



OUR UNWRITTEN STORY

Selections from Numbers 13

The Lord said to Moses, "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan and see what the land is like. Be bold, and bring some of the fruit of the land."

And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the Israelites in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation and showed them the fruit of the land. And they told him, "We came to the land to which you sent us; it flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. Yet the people who live in the land are strong, and the towns are fortified and very large.

But Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it." Then the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against this people, for they are stronger than we." So they brought to the Israelites an unfavorable report of the land that they had spied out, saying, "The land that we have gone through as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people that we saw in it are of great size.

Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. And all the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron; the whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness!"

A CHURCH THAT TAKES RISKS



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Week 3: Getting Started

As your group begins this week, take some time to check in with one another and catch up after the week.

This week, we're talking about how to be a church that takes risks. Start the conversation by answering these questions:

- What is the biggest risk you've ever taken?
- What happened?
- What made you decide to take that risk?

Pray together: God, you invite us to take risks. You invite us to trust you, even when we can't be sure of what will happen next. Thank you for your faithfulness and help us say yes when we feel you nudging us to something new. Amen.

SERMON & SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

Take a moment to read this week's Scripture together, then discuss:

- Both our Scripture story and the story of the church in Normandy show us the necessity of taking risks. Pastor Rob noted that "any significant mission involves taking a risk." When have you seen this to be true? What can hold us back from taking those risks?
- In our Scripture story, many of the spies become focused on the obstacles instead of the opportunity. Why do you think we do this? What can help us overcome this and move forward?
- In the sermon, we heard a quote from Pastor Mike Slaughter: "Christians are not called to be predictable or safe, but we are called to be good." What does this quote mean to you? Can you think of anyone who lives this way? What areas of your life illustrate this idea?
- What would need to be true about your spiritual life for you to embrace taking risks?
- Thinking beyond ourselves and considering our church as a whole, Pastor Rob talked about the risk-taking history of St. Luke's. What do you think taking risks in the future will look like for our community of faith?
- Reflect on the question that Pastor Rob asked: "What do I risk by doing nothing and staying where I am?" Then, take some time to specifically pray for the courage to take whatever risks God might be calling you to right now.



PRAYER REQUESTS