

trailblazers

Title: Trailblazers — THE OLD, FEARLESS & FAITHFUL!

Date: November 20, 2022

WORSHIP:

Option 1: In person gathering — assign someone to lead in worship or play two praise & worship songs from YouTube.

Option 2: Online gathering, at a public place, at the park, school campus or café — Ask three to four people to share testimonies of answered prayers or ask the question: **What are you thankful to God about this past week?**

Main Text: Joshua 14:6-15 NLT

Key Verses: vv.10-12

"Today I am eighty-five years old. I am as strong now as I was when Moses sent me on that journey, and I can still travel and fight as well as I could then. So give me the hill country that the Lord promised me."

Trivia: Meaning behind the Names

JOSHUA - Jehovah/ Yahweh/ LORD is salvation

CALEB - Faithful/ loyalty

Combine their names - **"Faithful to the faithful LORD who is Salvation"**

Leader's Notes:

1. Start and end on time.
2. Facilitate discussions.
3. Give all attendees opportunities to share. Encourage participation.
4. Remind everyone that whatever shared in the group will be kept within the group.
5. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit if there's someone who you can lead to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior and be born again.

WELCOME: Greet everyone. Introduce yourself. Acknowledge guests/first-time visitors. Ask the group to take turns introducing themselves.

Intro: Old age refers to ages nearing or surpassing the life expectancy of human beings. Old age is simply life towards the sunset of human existence. Most people at this stage in life, do not venture into uncharted waters. Old age should no longer be a stage to risk anything but simply about **"cruising into the sunset."**

Ice Breaker on Old Age:

One day, a little girl is sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly notices that her mother has several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast to her brunette hair. She looks at her mother and inquisitively asks: "Why are some of your hairs white, Mum?" Her mother replied: "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then asked: "Mumma, how come all of grandma's hairs are white?"
<https://www.jokeindex.com/joke.asp?Joke=2035>

WORD: Note: LG leader, Read **Joshua 14 & Numbers 13-14** before the gathering.

Background: Joshua was around 70 years old when he took over the leadership from Moses at the beginning of the campaign to possess the promised land while Caleb was around 80 years old. They were the only surviving 20-year-olds and above who came out of Egypt. The rest died in the wilderness within the span of forty years because of their unbelief and disobedience to God. Only Caleb and Joshua are the ones among the 12 spies sent to spy on the land who believed that they are able to possess the land because of God who was on their side.

What made Joshua and Caleb become the OLD, but FEARLESS AND FAITHFUL great men who became TRAILBLAZERS for us? Their powerful lives are shining examples to us both OLD & YOUNG PEOPLE alike!

1. Their confidence and unwavering trust in God were constant. Read **Josh.14:6-9** Joshua and Caleb believed in the greatness of God and trusted Him to fulfill what He promised. They demonstrated confidence and trust in God. They considered God faithful to His promises and held on to His Word with absolute trust. In spite of the negative circumstances that surrounded them for 40 years, wandering in the wilderness with those who rebelled against God, their faith in God never changed. They displayed an unchanging commitment to wholeheartedly follow God and anchored their souls in God's promises. They focused their faith not on themselves or others but on God's greatness and faithfulness.

Application:

Joshua and Caleb meditated on the greatness of God. Instead of being overwhelmed by the obstacles before them, they considered that those things are nothing compared to God.

Q: Are you facing "giant" obstacles right now? Would you be able to share that with the group so that the group can pray for you?

2. God rewarded them with supernatural strength and resources to enable them to possess the promises of God. Read **Joshua 14:10-12**

- Caleb didn't feel weak even at 85 years old. He was enabled by God to go against giants and towns surrounded by walls. When we put our faith in God, He will supply us with supernatural resources. When we put our faith in God, we allow God to get involved in our lives, in our every situation and in our every circumstance. Surely, every time we allow God to get involved, it will always be miraculous, supernatural. Always remember, God is the God of the impossible.

Application:

Whether we are young or old, faith in God will provide us with supernatural resources. We can continue to accomplish great things for God even in our old age because we can count on the Lord to supply us with supernatural wisdom, strength and therefore enable us to accomplish what He has called us to do.

Q: Regardless of your age, is there something that you feel God is wanting you to do (as far as serving God is concerned) that you have set aside for some time now because you felt you're too young or too old to do them?

Conclusion: "Now that I am old and gray, do not abandon me, O God. Let me proclaim your power to this new generation, your mighty miracles to all who come after me." Psalm 71:18. It's a Psalm that David wrote during the latter years of his life. At an old age, he still had a mission or purpose to complete. His life, from day one to the end, was planned by God, and he willingly submitted to God to live according to His plan. Joshua and Caleb had every reason to stay faithful to God because they have witnessed His mighty power and faithful love. This should be the kind of legacy that we should leave our children and grandchildren and the next generation. Nothing is more satisfying than knowing God, living for Him, and seeing His wonders. This is not about religion or going to church, this is all about the great life God has in store for those who will choose to live with Him and for Him. If you haven't yet made a decision to be a whole-hearted follower of Jesus Christ, please do so today. Do not miss out on the wonders of having an intimate relationship with the God of the universe through Jesus Christ. Circumstances will change but God will never change. He is forever faithful.

WORK: The Challenge & Closing prayer

Q: How can we pray for you today?

Q: Who among your loved ones or friends you think need an encounter with Jesus today? Can you list at least five names? Please take time in your smaller groups to pray for one another as well as pray for the names of people on your list. If there are specific needs, take time to lift them up to God in prayer as well.