

These notes suggest ways you can discuss the sermon preached on November 28, 2021, at First Evangelical Church in Memphis, TN. Feel free to use them for a class or small group discussion. Pick just one question or use them all.

1. Prior to sending out the twelve spies, Israel's track record of appreciating God's provision was not good. Read Numbers 11:1, 4; 14:22–23. What is Israel revealing about itself in these incidents?
2. At the burning bush (Exodus 3:8) and when calling Israel to spy out the land (Numbers 13:1–2), God affirmed His promise to give Israel the land. But clearly, the adult generation of those who came with Moses from Egypt did not receive that gift. What went wrong? Are there gifts that God has for us that we don't receive, too? Explain your answer.
3. In what ways was the report of the spies in Numbers 13:25–33 helpful? In what ways was it not helpful? Why?
4. In the sermon, Pastor Jim will observe, "They are examining God's gift for the purpose of deciding **if** they will follow God." Is this always a bad idea? Can you recount an experience in which you sensed God calling you to do something that you thought was not a good idea? Do tell. How did it work out?
5. Quote from sermon: "Even when God is giving you something you would not choose for yourself, do not fixate on the perceived negatives of the gift, fix your eyes on what you know about the Giver." What does this mean? Have you ever been in a situation where God gave you something you would not have chosen for yourself? How did things work out?
6. *For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly* (Psalm 84:11). Based on this verse, does God ever give the upright something less than what is good? What has God given you that has been challenging to receive? How does this verse speak to your situation?

**PRINCIPLES**

| Passage          | Day                        | Title              | Principle                      |
|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Numbers 1:1-3    | The Day of the Census      | What Really Counts | God is our difference maker.   |
| Numbers 10:11-13 | Last Day at the Mountain   | Here We Go!        | God's grace is our protection. |
| Numbers 13:25-33 | The Day the Spies Returned | Donut-holitis      | God's gifts are good.          |