

# The Lie of Less

For generations, God had promised Israel a land. At long last, they were about to enter. But here's the question: at the doorstep of God's promises, how will we respond to perceived obstacles? Numbers 13-14 acts as a case study and warning for our lives and makes us reflect on the ways God is present with us today.

**These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.**

**1** In this story, one group is pessimistic and the other is optimistic. Which one are you most often and why?

**2 Read Numbers 13:1-2; 17-23.** God had promised many times to give Israel this land (see Gen. 15:18; 26:3; 28:15). When God proves part of his promise (providing a bountiful land) why do we struggle to believe other parts of his promise (protecting them as they take it)?

**3 Read Numbers 13:24-33. The lie of less shrinks faith.** Ten of the spies can only see the obstacles - and they feel like insects against giants. How does fear warp our perspective?

**4 Read Numbers 14:1-4. The lie of less breeds distrust.** In Numbers 13:2, God said he was giving Israel the land. But after the report, the people think God is setting them up for slaughter. Why do we question God's character in difficult seasons? Why don't God's past faithful acts always feel as real as present struggles?

**5 The lie of less opposes progress.** The Israelites are ready to turn around and go back to Egypt - where they were slaves! Why do we romanticize the past or the status quo when faced with new challenges?

**6 Read Numbers 14:6-9.** Caleb and Joshua appealed to the people from a place of faith rather than fear. In what ways is God with us today? How does Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection bolster us in the face of even our greatest fears?

