

## TALK IT OVER | BACKSTAGE PASS: CHARACTER TOUR

### Week 3 – Courage (Ephesians 5:18)

#### ICE BREAKER (let's get warmed up)

Many people have someone in their life they admire for their courage. Whether it is a family member or friend who has made a deep impression for how they handled tough situations or maybe a celebrity or historical figure who is a hero to them.

#### NAME ONE OR TWO PEOPLE PAST OR PRESENT THAT YOU ADMIRE AND WHY?

#### SPIRITUAL THOUGHT (what are we talking about)

Read Numbers 13:25-33; 14:24, 36-37

Caleb's character is contrasted with the 10 spies. It is a matter of character, which dictates how we see things. Seeing is believing- Caleb's **hope** was based on the reality that God was with him. "Believing is seeing" is naïve and delusional. The 10 spies believed the circumstances of what they saw, in the land, were greater than their faith in God. Faith in the Bible is multidimensional and it includes having courage. Courage cannot be separated from faith and it is based on reality.

#### WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF FAITH? WHAT RELATION DOES IT HAVE TO COURAGE?

#### SCRIPTURAL RESPONSE (what does God say about it)

Read Ephesians 5:18

If we want to have "a different spirit" like Caleb, we need to be filled with the Spirit. A literal translation of this verse would be "**be filled IN [your] spirit.**" Our spirit needs to be filled, consumed and aligned with God's Spirit – an awareness or consciousness of God Himself. Being filled with the Spirit is *the* point of all other spiritual disciplines; the goal is an increasing ability to simply become aware of God's Spirit. God's Spirit transforms fear into courage.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR GOD TO "FILL YOU" WITH HIS HOLY SPIRIT? WHAT ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN ALLOW GOD TO "FILL YOU" WITH HIS HOLY SPIRIT?

#### PERSONAL APPLICATION (how do I apply this to my life)

Read Galatians 5:16, Acts 4:31

Here are some examples of what it looks like to walk in the Spirit:

- \*Home – When someone snaps at us, are we going to be reactive? It would take courage to not retaliate.
- \*Work – When everyone is gathered around to gossip and trash talk the boss, are we going to do the same? Will we have the courage to speak favorably of our boss as one loved by God for whom Jesus died?
- \*Church – Are we going to trust our selfish impulses, or are we willing to engage the mission? Are we filled with greed – the only real reason we won't give (and you probably DO have a 'good' reason to not give, like the 10 spies) – or will we have the COURAGE to be filled with the Spirit? Even in the midst of apparently dire circumstances, can we see the Spirit of God here and now – not when things "turn around?" This is the essence of hope.

#### DISCUSS YOUR VIEWS ON THE ABOVE STATEMENTS AND QUESTIONS. (END YOUR LIFE GROUP MEETING WITH PRAYER TIME)

#### DAILY TIME WITH GOD (what are my next steps)

*During your daily time with God this week, go deeper into the teaching by experimenting with one or two of these spiritual exercises.*

- \*Memorize Ephesians 5:18.
- \*What are some situations in which you do not always act courageously? Make it a point this week to act in God's Spirit.
- \*Journal about your personal struggles with failing to be courageous and the progress that you make throughout the week. Share this with your life group.
- \*Analyze the story found in Numbers 13:25-33. List some differences between Caleb's report and the other ten spies' report. What seems exaggerated about the ten spies' report?

