



## SELFIES IN THE DESERT, PART 6: GRASSHOPPER THINKING

Have you ever been so close to something amazing, only to walk away because you were too scared? Israel was just eleven days away from the land God had promised them—but they spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness. Why? Because fear, excuses, and small thinking kept them from stepping into God’s best. Many of us settle for “good enough” instead of risking for “God’s best.” Are we content living on the edge of God’s promises rather than trusting Him fully to enter in?

**BIG IDEA: Grasshopper Thinking is when we allow attitudes and problems to cause us to doubt what God can do.**

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you feel more comfortable being in the majority or the minority when a vote is taken?
2. Israel is on the brink of realizing their dream of the promised land. How do you think they feel?
3. With your Bible or Bible App, read [Numbers 13:2-4, 17-20, 23-25, 27-29](#) & [Deuteronomy 1:20-23](#).

<sup>2</sup> “Send out men to explore the land of Canaan, the land I am giving to the Israelites. Send one leader from each of the twelve ancestral tribes.” <sup>3</sup> So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He sent out twelve men, all tribal leaders of Israel, from their camp in the wilderness of Paran. <sup>17</sup> Moses gave the men these instructions as he sent them out to explore the land: <sup>18</sup> “See what the land is like, and find out whether the people living there are strong or weak, few or many. <sup>19</sup> See what kind of land they live in. Is it good or bad? Do their towns have walls, or are they unprotected like open camps? <sup>20</sup> Is the soil fertile or poor? Are there many trees? Do your best to bring back samples of the crops you see.” (It happened to be the season for harvesting the first ripe grapes.) <sup>23</sup> When they came to the valley of Eshcol, they cut down a branch with a single cluster of grapes so large that it took two of them to carry it on a pole between them! They also brought back samples of the pomegranates and figs. <sup>24</sup> That place was called the valley of Eshcol (which means “cluster”), because of the cluster of grapes the Israelite men cut there. <sup>25</sup> After exploring the land for forty days, the men returned. <sup>27</sup> This was their report to Moses: “We entered the land you sent us to explore, and it is indeed a bountiful country—a land flowing with milk and honey. Here is the kind of fruit it produces. <sup>28</sup> But the people living there are powerful, and their towns are large and fortified. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak! [Numbers 13:2-4, 17-20, 23-25, 27-29 \(NLT\)](#)

When we arrived at Kadesh-barnea, <sup>20</sup> I said to you, ‘You have now reached the hill country of the Amorites that the LORD our God is giving us. <sup>21</sup> Look! He has placed the land in front of you. Go and occupy it as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has promised you. Don’t be afraid! Don’t be discouraged!’ <sup>22</sup> “But you all came to me and said, ‘First, let’s send out scouts to explore the land for us. They will advise us on the best route to take and which towns we should enter.’ <sup>23</sup> “This seemed like a good idea to me, so I chose twelve scouts, one from each of your tribes. [Deuteronomy 1:20-23 \(NLT\)](#)

4. What adjectives are used to describe these 12 spies? Why send out spies to explore this land? What were the spies looking for? What did they find?
5. Moses chose “leaders” to spy out the land—people with influence. The wrong voices swayed an entire nation. Who are the influencers in your life right now? Are they “grasshopper thinkers” or “Big-God thinkers”? How can you become a faith-building influencer for others this week?
6. The spies held physical proof of God’s promise (grapes, pomegranates, figs), yet still responded with “But…” after describing the land. Why do you think we can have evidence of God’s faithfulness yet still doubt Him? What’s a “cluster of grapes” God has given you recently as proof of His goodness?
7. With the Bible or Bible App, [read Deuteronomy 1:1-8](#).

