



FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors: Dennis & Diane Gordon

CHOOSING THE PROMISE 1 CHOOSING TO BELIEVE



**THE WORLD IS FULL OF GIANTS;
I CAN CHOOSE TO DOUBT AND FEAR
OR I CAN CHOOSE TO FIND GIANT BLESSING
WHEN I REMEMBER MY BIG GOD IS NEAR**

SCRIPTURE READING *(Read Aloud Together)*

Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

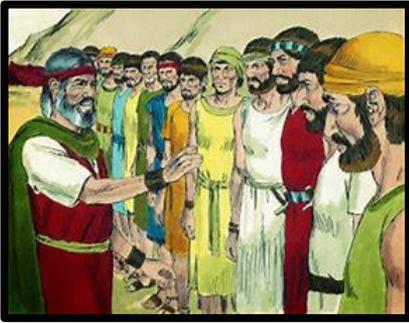
1. INTRODUCTION: God chose the Israelites to be His people who prepared the way for the Savior to be born. The Israelites sinned against God and ended up as slaves in Egypt, so God raised up Moses to bring them out of Egypt and through the wilderness to a land He promised to give them forever, for those who obeyed Him. It took the Israelites 40 years to cross the desert because they complained and would not follow God. Today we join the Israelites, where they are camped near the border of the Promised Land.

ORDER OF SERVICE:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Light Candles & Prayer | 3. Adult Fellowship Break | 5. Bible Lesson & Group Prayer |
| 2. Kid Songs/Story/Gospel Intro | 4. Prayer & Worship Set | 6. Blessing Songs & Benediction |

2. GOD TOLD THE ISRAELITES TO CAMP AT THE BORDER OF THE LAND THAT HE GAVE TO THEM.

Numbers 13:1-20 “And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ² Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them. ³ And Moses by the commandment of the LORD sent them from the wilderness of Paran: all those men were heads of the children of Israel. ⁴ And these were their names: ...¹⁷ And Moses



sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said unto them, Get you up this way southward, and go up into the mountain: ¹⁸ and see the land, what it is; and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they be strong or weak, few or many; ¹⁹ and what the land is that they dwell in, whether it be good or bad; and what cities they be that they dwell in, whether in tents, or in strong holds; ²⁰ and what the land is, whether it be fat or lean, whether there be wood therein, or not. And be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land. Now the time was the time of the first ripe grapes.”

God told the Israelites that He was giving them the land of Canaan, but first they would have to chase out the wicked people who lived there. One man from each of 12 tribes, 12 men, were sent to spy out the land, so then they could know what lay ahead and be prepared.

Ephesians 6:11, 13, 18 “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”

We learn from God’s instructions to His people, that He wants us to study the plan of the enemy, so we will not be caught unaware, but have a plan, and be prepared for what lies ahead. How can we be prepared? We can study God’s word and pray for direction. When you seek the wisdom of God, He will give you a plan so you will go in His mighty strength and have good success! But why would God make the Israelites fight for what He had already given to them?

3. Object Lesson: Cocoon, Weak Butterfly and Strong Butterfly.



Have you ever watched a butterfly coming out of a cocoon? Look at the butterfly in the cocoon ready to come out. It takes several long hours for a butterfly to struggle and push its way out of the cocoon. A kind person opened the cocoon to make it easier for one of these butterflies to come out. Which one do you think got the help? Yes, it's the one that is all shriveled up and weak.

The most beautiful butterfly is the one who had to struggle and fight its way into the world.

God knew the Israelites would become strong by fighting against their enemies, for what He had already given to them.

God knows that we become strong when we have to work to overcome difficulties in our lives.

What kinds of things are hard for you? When you trust in Jesus to help, He will give you strength to stand, and light to find your way. Jesus knew before your impossible situation happened, and He will help you to learn good things, to bring out of that situation with you. Remember when Paul asked the Lord to take away the disability he suffered from, three times, God's answer was to leave Paul's weakness there, for the same reason why God planned for butterflies to have to struggle to come out of the cocoon before they can fly:

2 Corinthians 12:8-10 "For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. ⁹ And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

Suffering and struggling makes us into a strong people for God!

4. TWELVE MEN WERE SENT INTO CANAAN TO SEE WHAT SORT OF LAND IT WAS.



Numbers 13:21-27 “So they went up, and searched the land from the wilderness of Zin unto Rehob, as men come to Hamath...²³ And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs...²⁵ And they returned from searching of the land after forty days. ²⁶ And they came to Moses and Aaron... and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷ And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.”

