

### WARM-UP

- Share something that you consider unique about yourself.
- Have you experienced going against the flow? What was the outcome?
- How do you respond to people who want to do things differently than what you prefer?

**WORD** *“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.”*

**NUMBERS 14:24**

(Read also **NUMBERS 13:30**.)

God promised to deliver His people who have been slaves in Egypt for hundreds of years, suffering oppression. We can imagine each generation wishing to see the fulfillment of God’s promise in their lifetime. God brought His people out of Egypt and promised to lead them into a land flowing with milk and honey. However, despite their miraculous deliverance, the Israelites saw the giants they had to overcome to claim their inheritance and lost faith in God. Today, let’s look at the different responses from two generations and how God showed His faithfulness.

## 1 | In the midst of a bad report, Caleb and Joshua responded in faith.

*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." . . . 30But 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." NUMBERS 13:28, 30*

As the Israelites planned to enter the Promised Land, they sent twelve spies to scout it. Ten of them gave a bad report upon seeing giants they would need to defeat, discouraging others from pursuing God's promise. But Caleb and Joshua responded in faith. As young as they were, they fixed their eyes on God who gave the promise, not on the challenges ahead. They boldly declared their confidence in God and what they could do through Him. In the same way, we can be in faith that God can give us the power to fight for His promises, regardless of what others say. Is there a promise from God that you fought for? How did God enable you to receive this promise?

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## 2 | In the midst of rebellion, Moses and Aaron interceded for God's people.

*"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." NUMBERS 14:19*

Because of the bad report, many of the Israelites grumbled and rebelled against God. As their leaders from the older generation, Moses and Aaron could've let them suffer the wrath of God as a consequence of their rebellion. But they, out of reverence for God, interceded on behalf of the people.

Likewise, those who are no longer part of the younger generation can still take part in God's work, fighting for and alongside them in different ways. Why is it important for older generations to intercede for and stand with the younger ones? What are some ways that the older generation could fight for and help the next generation?

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### **In the midst of unfaithfulness, God remained faithful to fulfill His promise.**

*<sup>20</sup>Then the Lord said, "I have pardoned, according to your word. . . . <sup>24</sup>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."* **NUMBERS 14:20, 24**

In spite of the Israelites' lack of faith and rebellion, they received God's mercy and were spared from being wiped out. They still inherited the Promised Land, but only the next generation would be able to enter it. We also see how God honored Caleb's faith, rewarding him and his descendants. Only he and Joshua were allowed to enter the land from their generation. In his old age, Caleb recounted the faithfulness God showed him (Joshua 14:10–12). What does Deuteronomy 7:9 say about the faithfulness of God?

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Today, we saw how two generations worked together to see God's promises and plans fulfilled. May we have the same posture of working together to advance God's kingdom here on earth.

## APPLICATION

- God is calling every generation to be actively involved in sharing His promises, plans, and purposes to the next generation. Write three ways you can do so.
- Take time to honor and thank those from the older generation who mentored you and helped you in your walk with God. Pray a prayer of blessing over them.
- Ask God to use you to help someone from the younger generation. Pray for God to lead you to that person this week and use you to bring hope and encouragement.

## PRAYER

- Thank God for using us to fulfill His plans and purposes. Ask God to open more doors for you to encourage people to trust God's faithfulness throughout all generations.
- Ask God to show you how He has been faithful to you. Pray that He will enable you to respond in faith, regardless of the circumstances that surround you.
- Pray for faith to intercede for others. Ask God for people you can pray for this week and for opportunities to encourage them with His word.



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