**Small Group Notes – 10 January 2021**

**Welcome –** Share with one another various things that frighten us?

**Word - Moses and the people of God – A collapse of courage: Numbers 13 & 14**

* **The Land of promise before them – 13:1-3**

There was no doubt that God was giving the land to his people. It could not fail to belong to them because God had promised it. But, the people of God had to take possession of it. God had done his part, and now it was up to them to have courage and do their part.

* **Opportunity or obstacle?** Numbers 13:27-30

The Ten Spies were saying; “everything that God told us about the land is true, but he lied when he said it will be ours to take because there is no way we can conquer it! Interestingly the Hebrew word that is used here for but is ‘efes’ which means ‘zero’. They believe they have zero chance of taking possession of the land. As far as they are concerned it’s over before it has even started!

What was Caleb and Joshua’s response? – Numbers 13:30

Caleb and Joshua are quietened and the Ten Spies continue with their bad report and spread fear amongst the whole community.

* **Faith or fear?** Numbers 13:31-14:4

It’s all about perspective. The Ten Spies see giants, fortresses and failure. They viewed themselves as grasshoppers in the midst of these giants. Caleb and Joshua had a different spirit and a different perspective. They were not worried about the size of the problem because they trusted God and his promises; they remembered when God had delivered them in the past.

The fearful Ten Spies spread the bad report and the people believe it and panic.

Fear is the enemy of faith. Fear can grip the heart of an individual person and it can grip the heart of a whole nation. Fear can be created by what we know and what we don’t know. It can either drive us or paralyze us.

* **Tragedy or triumph?** Numbers 14:10-19

God Forgives his people but he gives them what they want. A life in the wilderness.

They are judged for their unbelief and only Joshua and Caleb enter the Promised Land from amongst their generation some 40 years later. It‘s a tragic story. A journey to the Promised Land that should have taken just a matter of days takes 40 years!

Today, I believe that we need to exercise confidence and courage more than ever.

**What is courage?**

Chambers dictionary – “*Courage is the quality that enables people to meet danger
without giving way to fear”*

Mark Twain ***–*** *Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not the absence of fear****”***

Fear is the enemy of faith. Fear stops us moving on with God. Courage enables us to face our fears and go beyond our limitations.

**How do we develop confidence & courage in the Lord?**

**• By daily meditating on His Word – Joshua 1:7-8**

**• By obeying Gods Word – Joshua 1:7-8**

**• By reminding God of his Promises – Joshua 1:9**

**• By recalling the faithfulness of God in past circumstances – Joshua 21:45**

Fear not for the future. God is in control. He is in control of both your life and your death. His plans and purposes for you and your family will be fulfilled.

**Questions**

* What are the conditions the Lord gives to the Israelites to be given the land? V1-2
* What are the problems are the Ten Spies concerned about? V27-32
* What is the difference between Joshua and Caleb’s response
and that of the Ten Spies? V30
* What is God’s response to the people’s rebellion? 14 v11-12
* What does Moses response tell us about Moses the man? 14 v13-19
* What are the consequences for failing to trust in God and his promise? 14v20

What does this account tell us about God?

What does this account tell us about any task God asks us to do?

* What is the Canaan Land opportunity before you today?
* What is the Canaanite opposition that is causing you to be afraid and hesitate?
* Will you embrace and exercise the Caleb ‘Spirit of Confidence’ and courage
in the face of your challenge?
* When challenges come our way how do we face them? Do we see challenges or opportunities for God to work?
* How do we respond to challenging circumstances that we face, with Faith or fear?

**New Year Prayer continued…. in Zoom**

Sunday 10 Jan – 8pm-9pm

Monday 11 Jan – 1pm -2pm

Wednesday 13 Jan – 7.30am-8.30am

Friday 15 Jan – 1pm-2pm