So 12 of the very best leaders Moses could find, went to spy out the Promised Land, and were gone for 40 days. Joshua and Caleb believed God’s promise, so they searched for the fruit God said they would find, and they found it - here they come now!

OBJECT VISUAL: (2 pre-selected “Joshua and Caleb volunteers carry in 12 purple balloons or large cluster of grapes draped over a limb or pole.”)

Joshua & Caleb, came back after 40 days with fruits, and a cluster of grapes so large, it took two men to carry them! They believed that God is a rewarder, so they looked for blessing and found it!

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

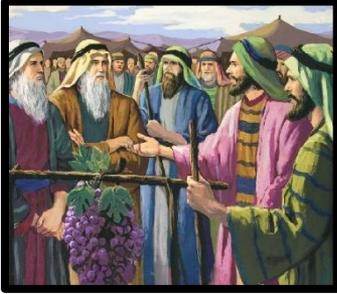
Luke 11:34-35 “The light of the body is the eye; therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness.” ³⁵ Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.”

Seeing your world through the eyes of God, in the light of how God sees will change your life. Believe like Joshua and Caleb that God wants to bless you so big that you cannot even carry it all!

5. FEAR CHANGES THE WAY WE SEE THINGS

The other 10 men were so afraid, they saw through eyes of fear when they went into the land, and they didn't see any good things at all!

Numbers 13:28-33



“Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there. ²⁹ The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan. ³⁰ And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. ³¹ But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. ³² And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. ³³ And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.”

The men came back to tell Moses and the Israelites of the great walled cities, and the big strong giants they saw, and the Israelites were terrified at their evil report! What went wrong?

Titus 1:15-16 “Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. ¹⁶ They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.”

All 12 men had been obedient to go and all 12 men had seen God's blessed land of promise. Why did 10 of the men only see fear and evil? Just like you and me, when we run into giant problems that are bigger than our own puny strength, we have to choose what we will believe and do – will we trust in our own weak self and only focus on evil circumstances that surround us? or will we trust in our God, who is bigger than our self?

6. THE PEOPLE CHOSE TO BELIEVE THE EVIL REPORT.

The 10 fearful men argued that they should return to Egypt, and the Israelites had a choice to make, whose report would they believe?

Numbers 14:1-5 “And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.

² And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! ³ And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? ⁴ And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt. ⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.



When the Israelites heard the evil report of the 10 men who had been with Joshua and Caleb, they cried out loud and wept all night. They blamed Moses and Aaron and even accused God of wanting to kill them!

Numbers 14:6-10 “And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: ⁷ and they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.

⁸ If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. ⁹ Only **rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.** ¹⁰ But all the congregation bade stone them with stones....”



When Joshua and Caleb warned the Israelites not to rebel against God because of their fear, they took up stones to kill them. We see a lot of that in our world today, when fear has such a grip on people’s hearts that they make quick decisions to abandon God’s way, go with the loudest leaders, and form a mob to kill all voices who try to reason.

7. GOD HAD MERCY ON THE ISRAELITES BUT THERE WAS A TERRIBLE PRICE TO BE PAID.

Numbers 14:10-12 “...And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel. ¹¹ And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them? ¹² I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they.”



The Israelites had picked up stones ready to kill Joshua and Caleb, when suddenly they saw the glory of the Lord fill the Tabernacle! The Israelites had provoked God to anger! But God was still present to speak with Moses. Look at the power of one person praying - the power of prayer is in your mouth when your loved ones' sin!

*Numbers 14:13-21 “And Moses said unto the LORD, Then the Egyptians shall hear...¹⁴ and they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land: for they have heard that thou LORD art among this people, that thou LORD art seen face to face, and that thy cloud standeth over them, and that thou goest before them...¹⁵ Now if thou shalt kill all this people as one man, then the nations which have heard the fame of thee will speak, saying, ¹⁶ Because the LORD was not able to bring this people into the land which he sware unto them, therefore he hath slain them in the wilderness. ¹⁷ And now, I beseech thee, let the power of my Lord be great, according as thou hast spoken, saying, ¹⁸ The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation. ¹⁹ **Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.** ²⁰ **And the LORD said, I have pardoned according to thy word:** ²¹ but as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.”*

Moses reminded God of His great promises and mercy, and God forgave the Israelites. But God vowed that though all the earth would be filled with the glory of the Lord, the complainers would not live to see it. **Let's praise God and see His glory fill the earth!**

8. HOW ABOUT GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE? IS HE NOT A GOD OF LOVE AND FORGIVENESS TODAY?

The Eternal Living God of Heaven does not drift from truth to truth like the shifting shadows of the counterfeit church of today.

Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."



God's covenant requires both God and man to keep the covenant for the covenant to remain valid. The God of Revelation is the same God of the Old Testament, who gives warning of consequences for those who refuse to believe His word; and just as in times of old, those consequences shall be fulfilled,. God is not bound by those who complain against Him.

Numbers 14:22-24 "Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; ²³ surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it: ²⁴ but my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it."

Do I complain about my circumstances like the Israelites? Even though you have God's promise, you must walk through testing that shows your real heart, before the promise comes to pass.

Numbers 14:25-28 ...To morrow turn you, and get you into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea. ²⁶ And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, ²⁷ How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me. ²⁸ Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you."

9. THE OLD TESTAMENT JUDGMENTS, PICTURE GOD'S FINAL JUDGMENT AT THE COMING OF THE LORD.

Numbers 14:29-35 “Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me, ³⁰ doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swear to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun. ³¹ But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised. ³² **But as for you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness.** ³³ **And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness.** ³⁴ After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise. ³⁵ **I the LORD have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.**”



God said through Moses, that the very words the Israelites were speaking against God, accusing Him, was exactly what God would give to them - that they would have what they said! This historical account is an example to show us that God sees our complaining about our kids, our spouses, or circumstances, as directly complaining against Him!

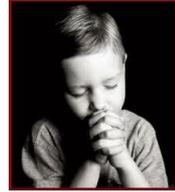
Numbers 14:36-39 “And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land, ³⁷ **even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD.** ³⁸ **But Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb** the son of Jephunneh, which were of the men that went to search the land, **lived still.** ³⁹ And Moses told these sayings unto all the children of Israel: and the people mourned greatly.”

They had to wander in the wilderness for 40 years, until all those who complained against God had died! Caleb and Joshua lived, but the wicked Israelite men who gave the evil report died in a plague.

10. THE ISRAELITES WHO HAD SINNED DEFIED GOD LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED.

Joshua and Caleb believed God because their hearts were pure before Him and they were willing to obey because they loved God. All their works reflected to God that they loved and followed Him.

Titus 1:15 “To the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny Him, being abominable, and disobedient...”



The Israelites who saw through evil eyes and blamed God, showed God that their hearts were only wicked, yet determined to enter the promised land with or without God’s blessing. Do we sometimes go without God, and then we are surprised because we failed?

Numbers 14:40-45 “And they rose up early in the morning, and gat them up into the top of the mountain, saying, Lo, we be here, and will go up unto the place which the LORD hath promised: for we have sinned. ⁴¹ And Moses said, Wherefore now do ye transgress the commandment of the LORD? but it shall not prosper. ⁴² Go not up, for the LORD is not among you; that ye be not smitten before your enemies. ⁴³ For the Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and ye shall fall by the sword: because ye are turned away from the LORD, therefore the LORD will not be with you.”

With the wickedness of our world all around us we are tempted every day. What you believe in your heart determines the direction your mind will go when temptations come, so guard your heart.

Proverbs 4:20-23 “My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. ²¹ Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. ²² For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. ²³ Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”

Our words are as a prayer to God who always answers. Those Israelites should not have been so careless about what they told God!

Hebrews 3:7-19 vs. 14 “For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end.”

11. THE WICKED ISRAELITES WHO WENT INTO BATTLE WITHOUT GOD’S BLESSING WERE DEFEATED.

Numbers 14:44-45 “But they presumed to go up unto the hill top: nevertheless the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and Moses, departed not out of the camp. ⁴⁵ Then the Amalekites came down, and the Canaanites which dwelt in that hill, and smote them, and discomfited them, even unto Hormah.”



No matter what God said, the wicked Israelites decided they would go up into the Promised Land! What do you think happened? God did not go with them, and without God’s protection, the Amalekites and Canaanites came after them with swords and defeated them, and they died in their sin just as God said they would. The disobedient Israelites did not defeat the corruption in the world, but they were the corrupted ones who defied God. Whenever God’s people openly defy Him, God has used the wicked of this world to defeat them.

2 Peter 1:3-4 “According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

God is with those who trust in Him. Like He was with Joshua and Caleb, God goes His people who hear His voice and gives them power for victory over all power of the enemy.

