

Lesson #8 Creating a New People (from the Wilderness to Canaan)

Opening Shot:

God miraculously led his people out of slavery in Egypt and then into the Wilderness where they received his Law. He also gave them a feast that they were to observe (Passover) to remember what God had done to bring them out of Egypt. Then he led them to Canaan and told them to go in and possess the land. But the people were afraid to do what God asked them, so He made them wander in the wilderness until all but two of them (the two who had believed) had died. A new, young nation of believers had been raised in the Wilderness to take their places. Then God's People, who believed in his Promises and in his Law, went in and took possession of the land.

Introduction to Bible Truths:

The sending of the spies into Canaan by the Israelites is found recorded in Numbers 13 and 14. Specifically may wish to emphasize the following points: **Numbers 13:25** (the land was searched for 40 days); **Numbers 13: 27-33** (conflicting reports were given - Joshua and Caleb were honest); **Numbers 14:6-9** (Caleb and Joshua); **Numbers 14:11**, and **27-34** (God's response to the situation).

Ask Me No Questions/I'll Tell You No Lies:

- 1.) God has his way and I have mine. Why should I have to obey God's instructions if they don't make sense to me?
- 2.) What if I just don't have what it takes to do what God asks?

We've Got Questions/God's Got Answers:

- 1.) We are encouraged by the scriptures to trust in the Lord. Sometimes our own understanding just isn't enough. **Proverbs 3:5-6** *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*
- 2.) With God's help we can do all of the things he asks us to do. Even if the things seem nearly impossible, because nothing is impossible with God. **Philippians 4:13** *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (KJV)*
Philippians 4:13 *I can do everything through him who gives me strength. (NIV)*
Luke 1:37 "For nothing is impossible with God."

Parting Shot:

God gives us instructions and sometimes they seem incredible, or difficult, or scary to do. So, we don't do them. God's way doesn't always require our understanding, or our strength, or even agreement to be the right way. It just is the right way. Sometimes our minds don't want to obey. We think that we know best. We think that we have an alternative plan, or new information that God might not have had when He made His decision. We think we know better than God, and that is where we make our mistake. When we find ourselves arguing with God, we are wrong.

