

Intro / Icebreaker

Last Wednesday was really hot! Apparently it was the hottest day since records began!
What were you doing last Wednesday and how did you cope with the heat? (Share your stories)

Explore

Read Numbers 14:1-24 *The People Rebel*

That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud.² All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness!³ Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?"⁴ And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. ⁶ Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes ⁷ and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. ⁸ If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. ⁹ Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them."

¹⁰ But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the tent of meeting to all the Israelites. ¹¹ The Lord said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I have performed among them? ¹² I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they."

¹³ Moses said to the Lord, "Then the Egyptians will hear about it! By your power you brought these people up from among them. ¹⁴ And they will tell the inhabitants of this land about it. They have already heard that you, Lord, are with these people and that you, Lord, have been seen face to face, that your cloud stays over them, and that you go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. ¹⁵ If you put all these people to death, leaving none alive, the nations who have heard this report about you will say, ¹⁶ 'The Lord was not able to bring these people into the land he promised them on oath, so he slaughtered them in the wilderness.'

¹⁷ "Now may the Lord's strength be displayed, just as you have declared: ¹⁸ 'The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.' ¹⁹ In accordance with your great love, forgive the sin of these people, just as you have pardoned them from the time they left Egypt until now."

²⁰ The Lord replied, "I have forgiven them, as you asked. ²¹ Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, ²² not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times - ²³ not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it. ²⁴ But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it."

- 1) Why were the Israelites so upset? (Review the end of Numbers 13)
- 2) Prior to this event the Israelites witnessed many miracles. See how many you can list and discuss how you would feel if you experienced them first hand.
- 3) Although they were called “The People of God” they didn’t fully know who they were and became afraid and disappointed when they heard the mixed report from the spies returning from their 40 day expedition. If you were a spy, what would your report sound like? Try and put yourself in their shoes.
- 4) How did Caleb’s report sound?

Apply

- 1) In verse 24 the Lord described Caleb as a person with a “different spirit”, describe what that means to you.
- 2) A key message in the sermon was that Caleb was confident of his position as a child of God and his purpose in life. (**1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession**) Check your passport (Child of God) and follow your Father (Heavenly Father) to work. How does this phrase make you feel?
- 3) Read Matthew 8:23-27. How does it make you feel about Jesus being asleep during the storm?
- 4) Perhaps one 1 or 2 people could share about a storm they are currently in where they are looking to receive a fresh confidence in God to trust that He’s in control, which would allow them to sleep like Jesus did. (Please be sensitive)
- 5) Moses knew his position as a child of “Lion of the Tribe of Judah” and pressed fully into God to plead for the people around him. Are there areas in your life where you would like to have a fresh confidence and make a fresh effort in sharing the Gospel and to reach out to people who perhaps do not know Him?

Pray

It’s exciting to know that all the groups across the church are discussing and praying at this time!
So let’s pray for the following:

- we would be a church where each individual fully understands their position as a “Child of God”!
- that our expectations would be high when we pray for people to be healed and or saved.
- That we would be known as a church who worships God facedown with an “unreserved” and “absolute” spirit of worship.