't allow outside circumstances to intimidate him from claiming what God promised. When have you been disheartened by the outward appearance of a situation and gave up praying?

What obstacles are you allowing to get in the way of dreaming big? Read Jesus' words in Mark 9:23, Matthew 17:20, and John 11:40. What do you think His response to you would be?

3) The third lesson in dreaming big is **LIVE THE PROMISE**. Read Joshua 14:13-15.

How did Caleb live out the promise God had for him, and what does v.14 indicate was the reason Caleb was able to claim his inheritance? Discuss how this applies to you today.

Jesus promises us victory over shame, guilt, rejection, fear and the list goes on. In what areas of your life are you struggling to live in the promises of God?

Read Philippians 4:6-7. What thoughts do need to give over to God to be replaced by the peace of God's promise in your life? How does this passage say that change will occur?

Pray:

As you close your group time pray for the perseverance of Christ as you pursue the dreams God has placed in your heart and the ones promised in Scripture. Thank God for His greatness and ask for hearts and minds that grow more aware of His glorious vastness and sovereign omnipotence. Pray for VillageChurch to dream as big as the God we worship. Lift up specific prayers for your group members and for our congregation, asking God for provision that is so plentiful that only God could bring it and only He can receive the glory!

Connect:

If our biggest problem is a small view of God, we need to expand our understanding of Him and let our dreams grow larger and larger! God-sized dreams can seem impossible, foolish, and shocking. Take time as a group to dream and pray about our church. What are three or four God-sized dreams God might want to accomplish in and through our church?

"The size of prayers depends on the size of our God. And if God knows no limits, then neither should our prayers." - Mark Batterson