

Sermon Discussion Guide

Joshua 14:6–15

Passage Summary

In Joshua 14, we encounter a beautiful moment between two old friends, Caleb and Joshua. More than forty years have passed since these men first stood together as spies, looking into the land God had promised to Israel. While the other spies were overwhelmed by the strength of the inhabitants and the seemingly impossible obstacles before them, Caleb and Joshua believed what God had said. They were convinced that the God who had promised the land would be faithful to give it to his people.

But trusting God's promises did not mean their lives would be easy. Because of Israel's unbelief, Caleb and Joshua spent decades wandering in the wilderness alongside a generation that would never enter the Promised Land. They experienced disappointment, hardship, loss, and years of waiting. Yet through it all, God remained faithful. Now, forty-five years later, Caleb stands before Joshua and reminds him of the promise God had made long ago. "You know what the LORD said to Moses the man of God...concerning you and me" (v. 6).

There is something deeply moving about this conversation. These two men had walked together through nearly an entire lifetime. They had seen God's mighty works, endured the consequences of Israel's unbelief, and waited together for promises that seemed so distant. We can only imagine the conversations, encouragement, prayers, and reminders of God's faithfulness they shared along the way. Their relationship reminds us that God never intended for us to walk through the Christian life alone. We need people who know us, who will remind us of God's promises when we are discouraged, speak truth when we are wandering, and help us keep our eyes fixed upon Christ.

What is perhaps most remarkable is Caleb's attitude at eighty-five years old. Rather than asking for a quiet place to settle down, he asks Joshua for the hill country where the Anakim still live. These were the very giants who had terrified Israel decades earlier. Caleb's confidence was not rooted in his own strength but in the Lord who had promised to be with him. His life had become so caught up in God's story that his age, comfort, and personal security were not his greatest concerns. He still wanted to participate in the work God had called his people to accomplish.

Finally, Joshua blesses Caleb and gives him Hebron as his inheritance. The promise Caleb had trusted for so many years was now being fulfilled. His story reminds us of an even greater inheritance that belongs to those who are in Christ. Through Jesus' perfect obedience, sacrificial death, and resurrection, we have been welcomed into God's

family and given the promise of an eternal inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade (1 Peter 1:3–4).

Like Caleb and Joshua, we are people living between promise and fulfillment. We have already received the blessing of belonging to Christ, yet we still await the fullness of what he has promised. And as we wait, God has graciously given us one another. We need friendships that go deeper than shared interests or casual conversation, relationships rooted in the gospel, where we encourage one another, confess our struggles, speak God's Word, and help one another remain faithful to Jesus.

The Christian life is not simply about finishing the race. It is about helping one another persevere in faith as we look together toward the inheritance Christ has secured for us.

Discussion & Reflection

1. Caleb begins his conversation with Joshua by reminding him of what God had said forty-five years earlier (vv. 6–9). Why do you think remembering God's promises was so central to Caleb's faith?

When life becomes difficult or uncertain, what tends to shape your perspective more: your present circumstances or what God has promised in his Word?

2. Caleb and Joshua shared decades of waiting, disappointment, and hardship. Imagine the conversations they might have had during those wilderness years. How do you think their relationship helped them remain faithful to God?

Who are the people in your life who regularly remind you of God's goodness and promises, particularly when you are struggling to believe them yourself?

3. As adults, we often have plenty of acquaintances but very few people who truly know us. Why do you think developing deep, meaningful friendships becomes increasingly difficult as we get older?

What do you think are some of the reasons it is so hard to establish these types of relationships as we get older?

4. Think about the conversations you typically have with your friends or other Christians. How often do those conversations move beyond work, family schedules, sports, or everyday events into matters of the heart?

What makes it difficult to talk honestly about our fears, temptations, doubts, or spiritual struggles? What might help create friendships where those conversations feel natural rather than forced?

5. We all need people who encourage us, but we also need people who love us enough to challenge and correct us. How comfortable are you allowing a friend to speak truth into your life when you need to hear something difficult?

Do you have someone who knows you well enough to recognize when you are drifting spiritually? What would it take to develop that kind of trust?

6. At eighty-five years old, Caleb was still eager to take the hill country occupied by the Anakim (vv. 10–12). What does his attitude reveal about the way he understood his life and his place in God's purposes?

How might being caught up in God's kingdom change the way we think about our own ambitions, comfort, retirement, limitations, or the seasons of life we find ourselves in?

7. Joshua blesses Caleb, and Caleb finally receives the inheritance God had promised him. As Christians, we have received an even greater blessing and inheritance through Jesus. How does knowing what Christ has secured for you change the way you view the things you are still waiting for in this life?

How might the assurance of your inheritance in Christ give you patience, contentment, and hope when life does not unfold as you expected?

8. Caleb and Joshua's relationship reminds us that persevering in faith is not meant to be a solitary endeavor. If you were to look honestly at your relationships today, do you have people who are helping you follow Jesus? And are you that kind of friend to someone else?

What is one intentional step you could take to deepen a relationship beyond casual friendship into one where you genuinely encourage, pray for, and point one another to Christ?

Closing Prayer

As you close, consider praying through these truths together:

- **Thank God for his unchanging promises.** Praise him that his faithfulness does not depend upon our circumstances, our strength, or our ability to see how his purposes will unfold. Ask for hearts that remain convinced by his Word.
- **Pray for perseverance in seasons of waiting.** Ask God to strengthen those who are discouraged, weary, or waiting upon promises that seem distant. Pray for the patience to trust his timing and the assurance that he has not forgotten his people.
- **Thank God for the gift of Christian friendship.** Praise him for the people he has placed in our lives to encourage, strengthen, and remind us of his goodness. Pray that we would not take those relationships for granted.

- **Ask for courage to be known.** Confess the ways pride, busyness, fear, or self-sufficiency keep us from meaningful relationships. Ask God to give us the humility to be honest about our struggles and the willingness to invite others into our lives.
- **Pray that we would become faithful friends to others.** Ask God to make us people who listen carefully, speak truth graciously, encourage the weary, confront sin lovingly, and continually point others toward Jesus.
- **Pray for hearts committed to God's kingdom.** Ask that, like Caleb, we would remain eager to serve the Lord in every season of life. Pray that our comfort, ambitions, and personal preferences would become secondary to the joy of participating in God's work.
- **Thank Jesus for our eternal inheritance.** Praise Christ that through his life, death, and resurrection we have received the blessing of belonging to God. Ask that the hope of our inheritance would transform how we live, wait, serve, and love one another today.