



Study Guide
Numbers 13-14
To Believe or Not to Believe...

Introduction

Israel is at the 'El Paso' border town preparing to enter the land of Promise. Twelve scouts go in. Ten see death and two see life! The ten end up dying and the two end up entering the land. Wow! This week we are going to consider the power of perception, the devastating results of unbelief and we will imagine what it's like to be a man like Caleb who had a 'different spirit' and who 'fully followed God' (Nu. 14:24).

1. The Land of Promise - Read Numbers 13:1-2.

Notice that God promises the land "*which I am giving to the people of Israel...*". Now read 1 John 5:13. Notice how God wants you to have the assurance that you are born again. How does the deep conviction in the promises of God impact your life today? Discuss.

2. The Power of Perception. Read Numbers 13:30-33.

Notice the difference in what they say about going into the Promised Land: "*...we are well able (Caleb)*", and "*...we are not able*" (ten spies). How can they have such differing reports after seeing the same land? What made the difference? Share an example of a time when you or someone you know, saw a future with God in it or without Him in it. How does that difference affect our outlook? Discuss.

3. The Results of Unbelief. Read Numbers 14:1-4 & 21-23.

Notice how they reject God, their leaders and salvation. They also attribute evil to God. Discuss the detriments of rejecting God. What happens to people who choose to walk without Him?

4. The Results of Unbelief. Read Numbers 14:11-20.

Notice the engagement between God's holiness and Moses' intercession for the people. Moses acts as a type of Christ here, prompting God to forgive. Discuss how

God must feel about people who reject Him despite all the signs, and what God was still willing to do by letting His Son die on the cross for us.

5. A life of faith. Read Numbers 14:25, describing Caleb's spirit. What does it look like for you to "fully follow God"? What faith-challenges are you wrestling with currently? Take some time to confess unbelief and ask God for faith.

Numbers 13-14

John 20:29b "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed!"

Big Idea: To believe or not to believe that is the question.

A. The Promise of the Land (13:1-29)

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ² "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."

Shammua, Shaphat, Igal, Palti, Gaddiel, Gaddi, Ammiel, Sethur, Nahbi, Geuel
Caleb & Joshua

A. The Promise of the Land (13:1-29)

²¹ So they went up and spied out the land from the wilderness of Zin to Rehob, near Lebo-hamath. ²² They went up into the Negeb and came to Hebron. Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, were there. (Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) ²³ And they came to the Valley of Eshcol and cut down from there a branch with a single cluster of grapes, and they carried it on a pole between two of them; they also brought some pomegranates and figs.

A. The Promise of the Land (13:1-29)

²⁷ 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.²⁸ 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. ²⁹ 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."

Observation: The Promise has been made (13:1-2)

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel.

1 John 5:13

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life."

B. The Power of Perception (13:30-33)

³⁰ 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." ³¹ 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." ³² 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." ³³ 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."

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C. The Results of Unbelief (14:1-45)

1. People are Troubled

Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. ² And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! ³ Why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?" ⁴ And they said to one another, "Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

By Contrast- Belief (14:7-9)

⁷... "The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. ⁸ If the Lord delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. ⁹ Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them."

Joshua 2:9-11 (Rahab)

"I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. ¹⁰ For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you ... ¹¹ And as soon as we

heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.

C. The Results of Unbelief (14:1-45)

2. God is Dismayed

¹¹ And the Lord said to Moses, "How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them? ¹² I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they."

¹⁹ Please pardon the iniquity of this people, according to the greatness of your steadfast love, just as you have forgiven this people, from Egypt until now."

²⁰ Then the Lord said, "I have pardoned, according to your word.

C. The Results of Unbelief (14:1-45)

3. People Can't Enter the Land of Promise

²¹ But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord, ²² none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, ²³ shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it. ²⁴ But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed me fully, I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it.

⁴⁵ Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who lived in that hill country came down and defeated them and pursued them, even to Hormah.

Big Idea: To believe or not to believe that is the question.

Numbers 14:24

"But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed me fully, I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it."