



## Key Scripture

### Numbers 14:1-11 NIV

*That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. 2 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! 3 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?" 4 And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."*

*5 Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. 6 Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes 7 and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. 8 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. 9 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."*

*10 But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the tent of meeting to all the Israelites. 11 The Lord said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I have performed among them?"*

## CAN WE JUST GO BACK?

### Opening.

- Do you feel dissatisfied with how the government is handling COVID-19? Y/N. Why?

Last week we learned how the Israelites complained about food. This week, we learn about how they complained about their leaders. Getting closer to the Promised Land, the people of Israel receive report from the spies about the land they were about to enter. Two reports were given: the majority report was (chap. 13 vv. 27-29) the land is rich, but it's full of enemies; the minority report was, "let's go and conquer!" The people believed the majority report and complained to Moses and Aaron in verse 3 saying, "would it be better if we go back to Egypt?" In our journey of sanctification, we can sometimes get overwhelmed by the tasks ahead of us, whether individually or as a church. We can learn from two Israelites (Joshua and Caleb) who knew how to live with courage, wisdom and excitement for the adventure—there is no turning back!

### Read the Scripture. *Numbers 14:1-11*

### Think Through.

- Share a part of the sermon that made the greatest impact on you.

### Share and Apply

- In verses 1-3, we read that the Israelites grumbled against their leaders and wish they never left Egypt. They even blame God for putting their lives in danger. Have you ever been in a place where you blamed God for something? Share.
- The Israelites would rather go back to Egypt and be slaves again than to fight for their new home. Joshua and Caleb knew the value of fighting for what God has given them. What areas in your life do you see yourself fighting for what God gave you and to keep flourishing? How are you keeping yourself strong in the process?
- The Israelites were so blinded by their fear that they could not see the sense in what Joshua and Caleb said. The people wanted to stone them. Share of a time in your life when you questioned the wisdom of a spiritual leader? Why is the Bible so passionate about submission and obedience to leadership? Read Hebrew 13:17.
- Just like for Israel's journey to the Promised Land, in our own spiritual journey, the only way to progress is by moving forward. Growth is always making the next bold step in faith. Whether in life or ministry, we do not want to go backward. In your sanctification (growth in obedience and love for God), why is returning to your old self not an option?
- Read Philippians 3:14-17. *A heart that obeys finds joy and fulfillment.*