

The



Compass

August 2 - August 8, 2010

Faith Journey - Adventures in Trust
Promise Land Eventually

Overview

Why do we often remain in a known past rather than move to an unknown future? Abused wives remain in the abuse because they've learned how to survive. Alcoholics continue to drink even as it's killing them. Businesses continue to make the same products even as market share shrinks. Churches hang on to models of worship even as things decline. Unknown futures can make us "want to go back to Egypt." God, though, has a preferable future for all of us.

Our passage this week is Numbers 13-14

The passage this week is too long to put in this box. You'll need to read the passage from your own Bible. If you don't own a Bible, this would be a great time to purchase one.

Also, let's all begin to make it a habit to bring our Bibles to church each week. Reading from our Bibles instead of from the screen can help reinforce God's Word in our hearts.

Memory Verse – Numbers 14:9a

... do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. (NIV)

Seeing the Passage in Biblical Context

God had personally led His people, the Israelites, to the edge of the Promised Land. They had seen the powerful miracles and provision from God, so there should have been no reason to question God's promises. In the face of these things, the Israelites received the report from the explorers and were filled with overwhelming doubt that held their generation in the wilderness and kept them from entering the land that God had given them.

Our Context

Given current trends, Karen's company's main source of income would dry up in about 5-6 years. True, business was currently growing, but Karen could see they were at the peak of a growth curve. They needed to plan now for the future that was sure to come. When she made her proposal to the management team, they thought it was interesting but didn't see any reason to change the status quo.



Monday, August 2nd

First Impressions

Read though your Compass from last week and review the Scripture (Exodus 15:22-17:16). How have your thoughts about gratitude and ingratitude been changed through your study?

Read this week's passage twice.

From the passage, what examples do you find to follow and to live by? What examples do you find from the passage to avoid?

Tuesday – August 3rd

Focus: God wanted to show the Israelites the fulfillment of His covenant promises.

Read: Exodus 13:1-25

Discover:

1. Why do you think God instructed Moses to send men to explore Canaan?
2. What benefit would come from choosing a leader from each of the tribes?
3. What are your thoughts about the directions Moses gave in verses 17-20?

Apply: Memorize the memory verse, Exodus 14:9a.
Now, personalize God's direction.

(Your Name), do not be afraid of _____,
because _____. Ask for God's
discernment as you fill in the blanks.

Wednesday – August 4th

Focus: The people focused on the danger rather than the promises of God.

Read: Exodus 13:26-33 and 2 Corinthians 4:18.

Discover:

1. What was the difference between the reports of Joshua and Caleb and the others?
2. Is “seeing believing?” Why or why not? How does your answer make a difference in the way you trust God and live your life?
3. What is a modern example of “staying in the wilderness” vs. going where God leads?

Apply: How will you keep your eyes on God, trusting in His promises rather than looking at the circumstances around you?

Thursday – August 5th

Focus: The Israelites chose to avoid the challenges of entering the Promised Land.

Read: Numbers 13:26-14:12, 14:29-31, 16:4; and Genesis 12:1-7;

Discover:

1. Was the reaction of the Israelites irrational or reasonable? How so?

2. Imagine you were there in the crowd listening to the reports of Canaan. What (Old Testament) assurances should have comforted the Israelites? List some of them.

Apply: Read Joshua 24:15. Pray about the concerns and worries you have. Consciously and confidently release them to God.

Friday – August 6th

Focus: Only Caleb and Joshua would live long enough to enter into the Promised Land.

Read: Numbers 14:10-45, 27:15-23; and Exodus 33:15-16

Discover:

1. What happened to the 12 men who explored Canaan? Why did this happen?
2. Why did the Israelites change their mind and agree to go forward to the Promised Land in verse 40? Why was going into the Promised Land not possible for them?

Apply: Contemplate your desires, dreams and wants. How are you resisting where God wants you to go? How are you going ahead where God does not want you to go?

Saturday – August 7th

Focus: God has given us His true Word in the Bible. How is it affecting the manner in which you are living? Are you moving with God to the Promised Land or are you languishing in the wilderness in danger of dying there?

Read: Read through Numbers 13 and 14 again.

