

CORONA CRISIS

2. THERE BE GIANTS

HVC, March 22, 2020

Num 13-14, Joshua 1 (NLT)

How has your life shifted in the last week? What sorts of things are you focusing on now that you wouldn't have a few weeks ago?

Do you have specific fears about the Coronavirus? What are they? And how did you respond to those fears?

Before now, when in your life have you experienced the most uncertainty? In retrospect, what did God do in your life during that time?

Num 13:1-2 (NLT)

The LORD now said to Moses, "Send out men to explore the land of Canaan, the land I am giving to the Israelites. Send one leader from each of the twelve ancestral tribes."

How do you think the people felt when they heard this?

What purpose might God have had in wanting them to spy out the land ahead of time?

Why might God have wanted each of the tribes represented?

What would your reaction have been if you were one of those chosen?

When in your life have you moved into uncharted territory? What was that like?

Num 13:25-28 (NLT)

After exploring the land for forty days, the men returned...They reported to the whole community what they had seen and showed them the fruit they had taken from the land... "We entered the land you sent us to explore, and it is indeed a bountiful country—a land flowing with milk and honey... But the people living there are powerful, and their towns are large and fortified. We even saw giants there..."

Why might God have chosen a land for his people that was so challenging to occupy?

What are some of the reasons it is hard for you to trust God? For others?

When have you faced "giants" in your life?

In what areas of your life do most struggle to trust God?

Num 13:30 (NLT)

But Caleb tried to quiet the people as they stood before Moses. "Let's go at once to take the land," he said. "We can certainly conquer it!"

Do you identify more with Caleb or the naysayers? Why?

When have you ever seen God come through when you took a radical step of obedience?

Num 13:31-33 (NLT)

But the other men who had explored the land with him disagreed. "We can't go up against them! They are stronger than we are!" So they spread this bad report about the land among the Israelites: "The land we traveled through and explored will devour anyone who goes to live there. All the people we saw were huge. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak. Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that's what they thought, too!"

Why might these scouts have so quickly disregarded God's promises?

What kind of report do you think the people were expecting?

Num 14:1-4 (NLT)

Then the whole community began weeping aloud, and they cried all night. Their voices rose in a great chorus of protest against Moses and Aaron. "If only we had died in Egypt, or even here in the wilderness!" they complained. "Why is the LORD taking us to this country only to have us die in battle? Our wives and our little ones will be carried off as plunder! Wouldn't it be better for us to return to Egypt?" Then they plotted among themselves, "Let's choose a new leader and go back to Egypt!"

Have you ever experienced a "mob mentality" like that? What was that like?

In your experience, how hard is it to hold a minority position when everyone else around you thinks differently?

Why do the people give up on God so quickly?

Have you ever wanted to "return to Egypt" (gone back to something/someone familiar although it was a bad idea)?

Num 14:7-9 (NLT)

(Joshua and Caleb) said to all the people of Israel, "The land we traveled through and explored is a wonderful land! And if the LORD is pleased with us, he will bring us safely into that land and give it to us. It is a rich land flowing with milk and honey. Do not rebel against the LORD, and don't be afraid of the people of the land. They are only helpless prey to us! They have no protection, but the LORD is with us! Don't be afraid of them!"

Why did Caleb and Joshua respond differently than the others?

How might we cultivate a similar posture?

Why might God's presence bring confidence?

Have you ever sensed God's presence more clearly than other times? What was that like?

Can you think of other biblical examples of God's presence with his people?

Does the promise of God's presence help you overcome fear?

What is the cost of not obeying God?

Where in your life do you feel like a grasshopper?

Where in your life might you be “ducking” God’s call?

Joshua 1:9 (NLT)

This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

These words were repeated for Joshua. How often might you need them repeated?

Discuss: *“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”* - Corrie ten Boom

Discuss: *“Yes, the coronavirus is coming to your town. But the Lord is already there. God hasn’t been taken by surprise. God is not underprepared for what’s coming. And God will achieve good purposes through this difficult time.”* - John Stackhouse

- How have you already seen God at work through this crisis? What good purposes has he already achieved?

Discuss the questions the sermon concluded with:

- What would it look like if you lived without fear, fully trusting in God’s presence? How would your life change?
- What “land” might you take for God?

Pray for:

- Medical professionals, first responders, government officials
- Those whose businesses or employment is threatened,
- The elderly