

Exploration of the land of milk and honey

Conflicting reports

A forty-year detour

The ultimate GPS system

Discussion questions:

1. Describe some of the ways that God might help us recalculate our life direction and get back on track when we are wandering.
2. All through this chapter of The Story, God disciplines the people (sometimes quite strongly) to get them back on course. What are the values of being disciplined by one who loves us and wants the best for us?
3. Randy mentioned that there are no less than ten outbreaks of “juvenile behavior” by the people of Israel during their desert wanderings. How can Christians today be like this—complaining, grumbling, and rebelling against God’s leading and plan? Give an example of how you can fall into this pattern if you are not careful.
4. Ten of the men who spied out the land let their minds and eyes focus on the obstacles (Numbers 13:26-33; the Story, p.75). What are ways we can be frozen by fear and fixate on the obstacles rather than the God who can help us overcome them?
5. How have you seen the sins of one generation poison and damage those who came after them? And conversely, how have you seen good choices and spiritual maturity be passed on as a blessing to the next generation?
6. What is one way you are seeking to pass on a healthy and positive legacy to the next generation? How can we pray that we would be a blessing to children, grandchildren, or the young people you influence?
7. Randy talked about the vision God has for his children to be responsive to his leading. When God says to go left or right, we turn and go. When he says stop, we hit the brakes. What kinds of things can get in the way of us responding to God’s clear direction?
8. What will help us hear and respond more quickly when the Lord is seeking to lead us? What is one area of your life where you would like to be more responsive to God’s leading?

Homework: One of the best things we can do is listen to people of wisdom and faith. Joshua and Caleb came back from their exploration of the land and gave wise counsel. Unfortunately, the people did not listen to them. Find one or two wise men or women of faith that you know well and ask for their insight and perspective on your life. Share how you are seeking to follow God and where you feel you are wandering off course. Invite their wisdom and prayerfully listen to them. Consider asking if they will meet with you on a regular basis to be a sounding board as you seek to walk with Jesus.

For next week: Read Chapter 7 of The Story (Joshua 1-2, 6, 8, 10-11, 23-24)