



Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018

#### 4. JOSHUA [Don't try to cover all the questions!]

There is always the risk of stepping off the place of security into the unknown. Remember the frog (or was it a toad?) in the video clip!

God calls us to being radical in the arena of trust in all areas of our daily living. You probably learnt **Proverbs 3.5-6** as a child but it takes a life time to apply!

When **JOSHUA** was taking over leadership responsibilities from Moses in **Joshua 1**, there was the refrain ***be strong and courageous.*** Even a great leader like Joshua needed encouragement!

- Reminded of **God's Faithfulness** Jos 1.5 *As I was with Moses, so I will be with you.*
- Reminded of **God's Word** Jos 1.8 *Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night.*
- Reminded of **God's Presence** Joshua 1.9 *The Lord is with you wherever you go*

Take time to reflect on the promises of God and their associated conditions.

The Sunday morning message focused on the **experience of JOSHUA in Numbers 13** who was called to be part of a team who would enter the land of God's promise. It has been a year since the Exodus. They were right on the edge of the Promised Land.

The expedition into the land had a negative outcome. The need to spy out the land was initiated by the fear of the people. God only gives instructions regarding how they should go into the land. God took the opportunity to test the faith of the people and see if there was risk taking trust.

#### **RESPOND to God's instructions, 13.1-20**

**v.3 So at the Lord's command.** There were specific instructions for the spies to take note of the land and the cities. They were also to bring back the harvest to be tasted.

How do we seek to respond to divine instructions?

- The period of 40 days often crops up within scripture. Mention some of the 40 day experiences where God revealed himself and often tested people.

#### **RECOGNISE the 'dare to imagine', 13.21-25**

The leaders were to spy out the land but also to enter into God's imagination and dream big.

What challenges does this event teach us regarding leadership and responsibilities?

They went throughout the land – considerable distance – bringing back pomegranates, grapes and figs (good healthy option for your small group refreshments!)

What God had promised about the land was very true, it was flowing with *milk and honey*.

#### **REFUSE to allow doubt and fear to dictate, 13.26-33**

They forgot the promises, provision and power of God.

They failed to factor in God's power and strength that would be on their side.

They believed the 'lies' of their fears rather than the truth of faith.

Create a list of the different perspectives that the ten offered in contrast with Joshua & Caleb.

How do we stop ourselves focusing on the problem rather than trusting the promises of God?

What was the consequence of the Israelites failing to trust God?

'In the process, intimidation replaced confidence, and fear squelched faith.'

How do you think Joshua (and Caleb) coped with the outcome of being so near to going into the land and yet so far?

How does God respond to the attitude of these negative leaders who caused the people to panic, Num 14.11.

The ten leaders died in obscurity somewhere in the wilderness, whereas eventually Joshua entered the land and remains the risk taker worth learning from today. The people were dictated by their emotions rather than the revelation of God.

**FOR YOUR OWN NOTES:**