

Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. It is an honor to have you worshipping with us today! This information is provided to help you feel welcome and "at home."

Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship some people remain seated, some stand, others kneel, many clap, and some lift their hands. The outward expression is not the issue - it is what is in your heart that counts. Just relax and enjoy the presence of God.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{turn page over}

Pastor Eric Rozean

September 6, 2009

"Grasshopper Guts"

Numbers 13 & 14; Joshua 14:6-14

Following God with all your heart!

One of the most important phrases in this story of Caleb is found in Joshua 14:8 ... "*I followed the Lord my God completely.*" It was Caleb's complete giving of all his heart to God's ways that helped him live his life well -- all the way to the end.

1. To follow God completely you will **stand your ground**.

- The ten spies had no courage -- no guts. We're too small, "*we felt like grasshoppers next to them*" - Numbers 13:33
- When Caleb and Joshua gave their report of the Promised Land and contradicted the other ten spies, they had to hold on to God's truth even at the risk of being killed!

Numbers 14:9-10 NIV "Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them. But the whole assembly talked about stoning them."

- God will bless obedience **from the heart**. Out of the two million plus Israelites, only Joshua and Caleb made it to the Promised Land.

The giants are big, but God is bigger!

2. To follow God completely you will take Him at **His Word**.

- Caleb remembered the promise God gave Moses 40 years earlier concerning him.

Numbers 14:24 NLT "But my servant Caleb is different from the others. He has remained loyal to me, and I will bring him into the land he explored. His descendants will receive their full share of the land."

- If you're ever tempted to give up on God's promises, bite your **own toe!**

3. To follow God completely you will make Jesus your **first friend**.

- When your love for Jesus is strong, the distractions of life will look weaker and weaker.

Ephesians 6:10-11 NLT “Be strong with the Lord’s mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil.”

- In our own strength, we are as helpless as a newborn kitten; but when we depend on Jesus, we have all the power of the Lion of the tribe of Judah!
- May we not be like the ten spies with grasshopper guts, but like Caleb when he said, *“I am as strong today as I was in the day that the Lord called me.”*

GROUP DISCUSSION or PERSONAL REFLECTION for during the week

1. Read Numbers 13:1, 17-21; 27-28; 30-31, 33; Joshua 14:6-8. Do you see the church in America being more like the ten spies who saw themselves as grasshoppers, or like Caleb and Joshua who were willing to stand and “follow God completely”? Explain your answer.
2. Read Numbers 14:8-11; Joshua 14:9-11; 24:14-15. In what ways are we sometimes like the congregation?

How can we become strong like Joshua and/or Caleb?

What must we do if we are to keep ourselves moving forward with God as Caleb did? How can a group help and/or possibly hurt in such an endeavor?

3. *When your love for Jesus is strong, the distractions of life will look weaker and weaker.* What can you do -- what **are** you doing to grow your love for Jesus? Develop an action plan!

- Digging Deeper -

For personal or small group study

Week of September 6, 2009

QUICK REVIEW: Which point or scripture passage was the most significant to you personally in this week’s message? Why?

GROUP DISCUSSION or PERSONAL REFLECTION

Review from last week ...

1. What are you hoping to receive from your small group in the coming months? What do you plan to contribute to your small group? (Possibly break into groups of two or three and come up with a couple of things to share back with the entire group)
2. How can a small group setting be a place where the following dynamics can take place?
 - Opportunity to connect with a mentoring or peer-to-peer spiritual life coaching/accountability relationship.
 - A supportive type accountability system that encourages the practice of the spiritual disciplines.
 - A deeper level of life sharing and more intense prayer time. [Perhaps more breaking into groups of 2-3 for a more personal sharing prayer time]
 - The opportunity to connect with the unchurched and to also do some kind of community service and outreach.

Take time in your group to discuss these objectives and how some, or all, of these may be accomplished in your group life in the coming year.

[Refer back to last week’s Digging Deeper for other questions to help you begin your new small group semester.]