

The People Refuse God's Plan

Lesson Text: Numbers 14:1-12

After the people heard the twelve spies' report about Canaan, they were afraid. They cried all night long. They would not listen to Caleb and Joshua, who said they should trust God and obey Him.

In the morning, the people demanded that Moses and Aaron be replaced as their leaders. They said they wished they had not been brought out of Egypt. They forgot what life had been like as slaves in Egypt and how they wanted to be delivered. They did not remember how they had cried out to God to save them—and how He had saved them so many times in the desert by providing food, water, and protection for them every day.

The angry, frightened people began blaming God for bringing them to the land He promised. They said bad words about God. Instead of being thankful, they said God was not good, and they rejected His grace.

Moses and Aaron dropped to the ground in front of the people. They knew God's punishment to the people was coming. Joshua and Caleb tore their clothes to show they were very upset with the people. They begged the people to agree to enter the new land. They told the people to trust God and not to be afraid. Instead of following their God-given leaders, the people wanted to kill them.

Suddenly, God's glory appeared in the tent of meeting before all the people. God said they were angering

Him with their unbelief.

God then told Moses He was ready to kill all the Israelites who did not trust Him. He could have started all over again and made a nation of only people who would trust and obey Him.

COLOR AND LEARN

"Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land" (Numbers 14:9).



Joshua told God's people that they could conquer the land God had promised them.