

Life Group Discussion Questions

January 3, 2010

Ice Breaker

- 1) See if anyone wants to share a New Year resolution they have made.
- 2) Have the group try and guess the Top Ten New year Resolutions. They are: 1) spend more time with family and friends, 2) Exercise, 3) lose weight, 4) quit smoking, 5) enjoy life more, 6) quite drinking (alcohol!), 7) get out of debt, 8) learn something new, 9) help others, 10) get organized
- 3) To turn this conversation "spiritual," ask this question: what kind of New Year resolutions do you think God wants you to make?

Bible Study

- 1) Turn to Numbers 13 and 14 and review the story of the 12 spies exploring the Promised Land.
- 2) One of the lessons from this story centers on the sin of grumbling. Read Numbers 14:1-4 and Philippians 2:14
 - a. What does it mean to "grumble?"
 - b. What is the difference between "grumbling" and pointing out something that is wrong and needs to be changed? Is it true that there are times when we should point out failure or mistakes so that improvement can be made?
 - c. What are some principles or guidelines to help us express our dissatisfaction with something/someone and not be a "critical," "negative," or "grumbling" person?
 - d. What are some steps we can take if we are struggling with being a negative or complaining person?
- 3) A second lesson from Sunday's sermon called us to "obey God right away." The Israelites refused to obey God – until they realized they would be punished for their disobedience. Then they were suddenly willing to obey God. They knew what God wanted them to do; they just didn't want to do it. In the same way, we usually know what God wants us to do; we just don't want to do it. Examples include: be nice to everyone, forgive people, return kindness for meanness, read your Bible a lot, pray every day, don't look at pornography, put others first, tell others about Jesus.
 - a. Why is it that some Christians consistently obey God the "first time He asks" and other Christians respond like the 10 spies?
 - b. What steps can we take to become more consistent followers of Christ and do the things we know we should be doing?
- 4) The third lesson from Sunday's sermon was, "If God tells you to enter the 'land of the giants,' go." The "land of the giants" is anything that has potential for significant failure.

- a. Brainstorm for examples of the "land of the giants" that God is calling us to enter (one example is, "confront a friend for a poor choice or decision they made;" in doing this, they might get angry, break off the friendship, etc.)
- b. Are there any steps we can take to help give us courage to trust God and enter the "land of the giants?"