

## Connecting the Old and the New

### *How Big is God?*

As a child It is hard to imagine what things are really best for us when we are looking at things right in front of us. We usually want the bright, colorful thing because it looks best. What we do not know is that many times there is something better for but we have to wait for it. Our study this week helps us see how God provides for His children in big ways!

After the Israelites fled Egypt with Moses as their leader, they were in the wilderness for 40 years. God had promised them that they would have an amazing place to go, The Promised Land, but they had not seen it. Moses sent 12 men to go and “spy or check out” Canaan, which was to be The Promised Land, and report back to the people.

#### **Read Numbers 13:25-28.**

- What did the spies find?
- What did all of the spies have in common? (V 32. They were all leaders in their tribes. They all received the same promise and all had the same opportunities.)
- How easy is it to see the obstacles instead of opportunities when we see a challenge?

Faith can help us see that God is bigger than us and He is capable of doing more than we can do on our own, The Israelites had trouble seeing that just as we have a hard time today with that very thing.

#### **Read Numbers 14:5-10**

- What did Joshua and Caleb tell the people?
- How did they stand out from the others who saw the same thing in Caanan?
- How can we less like the 10 and more like Joshua and Caleb?
- What were the consequences for Israel and their fear of the new land? (Had to wait 40 years to go)

There will always be giants in our path like the ones the spies saw in Caanan, It takes faith and trust that God is bigger than the giants and is able to take care of us through our difficult times.

#### Let's jump ahead and **read Joshua 14:6-15.**

- How long have you waited to get a gift? Or for something you had been promised?
- Talk about Caleb and what it might have felt like for him to see that promise fulfilled
- How many times did it say “whole heartedly” or “wholly followed”? And what does that mean?

#### **Let's Go to the New Testament ...**

We are going to look at a story where Jesus not only performs a miracle, but he shows us what is necessary for us to have faith.

#### **Read Mark 9:14-32.**

- What was the evil spirit's response to Jesus?
- What was the boy's life like before Jesus healed him?

- \*How were prayer and faith related in this situation?
- What problem did the father need to overcome?
- When did Jesus cast the demon out?
- How did Jesus treat the demon-possessed boy?
- What necessary step had the disciples failed to take in this situation?
- What difference does it make that "everything is possible for him who believes"?
- What can we learn from the father's example in this story?

### **Connecting them Together...**

Having faith and trusting God "whole-heartedly" is demonstrated in both of these passages. We see how Caleb sees his promise fulfilled that God had made to him. It was his faith and steadfastness to follow God with his whole heart that was part of the gift that God had for him. Following God means having a relationship with Him that involves prayer and Bible study.

- How do you follow God "wholly" or "with your whole heart"?
- How can you become more dedicated to prayer?