

Small Group Guide: Standing at the Threshold

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when you had to make a decision between playing it safe and taking a leap of faith. What did you choose and why?

Sermon Recap (5 minutes)

This week's message focused on the Israelites at Kadesh Barnea—just 11 days from the Promised Land after three years of wandering. When 12 spies were sent to scout out Canaan, 10 returned focused on the giants and obstacles, while 2 (Caleb and Joshua) kept their eyes on God's promises. Their unbelief at the threshold cost an entire generation 40 years of wandering and forfeited their entry into God's promise.

Key Scripture: Numbers 13:26-33; Hebrews 12:1-2

Discussion Questions

Part 1: Fear Looks at Giants, Faith Looks at God

1. **What "giants" are you facing right now in your life?** (career challenges, health issues, relationship struggles, financial pressures, etc.)
2. **Read Numbers 13:27-28.** The spies acknowledged God's promise ("it flows with milk and honey") but then said "Nevertheless..." What are the "nevertheesses" in your life that keep you from trusting God's promises?
3. **The sermon mentioned that Caleb and Joshua saw the same land and the same giants as the other 10 spies.** What was the difference in their perspective? How can we develop that same perspective?

4. **Read Psalm 56:9-11.** David declared "God is for me" in the midst of being hunted. How does believing that "God is for you" change how you face your current circumstances?

Part 2: Unbelief at the Threshold

5. **Kadesh Barnea means "holy place of wandering."** In what areas of your life do you feel like you've been "wandering" spiritually rather than moving forward? What's holding you back?
6. **The Israelites were only 11 days from their promise but wandered for 40 years instead.** What might you be forfeiting by refusing to trust God in a specific area? What's your "11-day journey" that you're avoiding?
7. **The sermon shared the story of Peter walking on water.** When have you "looked at the waves" instead of keeping your eyes on Jesus? What happened to your faith in that moment?
8. **Read Hebrews 4:1.** This verse warns us about "failing to reach" God's rest. What practical steps can you take to ensure you don't miss what God has for you?

Part 3: Victory Is Already Won in Christ

9. **The wheelbarrow illustration showed the difference between intellectual belief and active faith.** Be honest: In what areas are you raising your hand in agreement with God's promises but refusing to "get in the wheelbarrow"?
10. **Read Hebrews 12:1-2.** What does it mean practically to "look unto Jesus" when you're in the middle of a storm? How can we train ourselves to do this?
11. **The pastor shared his personal story of repeating "This is the day the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it" even when he didn't feel it.** Have you ever experienced speaking God's truth into your situation until you believed it? What happened?

Key Takeaways

✓ **The difference between the 10 spies and the 2 wasn't what they saw—it was what they looked at longest.** We can choose to focus on our giants or on our God.

✓ **God doesn't remove all obstacles before we step out in faith.** The giants were real, the cities were fortified, but God had already promised victory.

✓ **Unbelief at the threshold forfeits the promise.** The Israelites didn't lose God's promise because He withdrew it—they forfeited it by refusing to receive it.

✓ **Faith professes what it does not see.** It means elevating what God thinks about our suffering above what we think about it.

✓ **Victory is already won in Christ.** We don't fight FOR victory; we fight FROM victory because Jesus already overcame.

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge: Choose ONE

Option 1: Identify Your Giant

- Write down the biggest "giant" you're facing right now
- Next to it, write down what God's Word says about it (find 3-5 relevant Scripture promises)
- Each morning this week, read those promises aloud before looking at your circumstances

Option 2: The David Exercise

- When you find yourself complaining or fearful this week, stop and speak truth
- Like David in Psalm 56, first acknowledge your circumstance honestly to God
- Then speak God's promises over your situation repeatedly until your perspective shifts

Option 3: Take Your "11-Day Journey"

- Identify one area where you've been "wandering" instead of moving forward

- What is one concrete step you can take this week to "cross the threshold"?
- Share this with one trusted person who can pray for you and hold you accountable

Option 4: Memorize Scripture

- Choose one of these verses to memorize this week:
 - Hebrews 12:1-2
 - Psalm 56:11
 - Romans 8:31
- When fear or doubt creeps in, recite this verse

Group Prayer Focus

Pray for:

1. Eyes to see God bigger than our giants
2. Courage to step forward in faith even when we can't see the outcome
3. Each person's specific "threshold moment" they're facing
4. Protection from the enemy's lies that keep us in the wilderness
5. A generation of "Calebs and Joshuas" in our church and community

Closing Reflection

Read together: "The Israelites at Kadesh did not curse God. They simply refused to trust Him enough to take one step forward. And that step was everything."

Final Question: What is your "one step forward" that you need to take this week?

Before Next Week

- Read Numbers 14 (the consequences of unbelief)
- Journal about one area where you're choosing to look at God instead of your giants
- Pray daily for courage to "get in the wheelbarrow"

Leader Tip: Create space for vulnerability in your group. Many people struggle with fear and unbelief but are afraid to admit it. Model transparency by sharing your own struggles first, and remind the group that we're all "Jacobs" who need God's grace.