



Main Passage: Joshua 14:1-15

Theological Theme

God always keeps His word and fulfills His promises. When God's people follow Him wholeheartedly, they will reap the benefits and blessings that come from being faithful to God.

Introduction

- ❓ Have you ever thought about where you would like to spend retirement? Doing what?

1. Dividing the Land (Joshua 14:1-5)

Once the promised land was secured, the land needed to be assigned to each of the tribes of Israel. Leaders from each tribe gathered and, under Joshua's leadership, they cast lots for the different plots of Canaan. Although there were technically twelve tribes of Israel, the two sons of Joseph were included as leaders of their own tribes, and no land was given directly to the Levites, totaling thirteen groups to consider.

- ❓ What factors might have played into the desires of each leader in receiving land?
- ❓ Why does it matter that the process of dividing the land was designed and directed by the Lord? How did this determine the future of the leaders and their families? How often do you think of your life as directed by the Lord?
- ❓ Application: What do you learn about trusting the Lord from how the land was divided? In what sense might this be viewed as leaving things "to chance"? Why was that not the case? Why is that also not the case in your life?

2. The Promise (Joshua 14:6-9)

During the gathering, Caleb stepped forward with a request. Caleb was from the tribe of Judah and one of the twelve spies who had scouted the land prior to the conquest. About forty-five years earlier (see Joshua 13:10), Moses chose one man from each tribe and sent them into the promised land to spy out the situation (see Numbers 13). The spies were to bring back a report about the situation and what would be involved to move into the promised land and conquer the people living there.

- ❓ What did you learn about Caleb's character in these verses? What quality of Caleb's life do you want for yourself?
- ❓ How do you see belief or unbelief in the Lord affecting your life? How have you rationalized away from doing what God has called you to do or bringing the presence of Jesus where He has planted you?
- ❓ Application: Where do you need to seek further faithfulness before God? Where do you need to be obedient in asking God to fulfill what He has promised in your life?

3. Following God Completely (Joshua 14:10-15)

Caleb made it clear his boldness and strength came from his faith in God. His advancing age didn't diminish him; he was still the same faithful man. In the church today, we tend to overlook people who are younger as well as those who are older. Caleb's story is a good reminder that age is not the most important thing about a person standing for the Lord and making a difference—faith is.

- ❓ What are some excuses you use today that may prevent you from living out the call God has given you?
- ❓ What makes it hard for you to trust God for the victory in the battles we face? How does remembering God's past work in your life help?
- ❓ Application: What do you think God has called you to do? What keeps you from completely following the Lord today? What do you think is your next step?

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

1. What does this passage say?
2. What did this passage mean to its original audience?
3. What does this passage tell us about God?
4. What does this passage tell us about man?
5. What does this passage demand of me?
6. How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
7. How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).

Prayer

- 1.) Pray that God would show you the places He has for you to serve in your church and your community.
- 2.) Reflect on the promises of God and pray over how God fulfills those in your life and the lives of those around you.