



CHRIST COMMISSION FELLOWSHIP

Dgroup Discussion Guide

July 1, 2012

CALEB: WHAT IS REAL LEADERSHIP?

WORSHIP: Waiting Here for You/ Greater by New Life Worship/ I Will Rise by C. Tomlin/ Heart of Worship

WELCOME:

Keep your eye on the goal.

1. How persistent are you in accomplishing a task you have set your mind to?
2. What do you think are the traits that can help you achieve your goal?

WORD:

"When they returned from spying out the land, at the end of forty days, ²⁶ they proceeded to come to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the sons of Israel ^[1] in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; and they brought back word to them and to all the congregation and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷ Thus they told him, and said, "We went in to the land where you sent us; and it certainly does flow with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. ²⁸ Nevertheless, the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large; and moreover, we saw the ^[2] descendants of Anak there. ²⁹ Amalek is living in the land of the Negev and the Hittites and the Jebusites and the Amorites are living in the hill country, and the Canaanites are living by the sea and by the side of the Jordan. ³⁰ Then Caleb quieted the people ^[3] before Moses and said, "We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it." ³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, " We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us." ³² So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its ^[4] inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great size. ³³ There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight." Numbers 13: 25-33

As we continue our discussion on leadership, we look at the example of Caleb. Caleb, the son of Jephunneh was one of the 12 spies who along with Joshua were sent into the Promised Land.

What is Real Leadership?

1. The leader stands firm in spite of circumstances. (Numbers 13:17-24; 27-29)
 - Often when God is opening up new opportunities for us, we can already see the "what could be" and yet we get fixated on the blocks that we have to face before we get to the "what could be".
 - Caleb showed us that we have to stand firm in spite of difficult circumstances. We can be ridiculed for our choices, but we have to stand our ground.
 - Sometimes we try so hard to conform to the world around us, we lose track of what is important. Instead of just looking at the circumstances we must first ask ourselves the question --- What kind of person am i? Who am i?
 - We have to know our identity, who we are --- so that we do not lose ourselves in circumstances, rather when put in these situations our identity should be able to stand out. We have to understand that we should not sacrifice our convictions.
 - If we do not realize this early in our Christian life, we will continue to make bad choices for the rest of our lives.
2. The leader understands the costs. (Numbers 14:4-9)
 - When given the information regarding the present inhabitants of the Promised Land, the Israelites began to grumble and wanted to return to Egypt. They had forgotten what kind of life they had in Egypt when they were faced with the problem of having to defeat these inhabitants.
 - It is amazing how our memories can often confound us. We often end up remembering things differently in rose colored glasses and seem to forget that it wasn't really all too great at that time.
 - When you count the cost, we must understand that if we refuse to pay for it now – we will pay for it later.
 - When we want to get a discipline in life, we have to start now rather than later. For example, if we want to remain healthy until our old age, as early as now we have to start exercising. We do not wait until we are 50 then start living healthy. It is the same for our spiritual life, we do not have to wait until we are 50 to read the bible.

3. The leader is confident.
 - We have to put emphasis on WHO our confidence comes from. This confidence stems from our dependence on God, not from ourselves.
 - A simple way of understanding this: When we ask forgiveness, we ask the Lord to forgive us not because we are sorry but because of His lovingkindness.
Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. Psalm 51:1
 - It is never about us. It is about God's nature.
 - Caleb says in Num 14: 8-9 *"If the LORD is pleased with us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us— a land which flows with milk and honey. ⁹Only do not rebel against the LORD; and do not fear the people of the land, for they will be our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them."*
 - Caleb understood that they needed to do the work, but in the end it was all about God.
4. The leader keeps the proper focus.
 - Keep our focus on God. Not on people. Not on situations.
 - Often our problem is that we tend to focus on people and situations too much --- we have to remember to keep our eyes on the Lord. Focus on God. It is His call and He will take us through it.
 - This does not mean that we minimize our problems, rather than minimizing our problems we should magnify our God. He is after all greater and bigger than any problem.
5. The leader has singleness of mind.
 - We should not let circumstances control us, once we chosen to do what God has asked of us --- we have to stick to it.
 - Even if we start out struggling and heavy hearted, even if take our time to obey – Jesus reminds us that what is important is that we went out to do the Father's will.
 - Immediate obedience is real obedience, but when we delay obedience but later repent and then eventually obey – that is what counts.
 - We have to understand that when we decide to do what God wants us to do, it puts us in a place of blessing.

Discussion:

1. Do we truly know who we are?
2. When faced with difficulties, am I able to focus on God? Or do I focus on the situation?
3. Am I self-confident or God confident?

WORKS:

Caleb is a great example of courage, endurance and persistence. Even though he was faced with adversity, he did not conform to the rebellious nature of the Israelites. Instead, he continued to keep his eyes on God. The promised land for us today symbolizes the life we can have if we walk intimately with God but we are faced with many enemies – our pride, our ego, our self-sufficiency are just some examples.

As we reflect on the example of Caleb, let us identify the enemies we are faced with that are hindering us from being completely being intimate with our Lord. Honestly and specifically enumerate these.

Caleb had: Courage – he was not afraid to be ridiculed and condemned for his faith in God.
 Endurance – he understood the costs, and yet he stood firm in his circumstances.
 Persistence – he knew God's nature, he kept his eyes on the Lord and obeyed even though it took him another 45 years before he entered the promise land.

And because of these, he was blessed.

Let us ask ourselves, Are we at a point in our lives that we see our promised land? If so what are we willing to be criticized for? What are our costs? What are we willing to fight for? Willing to endure? Willing to persist in? Let us continue to come together in prayer for one another as we renew our commitment to seek intimacy with the Lord. The road that lies ahead may not be an easy one – but we must remember as Caleb did not to rely on the strength of men, but rather on the strength of God. He reminds us to continue to please the Lord because *if the Lord is pleased with us, then He will bring us to this land and give it to us...*