



I-Spy

Ice Breaker: Tell your group about a Resolution that you made and KEPT!

Truths to Live By

1. God will lead you into difficulty, and He will be with you.

Read together: John 16:33 (NLT), Psalm 23 (ESV), Romans 5:3-5 (ESV)

The Israelites surely felt like God had led them into trouble by bringing them out of the land of Egypt. They murmured and complained and wanted to go back to what they had always known because it was familiar. They forgot all that God had done for them up to that point!

Discuss>>How often do we forget what God has done for us when we are in the midst of the trial?

Caleb and Joshua were looking at the same things that the other spies were looking at. They had a different lens though. They were looking through the lens of faith instead of self-reliance. Difficulty is not an indicator that you are doing something wrong.

Discuss>>Were you taught that hard times meant you were in the wrong place? How does the story of adversity for the Israelites help you correct that perception?

So often, we want to skip to the good part! We don't always trust the Lord. The Israelites didn't either! **Don't skip the middle part.** The part between the beginning of a trial and the resolution of the trial. The part where God walks with you and reveals more of himself to you as you struggle.

Discuss>> Tell your group about a time that you benefited from a trial you went through!

Beholding the Lord in moments of difficulty is where we get the courage to take a step forward!

2. If you don't take a step, you will never arrive.

Read together: Numbers 13:30-31 (ESV)

So often, we don't take a step because we fear the unknown!

Discuss >>Do you have faith that God is able to do "THE THING"?

What are you afraid of not having?

If you are afraid of looking foolish... what does that foolishness look like?

Caleb and Joshua looked foolish to their fellow spies and to the other Israelites. They were definitely not part of the majority opinion. Yet, they were the ones who were following God's leading.

Discuss>>What things are you following the crowd in because you don't want to be mocked?

You are right with God because you have accepted Him as your savior. You cannot do more to be more right with God. But, believing in God without taking action is just religion. Our relationship with God will sometimes lead to invitations to endure trial and learning opportunities.

Discuss>> What are some ways that you need to respond to God in the midst of the trial you are currently enduring?

If you are not in a trial at the moment, how can you prepare your heart to respond differently to the next one you face?

3. Provision is inside obedience.

Read together: Numbers 14:7-9 (ESV) , Numbers 23:19 (ESV) and Numbers 6:24-26 (ESV)

Caleb and Joshua did not receive provision for taking the land of Canaan UNTIL they said "Yes" to God. God sent the unbelieving generation back into the desert and waited for all of them to die before He brought the Israelites into the land He had promised! He got rid of the unbelief.

Discuss>> Is there a hard place that God is calling you into?

What do you think you will need to live that season well?

What are the things or people that you need to forgive so that you can go into your promised land?

We are stepping into new territory as a church family and as believers. 2022 holds a lot of promise and blessing for us as we trust in our God. Let's examine our hearts and get rid of hindrances. We are excited to see how God will work in our lives and our Church family.

Discuss>> Are you ready? Let's walk together with boldness KNOWING that our God is WITH us, even in the midst of trial!!

Pray together:

Father, as we approach a new year, there is a lot of unknown. We do not know the trials and joys that we will experience. Help us to see both trials and joys as opportunities from you. Help us to RIGHTLY discern what you are doing in the midst of every circumstance. Help us to be full of faith, to take the steps you would challenge us with, and to honor you with all that we do and say! We NEED you. Please help us to acknowledge your presence in every moment of 2022! You are with us. You are FOR us. We choose to believe it. In Jesus' name, Amen