

Youth Discussion Guide

Seeing Possibilities & Seizing Opportunities

For the week of July 26 - August 1, 2020

Main Thought and Scriptures:

Read Numbers 13 and 14

"They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷They gave Moses this account: '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. ²⁹The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.' 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.' ³¹But the men who had gone up with him said, 'We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are.' ³²And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, 'The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. ³³We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.'" (Numbers 13:26-33 NIV)

We can learn a lot from these chapters. We see that the people of Israel are not that different from us when we go through difficulties. We easily forget the promise and goodness of God when we face hard times. Even though our difficult circumstances are real, and the pain and fear that we feel are real, God is also real too. God is greater than any circumstance and He is faithful to fulfill his promises. Our response to the circumstances we go through is important. We can either choose to trust that God is greater and live in faith or we can choose to trust in ourselves and live in fear.

1. Choose to see the possibilities despite the problems. God's perspective of things is greater than what we can see. If we trust that God really uses all things for the good of those who love Him, we can trust that God will use even the difficult circumstances and make them into something greater that we cannot always see ourselves.
2. Choose to seize opportunities in the face of obstacles. Opportunities are moments of time that won't last forever. If we continue to live in fear, we can miss the opportunities that God is giving us in the midst of our problems. We can choose to seize those opportunities and see God's promises be fulfilled in our lives or we can miss them. God honors both His promises and our choices.

3. Face facts, see with eyes of faith, speak with words of faith, and step out into faith. Faith fills the gap between what we cannot see and what God can see. When we choose to focus on how great God is, our problems begin to look smaller compared to God.

Sometimes our circumstances are so difficult that we cannot see the possibilities. Just as the Israelites saw themselves as grasshoppers (too weak and useless), we can sometimes feel like that in the face of challenges. It's hard to see with our own eyes, but God invites us to put our faith in Him. As we do this, God is faithful to fulfill His promises and in turn, our faith grows.

Discussion Questions:

- What stands out to you from the main thought, main scriptures, or the Fresh Word Friday video? Why?
- What is a short-term goal that you have for your life (between a week to 3 months from now)? What is a long-term goal that you have for your life (between 6 months to 5 years from now)? (Ex: I want to learn or get better at a skill, make a new friend in the next school year, invite one person and bring a friend to small group or service, etc.)
- Share a challenge or experience when you felt like a grasshopper—fearful and too weak or useless to face difficulties in reaching your goals. What are the potential obstacles you might face when trying to reach your goals? How can you overcome your fear and invite God to grow your faith in those circumstances?

Prayer Points:

- Pray that God would help you to see possibilities despite the problems you are facing.
- Pray for each other to choose to trust God, see with eyes of faith, speak with words of faith, and step out into faith.