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## “Fear or Hope?” | Numbers 13-14 | March 15, 2009

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1. We are living in the midst of incredibly challenging times including unemployment, financial recession, school violence, and marital breakdown. Many of us fear that these issues may impact our lives. What other challenges are you anxious about?

2. In Numbers 13 we find God reminding Moses and the Israelites that he has promised them Canaan, a land flowing with milk and honey. What are some of the other promises that are recorded in the Bible for you and me?

*Leader Hints:*

- See *Psalm 121; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Philippians 4:19; Matthew 21:22; 2 Corinthians 9:8; etc.*

3. Perspective is everything. If we truly rely on God as our provider and protector, then we should not fear anything. After reading Number 13:26-30, where do you see the ten spies going wrong in their perspective? How can we avoid these same pitfalls? What does Caleb base his assurance on?

4. Read Numbers 14:5-7. Moses, Aaron, Joshua, and Caleb all respond to the fear and sinfulness of the community through physical and spiritual means. Why do we as believers not respond this way in our contemporary context? How could we orient ourselves more to reflect their passion and conviction?

5. In Numbers 14:8 we notice Joshua and Caleb referring to the concept of “the LORD being pleased” with us. How do you know if you are pleasing God? Why is it so important not only to do what is right, but also to do it for the right reason?

*Leader Hints:*

- See *Romans 12:1-2. We are called by the apostle Paul to offer our lives (living sacrifices) to God, holy (perfect) and pleasing (for the right reason), because this is the way that we worship God spiritually.*

6. Hope is a difficult thing to have in the midst of troubling times. One of the ways to deepen your hope in God is to reflect on the miracles that he has done in the past—both for Israel and for you. What are some of the great things that God did for Israel? What are some of the ways that God has been powerfully at work in your life? Thank and praise him!