

LIFE Group Guide  
Courage  
March 10, 2019  
Numbers 13:1-3, 25-33



**Prayer Request:** Thank the Father for his gracious presence with us, His people. Pray for the person to your right, that they would follow Christ by taking up their cross and following Him wherever He leads. Pray that the Holy Spirit would grant peace and trust in times of difficult obedience.

**Icebreaker Question(s):** What is something you are particularly proud of having accomplished, despite significant fear or risk?

**Read Numbers 13:1-3, 25-33:**

**13** The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel. From each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a chief among them.” <sup>3</sup> So Moses sent them from the wilderness of Paran, according to the command of the LORD, all of them men who were heads of the people of Israel.

<sup>25</sup> At the end of forty days they returned from spying out the land. <sup>26</sup> And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the people of Israel in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh. They brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. <sup>27</sup> And they told him, “We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. <sup>28</sup> However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. And besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there. <sup>29</sup> The Amalekites dwell in the land of the Negeb. The Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the hill country. And the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and along the Jordan.”

<sup>30</sup> But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, “Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it.” <sup>31</sup> Then the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are.” <sup>32</sup> So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, “The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. <sup>33</sup> And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.”

**Discussion Questions:**

1. As you heard the word of God preached or read, what did the Holy Spirit remind you of, challenge you with, convict you of, or encourage you in? Did you have any questions or was anything unclear?
2. Read Numbers 13:1-3. What did the LORD command? How did He describe the land that they were to spy out?
3. Who was to do this spying? What role did the spies play in the life of Israel?
4. Read Numbers 13:25-33. How did the spies describe the land when they returned? What did Caleb and Joshua recommend? What did the other spies recommend? Why do the other spies recommend against entering the land?
5. Read Numbers 14:1-4. How did the people of Israel respond? What drove their decision to disobey the LORD?
6. God calls us to a life of unconditional obedience, and that obedience often entails great risk or great cost. When do you find it most difficult to trust and obey the LORD? Where are you most likely to be overwhelmed by fear or set an upper price limit on obedience with God? Your money? Your time? Your life? Other?
7. Read Numbers 14:11-12. How does the LORD characterize Israel's refusal to enter the land? What do our failures to obey God demonstrate about our relationship with him? Why is the Israelite's lack of faith so egregious? (See Numbers 14:22)
8. Read Mark 8:34-35. How has the LORD demonstrated his faithfulness and saving power to you in the past? How should we respond to His faithfulness to us? How can you take up your cross today?
9. What is the prize of the Christian life? How does it motivate us to greater obedience?

**Prayer:** O LORD, make us strong and courageous. Make us obedient children, who do not turn from your commands, to the right hand or to the left. Teach us to meditate on your word day and night, that we might obey you. We know that you, O LORD, go with us, that you will not leave us or forsake us. We will not be frightened, and will not be dismayed, for you, the LORD our God, are with us wherever we go. In the name of Jesus Christ the Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (*Adapted from Deuteronomy 31:6-8 and Joshua 1: 5-9*)