



## Group Guide

# Scouting the Land

*March 10, 2024*

**Main Passage: Numbers 13:17-33**

## Theological Theme

God calls us to step out in faith and obedience, no matter our circumstances, because we trust Him.

## Introduction

- ❓ When have you been overwhelmed by your circumstances?
- ❓ What helps you gain the proper perspective when your circumstances threaten to overwhelm you?

## 1. Sending the Spies (Numbers 13:17-25)

After their exodus from Egypt complete with troops racing after them and parting the Red Sea to walk on dry ground, the Israelites made it to the edge of the promised land, Canaan. The goal they had been pushing for and looking forward to for so long was now in sight just across the Jordan River. Moses gathered the people and chose one man from each tribe to go and spy out the land.

- ❓ What benefit would there be in sending one representative from each tribe to scout the land?
- ❓ How were God's promises verified through the scouting of the land?
- ❓ Application: How might God be preparing you for the next season right now?

## 2. Scouting Report (Numbers 13:26-29)

The spies returned from their mission ready to report all they had seen and experienced in the land. They began by referencing being sent by Moses and the people instead of being sent by God. This may be an indication of their human perspective as opposed to seeing things from God's perspective. This would become even more obvious as the men shared their recommendation.

- ❓ Why does it matter that the spies were viewing things from a human perspective? Why does this matter in our lives?
- ❓ Where are you prone to add “however” to the promises of God? Why is this problematic?
- ❓ Application: What circumstance have you been looking at from a human perspective instead of viewing it through your faith in God?

### 3. Faith vs. Fear (Numbers 13:30-33)

But not all the spies acted out of fear. Two of them were full of faith. Caleb stepped up and spoke out. He was not the oldest or most powerful man in the group, but he still made a stand for what was right. He commanded the people to trust and obey God by taking the land as God had promised. Caleb called for immediate obedience by stepping out in faith and trusting that God would take care of the rest. It is important to realize the fears of the other spies were legitimate, but God’s promise and call for the people surpassed these threats. Caleb displayed characteristics of a great spiritual leader, doing what was right, in a crowd full of doubt, fear, and unbelief. He was more focused on trusting God than joining the crowd.

- ❓ When was a time you were tempted to believe lies about God instead of God’s promises? How did you respond?
- ❓ Where are you being ruled by fear currently? How might God want to change your perspective?
- ❓ Application: Where is God calling you to trust Him over what you see? How will you respond?

### Conclusion

- ❓ What is God calling you to do where fear stands in the way of obedience?
- ❓ Where do you need to speak up for what is right like Caleb did?
- ❓ Who is God calling you to have a gospel conversation with? How can today’s study encourage you in that?