



Small Group Questions

Part 3: The Caleb Generation

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Read

Joshua 8, 13, and 14; Isaiah 55:8–9; Genesis 15:12–16; Romans 6:23; and Numbers 14:24

Reflect

As the Israelites conquer one city after another in the Promised Land, Joshua follows instructions from God that might seem harsh and at odds with Jesus's teachings to treat all people benevolently. What do you think of the Israelites treatment of the current inhabitants of the lands they conquer? Does it make you question God's mercy?

Pastor Greg asks us to consider whether God's treatment of the inhabitants of Canaan was fair:

1. God is God, and he can do anything he wants.
 - a. Do you believe that God has the right to do anything he wants? Why or why not?
 - b. Think of a time when you trusted God, despite not understanding his reasoning. Think of a time when you relied on your own understanding instead. Discuss the outcomes of each.
2. We underestimate the consequences of sin.
 - a. What do the wages of sin equal?
 - b. Is it the magnitude of the sin that matters...or the magnitude of the one being sinned against? Explain. Consider the different punishments for "slapping" a friend, versus a policeman, a head of state, or the God of the universe.
 - i. Do you view each sin as a "slap" to God? Why or why not?
3. God is a merciful judge.
 - a. In reading the Bible, are there Scriptures where you've wondered why God didn't give people another chance to repent? Discuss.
 - b. Why might God have waited so long to fulfill his promise to Abraham that his descendants would inhabit the Promised Land? (Read Genesis 15:12–16)
 - c. Can you think of examples where interaction with a certain people infected Israel like a cancer? What was the outcome?

Three "Nevers" from the Life of Caleb:

1. It's never too soon to put God first in everything you do.
 - a. Are you putting God first in your life like Caleb? In what areas has God tested you in this?
 - b. Could you stand before your peers like Caleb and state you've followed God wholeheartedly?
2. It's never too late for God to fulfill a promise.
 - a. Think of a time when you wondered if God would ever answer your prayers. What have you learned from this experience?
 - b. Read Hebrews 11:13-16. How long are you willing to wait to receive God's answer? Are you still looking backward? What is keeping you from moving forward?
3. You are never too old to take a new mountain.
 - a. Do you think your best years are behind you? Explain.
 - b. Are you actively looking for the next mountain God wants you to take? What might it be?

Respond

What is your next step? Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you and hold you accountable in this?