

## LIFE GROUP SESSION 1: FROM FEAR TO FAITH

### LIFE GROUPS VIDEO



Play the LIFE Groups Video for Session 1 and share reflections from the video afterward.

Pray before you begin the rest of the lesson.

### OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1. As you think about what it means to “make waves” of spiritual impact, what does that mean for you in your current walk with Jesus?
2. What’s your best Cannonball story? What’s the biggest wave you’ve ever experienced?

### FURTHER DISCUSSION FROM SCRIPTURE



Read each Scripture passage below and discuss the questions as a group. You may want to have each group member journal their answer in the lines provided below before discussing together, as a means of encouraging all to participate more deeply.

*God calls us out of fear to faith.*

### NUMBERS 13:1-3; 17-20; 25-33 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> The Lord said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> “Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders.”

<sup>3</sup> So at the Lord’s command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites.

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<sup>17</sup> When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, “Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. <sup>18</sup> See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. <sup>19</sup> What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? <sup>20</sup> How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land.” (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.)

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<sup>25</sup> At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land. <sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> They 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. <sup>28</sup> But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. <sup>29</sup> The 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."

<sup>30</sup> Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it."

<sup>31</sup> But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." <sup>32</sup> And 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. <sup>33</sup> We 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."

1. Why do you think God asked Moses to send out the spies to the land of Canaan? What was significant about this?
2. Why does God give us challenges that seem insurmountable by the world's standards?
3. What was significant about what Caleb did? Do you consider yourself more like Caleb or more like the other 10 spies?
4. Describe a situation like this one where you were on one side or the other. Was your side faith or fear?

*Without faith, it is impossible to please God.*

## NUMBERS 14:1-10; 21-25; 36-38 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. <sup>2</sup> All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! <sup>3</sup> Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" <sup>4</sup> And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

<sup>5</sup> Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. <sup>6</sup> Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes <sup>7</sup> and said to the entire Israelite assembly, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. <sup>8</sup> If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. <sup>9</sup> Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them.”

<sup>10</sup> But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the tent of meeting to all the Israelites.

<sup>21</sup> Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, <sup>22</sup> not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times—  
<sup>23</sup> not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it. <sup>24</sup> But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it. <sup>25</sup> Since the Amalekites and the Canaanites are living in the valleys, turn back tomorrow and set out toward the desert along the route to the Red Sea.

<sup>36</sup> So the men Moses had sent to explore the land, who returned and made the whole community grumble against him by spreading a bad report about it—  
<sup>37</sup> these men who were responsible for spreading the bad report about the land were struck down and died of a plague before the Lord. <sup>38</sup> Of the men who went to explore the land, only Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh survived.

1. The “crowd of the fearful” often tries to take over the “few of the faithful.” Describe what was going on in this passage and what it truly took for Caleb and Joshua to rise up against this crowd of people telling them they were crazy.
2. Why is it impossible to please God without faith? What is significant about that?
3. In this Cannonball journey, where do you find yourself? Are you stepping out in faith into the choppy water or have you found yourself back in calm waters, needing to take another step of faith to get back into the choppy?

## PRAY FOR YOUR LIFE GROUP



Pray for each person in your LIFE Group as they consider their next steps in Cannonball. During this midpoint of the Cannonball journey, we are praying that 100 percent of us at Community would take a step of faith in one of three ways:

1. For those who have not yet joined the Cannonball journey, be challenged to step out in faith and make a commitment to generosity for our final year of Cannonball. Trust God in this area of giving, and take that step with us as a church as we boldly trust Him without borders.
2. If you are on the Cannonball journey and find yourself “still in the choppy waters,” giving it everything you’ve got, be encouraged. Commit to finishing strong. There is a reason why you made your original Cannonball commitment, and we encourage you in that as you step out in faith in this final year of Cannonball. Be bold. Stay strong together.
3. For others on the Cannonball journey, you stepped out “into the choppy waters” last year, and your journey has never been easy at all. However, one year later, you now find yourself back in calm waters. Maybe you’ve had an increase in faith, an increase in finances, or possibly God’s provision has surprised you. Now you find yourself in a position where you don’t feel you are living as much by faith as you are by plans. You are ready for yet another step of faith in this journey. You want to step out back into the “choppy” again. You want to please God by living that true Cannonball journey. Do it. Take another step.

*Let's pray.*