WHAT GOT YOU HERE WILL NOT GET YOU THERE

3-DAY DEVOTIONAL AND DISCUSSION GUIDE

HOUSTON'S FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH

DAY 1 | SEEING DIFFERENTLY

BIBLE VERSE

Numbers 13:30 (CSB) — *"Then Caleb quieted the people in the presence of Moses and said, 'Let's go up now and take possession of the land because we can certainly conquer it.'*

DEVOTIONAL

Twelve spies explored the same land, tasted the same fruit, and saw the same giants, yet only two came back with faith. Ten let fear write the story, while Caleb measured the giants against his God instead of measuring himself against the giants. Fear distorts our vision, and it often turns a real challenge into a catastrophe we have only imagined. Caleb's confidence rested on the accumulated evidence of God's reliability. He had seen God come through before, so he trusted God to do it again. When we face a blurry season, it helps to look back at the spiritual markers in our lives, the moments when God showed up right on time. Today, think of a situation where you have been assuming the worst. Write down three times God has been faithful to you in the past, and let those memories shape how you see what is ahead. Then take one small step of faith in that situation, even if your faith feels weak, because the One who calls you forward is also the One who will reach out His hand if you begin to sink.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Where in my life am I measuring myself against the giants instead of measuring the giants against my God?

KEY TAKEAWAY

Fear distorts your vision, but faith clarifies it. Let God's faithfulness in your past fuel your trust in the present and the future.

PRAYER

Lord, help me see differently. Help me trust deeply. Help me move forward in faith by Your grace. Forgive me for the times I have measured my problems against my strength instead of measuring them against Your power. Thank You for the many times You have been faithful to me. Give me the courage of Caleb to believe that You are with me and that You go before me. In Jesus' name, amen.

DAY 2 | GOD PROVIDES

BIBLE VERSE

Numbers 20:8 (CSB) — *"Take the staff and assemble the community. You and your brother Aaron are to speak to the rock while they watch, and it will yield its water. You will bring out water for them from the rock and provide drink for the community and their livestock."*

DEVOTIONAL

After forty years in the wilderness, the people of Israel were thirsty again, and they quickly concluded that God had brought them out there to die. Their need was real, but their conclusion about God's character was wrong. A legitimate problem never justifies an illegitimate conclusion about God. Moses did the right thing at first by leaving the complaining crowd and falling on his face at the Tent of Meeting. But when frustration took over, he called the people rebels, struck the rock twice, and acted as if the provision depended on him. God, in His grace, still let the water flow, though Moses lost the privilege of leading the people into the Promised Land. Mad decisions are bad decisions, and anger is often a secondary emotion that points to a deeper hurt, fear, or disappointment. Today, ask yourself what you are really angry about, and lay that root before the Lord. Then find your own "tent of meeting," a quiet place where you go when you are thirsty, and speak to God instead of striking at the people and circumstances around you.

REFLECTION QUESTION

What are you really angry or frustrated about right now, and what would it look like to bring that to God instead of trying to force the outcome yourself?

KEY TAKEAWAY

Let your obedience be greater than your frustration. God's grace, not our anger, brings God's provision.

PRAYER

Father, You are faithful and good, even when my needs feel unmet. Forgive me for the times I have questioned Your character because I was thirsty for something You have not yet provided. Show me what is really beneath my anger and help me lay it at Your feet. Teach me to walk with You so that I can walk in the fruit of the Spirit. Thank You for being gracious to me even when I strike the rock. I trust You to bring the water. In Jesus' name, amen.

DAY 3 | LEAVING A LEGACY

BIBLE VERSE

Numbers 27:16–17 (CSB) — *"Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the community who will go out before them and come back in before them, who will bring them out and bring them in, so that the LORD's community won't be like sheep without a shepherd."*

DEVOTIONAL

God told Moses he would see the Promised Land but not enter it, and Moses' first response was not to bargain for himself but to ask God to appoint a shepherd for the people. That is the heart of a true leader, someone who sees past himself and does what is best for others. Moses understood that his life and leadership were entrusted to him, not owned by him, and that whatever we have been given, we are only holding for someone else. He laid his hands on Joshua, a godly, responsible, and proven man, and commissioned him to lead the next generation. There is also a beautiful picture here of the gospel. Moses represents the law, which can only bring us to the edge of the Promised Land, while Joshua, whose name means "God saves," points to Jesus, who carries us in. Today, take an honest look at what God has entrusted to you, such as your family, your work, your influence, or your faith. Choose one person to invest in, encourage, or disciple, and ask yourself what kind of mark you want to leave on their life.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Am I living as if my life is owned by me, or entrusted to me by God?

