



# onechurch

## bigIdea



The spies who referred to themselves as grasshoppers based upon the opinion of how others saw them and how they saw themselves—not how God saw them. We can all develop grasshopper thinking when we substitute the opinions of others for the truth of God.

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

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Israel is on the brink of realizing their dream of the promised land. How do you think they feel?
2. Do you feel more comfortable being in the majority or the minority when a vote is taken?
3. *Read Numbers 13:2-15 & Deuteronomy 1:20-23.* Why send out spies to explore this land? Who stands out among the list?
4. What were the spies looking for? (*Numbers 13:17-20*) What did they find? (*Numbers 13:23-25*) After being gone 40 days, what should be the people's reaction to all this?
5. *Read Deuteronomy 1:1-8.* On the map to the right, draw a line from Ramses and the Land of Goshen down to Mount Sinai. That trip took 30-40 days to make. Once there, the Hebrews camped at Mount Sinai for around 13 months. Now draw a line from Mount Sinai to Kadesh-Barnea. 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*)
6. 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. For the next 40 years, they circle around Kadesh-barnea. They were *right there* the whole time—a skip and a jump from running into the land of milk and honey.

Chris said that *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 benefitted from the good soil and the abundant agriculture that was characteristic in 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.*

7. 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?
8. *Read Numbers 13:1-3*. What adjectives are used to describe these 12 spies?
9. *Read Numbers 13:18-20*. What was the assignment given to the 12 spies?
10. *Read Numbers 13:27-28*. What did the spies say about the land itself?
11. *Read Numbers 13:30-33*. Did all 12 spies agree with Caleb and Joshua? Consider the two reports. What was the difference between them?
12. *Read Deuteronomy 1:19-46*. In verse 21, is God making an offer they can't refuse, or one they can?
13. Was their strategy in verse 22 borne out of fear or faith? Head or heart? Wisdom or folly?
14. Why didn't Israel take the land? (*Deuteronomy 1:26-28*) Are their fears valid? Why or why not?
15. How did the Lord address the real issue? (*Deuteronomy 1:29-33*) How does He build His case? With what images? Toward what end?
16. Why do you think the Lord is so angry, even with Moses? Why does He make an exception with Caleb and Joshua (*Deuteronomy 1:36, 38*). How were Caleb and Joshua different? (*Numbers 14:24, 30*) How did God punish the other spies? How did God punish everyone else? What about that seems fair? Unfair? Merciful? Harsh?
17. Spying might be a delay tactic. How do we try to confirm God's will rather than do it? Are your eyes of faith bigger than your stomach of fear? How so?
18. 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*.

#### MOVING FORWARD

The reason why Israel continues to have giant problems all throughout the Old Testament is because they chose to run from their giants instead of standing firm 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?

#### CHANGING YOUR MIND

*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. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak. Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that's what they thought, too!"*  
Numbers 13:32-33