Apply: As you read through the Scripture, underline the examples of responses that are in line with God's direction. For each one, note how you can do the same thing in your life and in your present circumstances. Try to draw modern parallels to your life.

Base Camp Suggestions

Eating together...

Where is a place you love to go back to for vacation?
Why did you choose that?

Being family together...

Read Numbers 13-14 together. Have different children and adults read a few verses at a time. Ask the children, “What did they find in the land? Why did the people want to go back? Why did Joshua and Caleb have confidence?”

Applying together...

1. What are the giants in your life?
2. Toward what future do you think God is calling you?
3. How can we encourage you past your fears?

Praying together...

Break into smaller groups, and share with each other the future to which you believe God is calling you. Talk briefly about those fears. Then, pray for each other to overcome your fears and face your giants with God’s help.

For Families with a Child in Tiny Town (0 to Pre-K)

Verse: “The LORD is with us.” (Numbers 14:9)

In Tiny Town, we’re studying Psalm 23 as we learn to trust God more and learning a portion of the chapter each week. Ask your child, “Who is your shepherd?” (The LORD... they may even be able to sign.)

Activity: Read Psalm 23. This week, we’ll focus on verse 4. A shepherd uses his rod to protect his sheep by throwing it at the enemy. It’s also used to guide the sheep and make them feel safe. Talk about things or people that make your child feel safe. Pray, “Our Lord and Shepherd, keep us safe, protect us, and guide us. Help us to trust in you even in times that are scary. Thank you for always being with us and your never ending love! Amen.”

If your child learned the verse and completed this or another of our family activities, return this page to the check-in station.

Parent Signature

Date

For Families with a Child In Adventure Quest

Read Numbers 14:9. Joshua and Caleb tried to get the people to act on God's promise and move into the land. The people rejected their advice and even talked about killing them.

Dads/Moms, teach your children from a young age to evaluate advice given to them and compare it to what the Bible teaches them. The advice they are getting may be a word from God to them.

Create and talk about this scenario with your child: A friend invites you to their home to play. While you are playing with your friend, the friend tells you that it would be OK to... (Finish the scenario and have them compare what you create to what the Bible teaches.)

If your child learned the verse and completed this activity, please return this page to the check-in station with your signature.

Parent Signature

Date

For Families with a Child In Elevate

Read Numbers 13-14 together. Concentrate on Numbers 14:9. Who were the two wise men in this passage? Did the people reject their advice? How do we use wisdom to determine if advice given is from God? (It's by evaluating the advice in comparison to the teachings in God's Word.)

Ask your children to give you an example of a time when you gave them advice. Ask them to explain the advice and how it matched with the wisdom in God's Word.

Now ask them to tell you a time when a friend or someone else gave them advice that did not match up with God's Word.

If your child learned the verse and completed this activity, please return this page to the check-in station.

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Student Base Camp Ideas

The Israelites were afraid because they were looking at the circumstances and thinking how things were better before. The unknown scared them into trying to take the matter into their own hands.

1. What can we learn from the Israelites? What are things you want to take control of? How can you surrender them to God?
2. Read Proverbs 3:5-6. How do we put our trust in Him? What are areas in your life that you struggle with trusting God?
3. How can fear cripple us from really seeing what God has for us? What are things about the future that scare you?
4. When the unknown and foreseeable future does not look good to us, how should we respond? Spend time praying about how we can trust our heavenly Father more.

Sermon and Connection Class Notes

Mission and Vision

Our mission at Tri-Lakes Chapel is to help people connect: intimately with God, intentionally with God's family, and influentially with God's world. Our vision is to develop genuine Biblical community on every street in the Tri-Lakes region.

To this end, we have designed this Compass with a holistic, communal approach to spiritual growth that we believe will grow us together to be more like Jesus. This approach has four elements which work in an integrated fashion.

They are:

Household - Using this resource daily, both personally and communally, as our road map to integrated, spiritual growth.

Base Camp - Small groups meeting in homes to live life together while applying the message of the week.

Connection Class - Mid-size Sunday groups digging deeper together through detailed teaching and discussion.

Worship Service - Coming together corporately to focus on and respond to the heart of the week's passage.

We believe this integrated approach will bring dynamic growth in and through our Tri-Lakes family. Our hope is to experience communal, spiritual transformation as we - together-engage at all four levels.