KEY TAKEAWAY

Face your ending, see past yourself, and raise up the next generation. True legacy is built by seeing past ourselves and doing what is best for others, even when it costs us something personally.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You that my life and everything in it belong to You. Teach me to number my days so that I may live with a heart of wisdom. Help me to hold loosely what You have given me and to pass it on faithfully to those who come after me. Thank You for Jesus who brings me into the promised land of eternal life. Let my life and legacy point others to Him. In Jesus' name, amen.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

THEME

Seeing life through the lens of faith, trusting God's provision instead of our anger, and passing on a legacy that points to Jesus.

OPENING PRAYER

Father, thank You for gathering us together. Open our eyes to see clearly, open our hearts to trust deeply, and open our hands to move forward in faith. Speak to each of us through Your Word and help us to be honest with You and with one another. In Jesus' name, amen.

ICE BREAKER

Share about a time you or someone you know had a "blurry" moment, such as misreading a sign, missing something obvious, or needing glasses. What did you learn from it? Or, if you could pass down one thing to the next generation (a recipe, a tradition, a skill), what would it be?

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

- Numbers 13:25-33 and 14:6-9 (Seeing Differently)
- Numbers 20:1-12 (God Provides)
- Numbers 27:12-23 (Leaving a Legacy)

SUMMARY

In this three-part series from the book of Numbers, we see God's people on the edge of the Promised Land and learn that what got us here will not get us there. In Numbers 13, twelve spies saw the same land, but ten saw through fear and two saw through faith. Fear distorts our vision, while faith clarifies it, and God's faithfulness in the past fuels our trust for the future. In Numbers 20, the people were thirsty and quarreled with Moses. Moses, worn down by frustration and grief, struck the rock in anger instead of speaking to it as God had commanded. Even so, God graciously provided the water. We learned that a legitimate problem does not justify an illegitimate conclusion about God, and that mad decisions are bad decisions. In Numbers 27, Moses faced the end of his life and chose to commission Joshua rather than cling to his own position. We learned to face our ending, see past ourselves, and raise up the next generation. Moses and the law could only bring Israel to the edge of the Promised Land, but Joshua, whose name means "God saves," led them in, which points us to Jesus, Who alone brings us into eternal life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In Numbers 13, all twelve spies saw the same land but came back with different reports. Why do you think ten chose fear and two chose faith? What shapes the way we see our circumstances?

2. Have you ever experienced "catastrophic thinking," assuming the worst before anything happened? How did it affect your decisions or your relationships?

3. Caleb's confidence rested on the accumulated evidence of God's reliability. What are some "spiritual markers" in your past when God came through for you? How can you share them with someone else?

4. The Israelites said, "We don't have water, therefore God is not faithful." Where are you tempted to draw a wrong conclusion about God because of a real need in your life?

5. Moses went to the Tent of Meeting and fell on his face before God. Do you have a place where you meet with God regularly? What helps or hinders you from having one?

6. Anger is often a secondary emotion that points to a deeper hurt, fear, or disappointment. What do you think is usually underneath your anger? What helps you notice it before it takes over?

7. "Mad decisions are bad decisions." Can you think of a time when acting in anger led to a decision you later regretted? What would you do differently?

8. Moses asked God to appoint a leader for the people rather than pleading for himself. What does it look like to "see past ourselves" in our families, workplaces, and churches?

9. Pastor Gregg said that whatever we have been given, we are only holding for someone else. What has God entrusted to you, and who might you pass it on to?

10. Moses represents the law, and Joshua points to Jesus. Why can we not get into the Promised Land on our own goodness, and what does it mean to trust Jesus as your Savior?

LIFE APPLICATION

This week, choose one of the following and share your plan with the group.

1. See differently: Identify one situation where fear has been distorting your view. Write down three times God has been faithful to you, and take one step of faith. Try the daily prayer motions: eyes ("Lord, help me see differently"), heart ("Lord, help me trust deeply"), and hands ("Lord, help me move forward in faith by Your grace").

2. Trust His provision: Set aside a "tent of meeting" each day this week. Ask God what you are really angry or anxious about, repent where needed, and ask Him for help to walk in the fruit of the Spirit.

3. Pass it on: Choose one person to encourage, mentor, or disciple. Take them to coffee, share a story of God's faithfulness, and pray with them.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Fear distorts your vision, but faith clarifies it.
- God's faithfulness in your past can fuel your trust in the present and the future.
- A legitimate problem does not justify an illegitimate conclusion about God.
- Let your obedience be greater than your frustration, because God's grace, not our anger, brings His provision.
- Our life and leadership are entrusted, not owned. Face your ending, see past yourself, and raise up the next generation.
- Moses and the law can only take us to the edge. Only Jesus can take us into the Promised Land of eternal life.

ENDING PRAYER

Lord, thank You for the time we have had in Your Word together. Help us to see differently, trust deeply, and move forward in faith. Where we are thirsty, we trust You to bring the water. Where we are afraid, give us the courage of Caleb. Where we have something to pass on, give us the heart of Moses to invest in the next generation. Thank You for Jesus, who carries us into the promised land. Send us out this week with open eyes, trusting hearts, and open hands. In Jesus' name, amen.