1 John 4:17-18 “Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”

Jesus wants you to choose to believe His word with a perfect love that has no fear, and trust in Him like Moses and Joshua and Caleb, because He wants to go with you always, and bless you!

12.GOD'S PURPOSE & PLAN FOR ME

Ephesians 3:20 "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,"

1. God wants you to "Choose to Believe" and pray so He can show you His plan and give you His blessing.
2. God knows the battle will be hard for you, but just like the butterfly, you will become strong and beautiful when you trust the Lord through the struggles, and follow His way.
3. When you run into giant problems, don't be afraid but be like Joshua who believed God's promise, and look for His blessing!
4. God wants us not to fear because fear changes the way we see.
5. God has mercy when we disobey Him but we will still suffer the consequences of our actions.
6. God loves us and we can trust Him that He never changes, and Jesus is the same God today as we was yesterday and forever.
7. No one can defy God and live, for there will come a day when all who ever lived will stand before God.
8. Jesus loves you and offers exceeding precious promises to those who trust in Him with a childlike faith like Joshua and Caleb.
9. God wants you to love Him and trust Him with a perfect love that has no fear, so He will be with you blessing you always!
10. Have you been afraid? We all have, but let's believe God, that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him, as we pray together:

Dear Father God,** Forgive me for doubting and complaining from my fears when things go wrong. I offer up my life, everything that I am and everything that I am not to you. I choose to trust you from this day forward, and carry the fruit of your blessings. Thank you for giving me Your mighty strength, ***in Jesus name, Amen.*



14. CHILDREN'S STORY: Pauline's Cutie

From the true life story of Pauline Stillwell 1903-1996



Grampa had a big surprise waiting for Pauline's birthday in his back yard. He opened the gate and right in front of Pauline stood a pony cart, and the cutest little horse she had ever seen! *"A baby horse, for me?"* Grampa laughed, *"No, Pauline, she's a full grown Shetland pony, and will always be this small."* Pauline hugged her Grampa and said, *"Oh, thank you! Can I call her Cutie?"* *"Well, I think that name is a fine fit,"* said Grampa, as he told Pauline's brother Frank to show Pauline how the pony could pull her in the cart. Pauline watched and clapped for Frank when he got back! *"Aren't you going to ride your Cutie, Pauline? I'll help you get into the cart!"* Grampa said as he took her by the arm, but Pauline would not budge. *"I'm feeling a little tired right now, but thank you, Grampa, this is the most wonderful present I ever got!"* Grampa was disappointed that Pauline would not get into her new cart and go for a ride with the new pony. But Pauline was too afraid to get inside the buggy! She was so afraid that she could not make herself get close enough to pet Cutie on the nose. It was time for Frank and Pauline to walk back home for dinner. On the way home, Frank said, *"Pauline, it was such fun to ride in the cart, don't you want to ride Cutie, just a little?"* *"I do Frank, but I'm too afraid."* Pauline said sadly. *"But Grampa gave you an amazing gift and you are making your fear be so important, Grampa's gift is like nothing, and you are missing out on all the fun!"* exclaimed Frank. *"I'll just watch you, Frank, and I can give Cutie hay through the fence."* decided Pauline.

Frank and Pauline came faithfully every day after school for a month to take care of Pauline's pony. Pauline would feed Cutie while she sadly watched Frank ride in the cart. Grampa just shook his head as he watched Pauline and told her, *"Honey, you can choose to be afraid and miss all the fun or you can choose to trust me and go for a ride, but I will love you just the same."* Finally one day, Pauline said to Grampa, *"I think I would like to try to ride today, will you put the cart on Cutie?"* Pauline climbed inside and held on to the reins as Cutie stepped out, proudly carrying her friend. Pauline had the biggest smile on her face, thinking, *"Why had she been so afraid?"* She had missed out on all the fun because she had been too afraid to receive the gift her Grampa had given her.

Don't let your fears make you miss out on special blessings God has for you!

15. TIMELINE COLORING PAGE

JOSHUA & CALEB BELIEVED GOD'S PROMISE

1461 BC



16. GOSPEL CRAFT Giant Worries or Giant Blessings!

Directions: Cut out & glue to purple card then give each child purple candies to glue to the grapes!

JOSHUA AND CALEB BELIEVED GOD'S PROMISE AND GOD BLESSED THEM

Numbers 14:28 “Say unto them, *As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you.*”

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: *for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*”



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