



Discussion Guide

Date: 6/15/2025

Sermon Title: Is the glass half-full or half-empty?

Scripture: Numbers 13:1-3, 25-33

This discussion guide is a layout to be used with a group or class. We have included opening and closing prayers to start and end your group. The guide may be used for personal or family reflection as well.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, You call us to journey in faith, not fear. As we open your Word today, give us the courage to see possibilities where others see obstacles. Quiet the voices that name us small and inadequate and help us trust your presence and power within us. May our time together strengthen our faith, deepen our friendships, and open our eyes to your abundant grace. -Amen.

Opening Question:

1. How is your attitude and outlook on life this week? Are you approaching life and circumstances with a half-full or half-empty attitude? Explain? Do you need a change of attitude or encouragement?

Digging into the Word:

1. Read Numbers 13:1-3, 25-33 aloud together. What stands out to you in this passage — a word, phrase, or image? What stands out to you in this passage—either in the scouts' report or in Caleb's response?
2. Why do you think most of the scouts focused on fear and danger instead of the good land God had promised?
3. Where do you see the mindset of scarcity in the story? Where do you see abundance?
4. Can you think of a time in your life when fear or a "grasshopper" mentality kept you from stepping forward in faith?
5. How do we shift from seeing limitations to trusting in God's abundance in challenging situations?
6. The Israelites had traveled far to reach the promised land, yet their fear made them want to turn back. Why do you think the journey wasn't enough to transform their mindset?
7. Where on your own "road trip" of life are you being invited to see with eyes of faith rather than fear?

Sermon Questions:

8. Pastor Clayton opens the sermon with overseeing your own attitudes, that we have a choice in how we approach and respond to things. How has your attitude shaped your experiences in life, and in what ways can you take charge of your attitude when facing challenges?
9. The sermon discusses the story of the Israelites at the edge of the Promised Land. Can you relate to feeling like a "grasshopper" in the face of life's "giants"? Share an example.

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10. Pastor Clayton mentions that biggest obstacle in life is fear. What is your fear, worry, and feeling like a "grasshopper" as the Israelites did that keeps you from trusting and living in faith with God? What are the giants in your life that you're facing?
11. The sermon mentions the importance of having "Calebs" and "Joshuas" in our lives – people who encourage us to move forward in faith. Who has been a "Caleb" or "Joshua" for you? How have they supported you?
12. Pastor Clayton asks, "Can we trust God's track record?" How has God's faithfulness in your past experiences influenced your current faith?
13. The phrase "We proceeded on" from Meriwether Lewis was highlighted in the sermon. How can we cultivate this attitude in our daily lives, especially when facing uncertainty?

Applying it:

14. What is one area in your life right now where you need to trust God's abundance rather than be ruled by scarcity or fear? What are some "giants" you're currently facing in your life? How does fear impact your approach to these challenges?
15. How can this group encourage each other to "be like Caleb"—to speak faith into fearful situations?

CLOSING PRAYER

Loving God, thank you for the witness of Caleb and Joshua, who saw the land not through fear, but through faith. Help us to walk with the same courage and trust—believing that your grace is always sufficient. As we continue our journey, remind us that we are beloved people equipped by your Spirit. Send us forth with your promises and strength to share your abundance with others. - Amen.

WAYS TO RESPOND (or challenges for you this week)

1. This week, identify one "giant" in your life. Write down specific ways you can approach it with faith rather than fear.
2. Practice being a "Caleb" or "Joshua" for someone else. Reach out to a friend or family member facing a challenge and offer words of encouragement and faith.
3. Create a "God's track record" list. Write down 3-5 times in your life when God has been faithful, especially in difficult circumstances. Keep this list handy for times when you need encouragement.