

VGROUP STUDY GUIDE
"JOSHUA: CLAIM GOD'S PROMISE"
JOSHUA 14: 6-15
MARCH 19, 2023

FOCAL POINT: Can you think of a time when you missed out on something (ie., asking someone out on a date, not putting your resume in for a position you really wanted, etc.)? Share an example.

It was shared Sunday that lottery players let billions of dollars in prizes expire each year. But there are many people who miss out on a relationship with God because they refuse to claim God's promises. Why do you think some people refuse God's promises?

TEXT:

*The descendants of Judah approached Joshua at Gilgal, and Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, "You know what the Lord promised Moses the man of God at Kadesh-barnea about you and me. **7** I was 40 years old when Moses the Lord's servant sent me from Kadesh-barnea to scout the land, and I brought back an honest report **8** My brothers who went with me caused the people's hearts to melt with fear, but I remained loyal to the Lord my God. **9** On that day Moses promised me: 'The land where you have set foot will be an inheritance for you and your descendants forever, because you have remained loyal to the Lord my God.' **10** "As you see, the Lord has kept me alive these 45 years as He promised, since the Lord spoke this word to Moses while Israel was journeying in the wilderness. Here I am today, 85 years old. **11** I am still as strong today as I was the day Moses sent me out. My strength for battle and for daily tasks[a] is now as it was then. **12** Now give me this hill country the Lord promised me on that day, because you heard then that the Anakim are there, as well as large fortified cities. Perhaps the Lord will be with me and I will drive them out as the Lord promised." **13** Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as an inheritance. **14** Therefore, Hebron belongs to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite as an inheritance to this day, because he remained loyal to the Lord, the God of Israel. **15** Hebron's name used to be Kiriath-arba; Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim. After this, the land had rest from war.*

Caleb laid claim to God's promises by:

Knowing God's promises (vv. 6-9)

1. What are some promises God has for you (Refer to your Bible)? Who was Caleb and what was his significance? What promise did God have for Caleb?

2. *Read v. 9.* How long ago had that promise been given? Significance of this was that Caleb knew the promise and he was hanging on to the promise. What promises from God are you hanging on to?

3. 40 years had passed since the promise had been given. Notice that Caleb **STILL** hung on to the promise. It would've been easy to give up on the promise. What do you think are some reasons Caleb didn't give up on the promise given to him?

Acting on God's promises (vv. 10-12)

1. Can you think of an example of knowing something but **NOT** acting on what you know? You can see in v. 9 Caleb **KNEW** God's promise to him. But when did it take affect?

2. What promises does God have for you/have for His followers that you have a hard time acting on? *Read v. 10.* He held on to the promise and was banking on the Lord keeping it! Are you banking on God being true to His Word? How so?

3. How are you acting on the promises God has given you? How does fear play a role in keeping us from acting on His promises?

Living in God's promises (vv. 13-15)

1. Caleb didn't just **TALK** about God's promises. He lived in them! In v. 13 the land became his. How did that happen? It took his blood, sweat and tears. He had to work for the land.

2. Why would anyone make a decision to **NOT** live in God's promises? *Read Rom. 8: 15.*

3. *Read v. 14.* According to this verse, why did Caleb have God's promise fulfilled in his life? What are you doing in your life that demonstrates you are loyal to the Lord?