<sup>1</sup> These are the words that Moses spoke to all the people of Israel while they were in the wilderness east of the Jordan River. They were camped in the Jordan Valley near Suph, between Paran on one side and Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Di-zahab on the other. <sup>2</sup> Normally it takes only eleven days to travel from Mount Sinai to Kadesh-barnea, going by way of Mount Seir. <sup>3</sup> But forty years after the Israelites left Egypt, on the first day of the eleventh

month, Moses addressed the people of Israel, telling them everything the LORD had commanded him to say.<sup>4</sup> This took place after he had defeated King Sihon of the Amorites, who ruled in Heshbon, and at Edrei had defeated King Og of Bashan, who ruled in Ashtaroth.<sup>5</sup> While the Israelites were in the land of Moab east of the Jordan River, Moses carefully explained the LORD's instructions as follows.<sup>6</sup> "When we were at Mount Sinai, the LORD our God said to us, 'You have stayed at this mountain long enough.'<sup>7</sup> It is time to break camp and move on. Go to the hill country of the Amorites and to all the neighboring regions—the Jordan Valley, the hill country, the western foothills, the Negev, and the coastal plain. Go to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, and all the way to the great Euphrates River.<sup>8</sup> Look, I am giving all this land to you! Go in and occupy it, for it is the land the LORD swore to give to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and to all their descendants.'"

[Deuteronomy 1:1-8 \(NLT\)](#)

8. God told His people, "You have stayed at this mountain long enough." What areas of your life feel "stuck" or like you've been circling the same ground? How might God be prompting you to "break camp" and move forward?
9. According to *Deuteronomy 1:2*, how many days does it take to get there? How long did it take the Israelites make that trip? (*Deuteronomy 1:3*)
10. What should have taken them around 50 days to make the trip took them 40 years because they didn't believe God and obey Him. Tell of a time in your life that you disobeyed God and took the 'long way around' to God's best for your life?

*Kadesh-barnea is right on the edge of the Promised Land. They were right there at the promised land the whole time—just a skip and a jump from running into the land overflowing with milk and honey.*

*Chris said, "Kadesh-barnea wasn't a bad place to be. The edge of the Promised Land is a pretty nice place to hang out. Kadesh-barnea was an oasis, it had good soil and abundant agriculture that was characteristic of the promised land. It was a place just outside of God's fullness. It was enough of a supply to keep the people from desiring more. It was just enough for them to survive—but not thrive. It was plush and comfortable. Just enough clear water and comfortable living conditions to make it an easy place in which to settle down and stay. The Israelites settled for a desert rather than to fight for a better land—we're going to see—because the Promised Land looked way too risky."*

11. In what areas of your life are you settled for less than the fullness of what God is offering? Have you become complacent with *good* while *best* is just around the next bend?
12. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Numbers 13:30-33.*

<sup>30</sup> But Caleb tried to quiet the people as they stood before Moses. "Let's go at once to take the land," he said. "We can certainly conquer it!"<sup>31</sup> But the other men who had explored the land with him disagreed. "We can't go up against them! They are stronger than we are!"<sup>32</sup> So they spread this bad report about the land among the Israelites: "The land we traveled through and explored will devour anyone who goes to live there. All the people we saw were huge."<sup>33</sup> We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak. Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that's what they thought, too!"

*Numbers 13:30-33 (NLT)*

13. Did all 12 spies agree with Caleb and Joshua? What was the difference between the two reports?
14. 10 spies saw giants and thought of themselves as grasshoppers; 2 saw the same giants but trusted God. What's an example from your life where fear outweighed faith? How could you respond differently if you focused on God's size instead of the problem's size?
15. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Deuteronomy 1:19-46.* In verse 21, is God making an offer they can't refuse, or one they can?
16. Was their strategy in verse 22 borne out of fear or faith? Head or heart? Wisdom or folly?
17. Why didn't Israel take the land? (*Deuteronomy 1:26-28*) Are their fears valid? Why or why not?
18. How did the Lord address the real issue? (*Deuteronomy 1:29-33*) How does He build His case? With what images? Toward what end?
19. The Israelites decide to run from the giants in the land. Read [Joshua 14:6-12](#). Have the giants left the land? What has happened with the giants? Read [1 Samuel 17:4-8](#).

## THINK ABOUT IT

Don't let small thinking rob you of God's promises. Surround yourself with people who see the bigness of God, not the size of the giants. Start a "cluster keeper"—a record of God's faithfulness—to remind you of His power when fear tries to speak louder than faith.

## MOVING FORWARD

The reason why Israel continues to have giant problems throughout the Old Testament is because they ran from their giants instead of standing and facing them. Anytime we run from giant problems, the giants never get smaller but bigger, larger, and meaner. What problems are you running from, hoping that by ignoring them, they will go away?