

Small Group Discussion Guide

Obstacles and Opportunities: For the week of July 26 - August 1, 2020

Main Thought and Scriptures:

Moses sent twelve spies into the "Promised Land" to bring back a report to the people. Ten of the spies focused on the obstacles; they were overcome by fear and spread a bad report causing the people to rebel against God again. Only Joshua and Caleb chose to see the opportunities amid the obstacles. From this example, we learn several important lessons for us as we face obstacles in our lives:

- **Focus on God and His promises amid obstacles and fear.**

"... 'We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. ²⁸But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there... ³⁰Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, 'We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.'" (Numbers 13:27–28, 30 NIV)

- **Obey responsibly and look for unique opportunities.**

"Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh... ⁷said to the entire Israelite assembly, 'The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. ⁸If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. ⁹Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them.'" (Numbers 14:6–9 NIV)

Despite the obstacles, Joshua and Caleb understood that if they simply obeyed God, they would prevail.

Opportunities exist amid obstacles for those who choose to obey God.

- **Faith and obedience are necessary to possess God's promises.**

"Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, ²²not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times— ²³not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it. ²⁴But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it." (Numbers 14:21–24 NIV)

Those who rebelled against God never entered into the Promised Land; only those who continued to believe and obey did.

Discussion Questions:

- What stands out to you from the main thought and scriptures above and why?
- What steps of faith and obedience is God calling you to take amid the challenges you are facing? What opportunities do you think God is showing you that you should take? Explain.

Prayer:

- Pray for one another to continue to trust and obey God amid the obstacles of life.
- Pray for opportunities to make a difference in someone's life during these crises.