

THERE BE GIANTS

Part 12 of Foundations 260 - OT. Numbers 13-14.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. May 3, 2026.

DISNEYLAND VS SURVIVOR

Is following Jesus like an adventure, or like something really challenging?

- Yes. It's both highs and lows, victories and obstacles.

Today, we'll explore what it takes to follow Jesus.

- How can we embrace God's assignments?

NUMBERS 13-14

Israel escaped from Egypt in the springtime.

- By late summer or early fall, they had arrived at the southern border of the Land God promised to Abraham. The land of Canaan.
- Spiritually speaking, Israel was in rough shape. The people were consistently unfaithful. Numbers 13-14 record the fourth in a series of rebellions against God.

The passage teaches us three ways to embrace God's assignments.

1. WE NEED AN OBEDIENT ATTITUDE

We see this illustrated at the beginning of Numbers 13.

Numbers 13:1-3 (CSB) The LORD spoke to Moses: 2 "Send men to scout out the land of Canaan I am giving to the Israelites. Send one man who is a leader among them from each of their ancestral tribes." 3 Moses sent them from the Wilderness of Paran at the LORD's command. All the men were leaders in Israel.

- Then, the scouts obeyed God.

Numbers 13:17-18, 21 (CSB) When Moses sent them to scout out the land of Canaan, he told them, “Go up this way to the Negev, then go up into the hill country. 18 See what the land is like, and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. ... 21 So they went up and scouted out the land from the Wilderness of Zin as far as Rehob near the entrance to Hamath.

- The spies traveled on foot from south of the Dead Sea to what is now southern Lebanon. And back again, approximately. 350-500 miles.

Charles Stanley’s Life Principle #2: “A Life of Obedience:

- Obey God and leave all the consequences to him.

“When we choose to obey God, we take the way of wisdom. His promises of blessing for obedience far outweigh any possible consequences. He asks us to submit ourselves to Him and leave whatever happens to His loving care.”¹

Jesus said, “If you love me, you will obey my commands” (John 14:15).

- It’s very difficult to follow Jesus if we’re always questioning his teachings or his will for our lives.
- Try the 10-second rule: When God’s will is clear and its application is obvious, do it within 10 seconds. Don’t debate. Just do it.

2. WE NEED A PROMISE-DRIVEN MINDSET

Faith is trust in God’s character and promises.

- He is good and great (powerful).
- God promised the Land to Abraham’s descendants (Genesis 12:7, etc.), so Moses trusted in God’s promise and sent out the scouts (Numbers 13:2).
- However, 10 of the 12 spies lacked a promise-driven mindset. They reported that giant men would prevent them from taking the land (Numbers 13:31-33).

¹ <https://www.intouch.org/watch/sermons/life-principle-2-a-life-of-obedience>

Unbelief is a terrible sin.

- It sees our circumstances and fear as being greater than God's power and promise.

How can we build a promise-driven mindset?

- Meditate on the greatness and goodness of God.
- Learn and lean on God's promises.
- "Attempt great things for God, expect great things from God" - W. Carey.

3. WE NEED A MAVERICK SPIRIT

When the people heard the faithless spies' report, fear gripped the camp.

- Numbers 14:1-2.
- If Moses were a conformist or people-pleaser, he would have turned back.

God entrusts his assignments to mavericks and non-conformists.

- People like Caleb and Joshua

Numbers 14:8 (CSB) If the LORD is pleased with us, he will bring us into this land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and give it to us.

- That wasn't arrogance, it was trust in God.

GOD LOOKS FOR ...

God looks for obedient, promise-driven mavericks.

- Men and women so entranced by God's goodness and greatness that we do whatever he commands, and go wherever he directs.
- Jesus prayed, "*Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done*" (Luke 22:42, CSB)

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Review

- Review Peter's May 3rd teaching and study guide.
- What were the main insights of Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?
- What were the main applications or takeaways for your life?

Discuss

1. If someone new to faith asked you, "Is following Jesus worth it when it's this hard?" how would you honestly answer from your own experience?
2. Where do you most often argue with, delay, or "negotiate" with Jesus instead of simply obeying (e.g., forgiveness, marriage, money, purity, serving, speaking up)? How have you seen willing obedience work out? Discuss the 10-second rule that Peter mentioned.
3. Think of concrete promises of God you already know (e.g., presence, provision, forgiveness, wisdom). How might clinging to one of those promises change the way you tackle a current assignment from God?
4. Think of a time you did obey Jesus even when others didn't understand or approve. What did that cost you, and how did God meet you in it? How do you overcome the fears that rise up when you imagine being a "maverick" for God in your context (fear of rejection, being misunderstood, losing comfort, etc.)?

Prayer Focus

- Our 247 prayer: "Lord, please add daily to the Cornerstone those who are being saved."
- Pray that the church would be filled with obedient, promise-driven mavericks.