

Connecting Church and Home

Quarter 4, Week 5 :: **Spying Out the Land**

Treasure Story: Numbers 13-14

What is one of the scariest things you have ever experienced? When facing that challenge, did you struggle with unbelief? Did you doubt that the Lord would take care of you no matter what the circumstance? In our Treasure Story today, the children of Israel were faced with just such a challenge. The land that God promised them was there in front of them, but they were afraid to take it because of the inhabitants who lived there. They were staring unbelief in the face, and unfortunately they gave in to unbelief.

Connect

“In all unbelief there are these two things, a good opinion of one’s self, and a bad opinion of God.”
- Horatious Bonar, *God’s Way of Peace*, pg. 38

Unbelief can cripple you. It can cause you to doubt the faithfulness of God to keep His promises. We know this is true because this is precisely what happened to the children of Israel at the edge of the Promised Land. God had assured them that He would go up with them and defeat their enemies. But they instead chose to trust themselves instead of trusting Him. Here are a few thoughts on trusting God and not giving in to unbelief:

- **Claiming Promises:** There are many promises that God has made to us throughout the Bible. Meditate on a passage like Romans 8 for a day or even a week. Read through it many times and reflect on how God has kept the promise that He has made to you in His Word.
- **Replacing Lies:** Satan is a master deceiver and will do everything in his power to keep you from trusting in God’s promises. Whenever you are tempted to focus on Satan’s lies or your own unbelief, keep an index card in your pocket or purse that has a truth from God’s Word written on it. Ask the Lord to help you substitute Satan’s lies for the truth that God provides.

My Mission As Parent

- When discouraged by circumstances, do you default to believing the truth of God or the lies of Satan? How can you strengthen your reliance on God and remember His overwhelming faithfulness to you and your family?
- How can you begin to recognize unbelief for what it is so that it does not hinder you? Think about how God can actually take your unbelief and turn it into faith in His ability to provide and protect.

Prayer Points

- Pray for the Lord to help you not to listen to the lies of Satan, the father of lies.
- Ask the Lord for help to remember His promises and to put them to work to help you trust Him more deeply.
- Pray with your children and ask the Lord to help you not be defeated by unbelief but encouraged and energized by seeing God’s power at work in your family.