

Spy Lessons

New Year's Transformation, part 8 Pastor Craig Ferguson

The Lord now said to Moses, 'Send out men to explore the land of Canaan, the land I am giving to the Israelites.'
Numbers 13:1 (NLT)

Lessons in Unbelief (from the ten spies)

Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled.
Hebrews 3:8 (NLT)

1. Unbelief habitually focuses on doubt

This was their report to Moses: 'We entered the land you sent us to explore, and it is indeed a bountiful country—a land flowing with milk and honey. Here is the kind of fruit it produces. But...'
Numbers 13:27-28 (NLT)

But the men who had gone up with him said, 'We are not able to go up against the people [of Canaan], for they are too strong for us.'
Numbers 13:31 (Amp)

2. Unbelief frequently leads to self-depreciation

'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 13:33 (NIV)

3. Unbelief inevitably is driven by fear

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!
Numbers 14:9 (NLT)

4. Unbelief fundamentally lacks insight

Then they plotted among themselves, "Let's choose a new leader and go back to Egypt!"
Numbers 14:4 (NLT)

Lessons in Faith (from the two spies)

Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God.
Hebrews 3:12 (NLT)

1. Faith habitually focuses on action

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!'
Numbers 13:30 (NLT)

2. Faith frequently leads to confidence

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!'
Numbers 13:30 (NLT)

3. Faith inevitably is driven by courage

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!

Numbers 14:9 (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.

Joshua

1:9 (NLT)

4. Faith fundamentally activates insight

Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, tore their clothing.

Numbers

14:6 (NLT)

They 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.'

Numbers

14:7-8 (NLT)