

## NOTES:

Today we were in the Old Testament, looking at the backstory of Hebrews 3 & 4. God is much more focused on where He wants to get us instead of where we are coming from. There is a good destination that God wants to bring us to. He has a plan to bring the people into this land, but the people want to go their own way. Be careful to not "outsmart" God on the way to get to the destination that He has for you. The problem is that unbelief settles upon our understanding and reasoning instead of trusting in God's Word and promises.

The leaders in Numbers had already determined that they didn't want to go to where God was leading them. In their report, they left out the reality of the God who had brought them out of Egypt. Unbelief always looks at the circumstances of facts without looking at the God who is in control. Faith believes the promise of God and His witness. Unbelief will blind you to seeing the goodness of God.

When God gives direction and strategy for a plan that He is blessing, we must take the steps to follow Him. Often these steps will require faith and taking steps outside of our comfort zones. There's a difference between having struggles/doubts but still following versus making excuses to not follow God. Faith is not denying the risk, it is exalting the reward of following God. It is better to fail while trying to follow God than it is to succeed in ignoring God. There is a different level of seriousness to weaknesses that fall towards God versus unbelief that turns away from Him. The only way to live in God's rest is to follow Him.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Why is God more focused on your future instead of your past?

Why does fear and unbelief hinder you from seeing God in front of you? What makes fear and unbelief so powerful in our lives?

Is God ok with the struggles and doubts we have while we are following Him? What makes those emotions ok to Him?

How can you have faith in spite of visible risks around you?

What are the ways that you hear the voice of the Father? How could you grow more in hearing His voice?

Think about the fears that you are currently facing. What is the difference that seeing God is going to make to your fears?

## VERSES:

### Exodus 3:8

So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.

Deuteronomy 1:21-22

21 See, the Lord your God has given you the land. Go up and take possession of it as the Lord, the God of your fathers, told you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." 22 Then all of you came to me and said, "Let us send men ahead to spy out the land for us and bring back a report about the route we are to take and the towns we will come to."

Numbers 13:1-2, 16, 26-33

1 The Lord said to Moses, 2 "Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders."

16 These are the names of the men Moses sent to explore the land. (Moses gave Hoshea son of Nun the name Joshua.)

26 They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. 27 They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. 28 But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan."

30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." 32 And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. 33 We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

Numbers 14:8-10, 20-24

8 If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. 9 Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them." 10 But the whole assembly talked about stoning them.

20 The Lord replied, "I have forgiven them, as you asked. 21 Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, 22 not one of the men who saw my glory and the miraculous signs I performed in Egypt and in the desert but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times— 23 not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their forefathers. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it. 24 But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.