

## GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 2

### Question 1

- a) On the surface it would have served as evidence to corroborate their report. But it is more than that.
- b) God had promised them a plentiful land (**Exodus 3:8**). It is no coincidence that in verse 20 it is the season of the first ripe grapes.
- c) This evidence would confirm God's covenant to the people. Note the words of God to Moses back in 13:2 "*Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel...*"
- d) In 13:22 we find that the spies went to Hebron. Back in Genesis 13 it was the place where Abraham built an altar after God had reaffirmed His covenant. And in Genesis 23 we find that Abraham had bought some land at Hebron so that all his family might be buried there.
- e) This was a place which represented God's faithfulness to His promises.

### Question 2

- a) The spies begin in verse 27 by acknowledging (perhaps grudgingly) the faithfulness of God.
- b) It is here that we find the contradiction. Having confirmed God's promises in verse 27 they promptly proceed to deny them in verse 28.

- c) As soon as they see one obstacle (the people of Anak; a race of tall people) they start seeing others. Before they know it they have identified five more reasons in verse 29 why what God had told them to do was impossible.
- d) The lesson here is that as the people of God we walk by faith and not by sight.
- e) We are to keep our eyes on God rather than on the difficulties.

### Question 3

- a) There must have been a temptation to go along with the crowd.
- b) On the other hand, was their assessment of the situation flawed; particularly as they were the only two who felt that way?
- c) Had they put too much store on what God had promised or were they to stand their ground on what they knew to be true concerning God's word?

### Question 4

- a) In their report, 'the ten' did not mention the name of the Lord once. Their focus was on a big enemy.
- b) Joshua and Caleb's report is much briefer and yet they mention the Lord four times (in verse 8 the second reference to the Lord is 'He'). Their focus is on a big God (**Psalm 77:13-15**)

### Question 5

- a) Verse 8: All that God does is for His glory and He takes delight in blessing His people in a way that reflects that glory.
- b) Verse 9: Victory comes in being in His will. God's people are to be obedient to God's word.
- c) Verse 9: The Victory is the Lord's. Note that the protection of the enemy is removed and the strength of God is with His people.

### Question 6

- a) Sometimes we have to be prepared to stand out from the crowd whatever the cost. However we should always be able to justify doing so from God's word, as Joshua and Caleb do in Numbers 14.
- b) Obedience is determined not by one's assessment of a situation but by God's word.
- c) Disobedience to God's word has consequences; but His purposes will always be fulfilled (**Psalm 33:11-12**).