

These notes suggest ways you can discuss the sermon preached on December 5, 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. In last week's sermon, Pastor Jim highlighted the principle, "God's gifts are good." Here is another, "God's timing is perfect." In other words, God gives His good gifts at just the right time. One of these "time factors" concerns our readiness. God may not give us one of His good gifts until we are ready to receive it. Read Numbers 14 and identify specific ways that Israel demonstrated that they were not ready to receive God's gift of the Promised Land?
2. Is there a time in your own life where you were not ready to receive something God desired to give you? Describe what happened? In what ways was your unreadiness an echo of what Israel demonstrated in Numbers 14?
3. In Numbers 14, Israel described different outcomes that they would consider preferable to entering the Promised Land? If you were to try to reason with Israel in light of what they said, what would you focus on? What would you say to Israel?
4. Israel did not like what Joshua and Caleb said. So they picked up stones. What is this about? What in our day echoes what Israel was doing to those whose words were so offensive?
5. When God proposed making of Moses a new nation, Moses' response is quite striking. What stands out to you in how Moses answered God?
6. Sermon quote: "God chooses the lesson, we choose the way. Choose the easy way." How does this quote relate to the outcome from Numbers 14? How does this relate to an experience you have had?
7. What challenge has God put before you? What hard thing is He asking you to do? Pray for each other to embrace principles 1–3 and say yes to God.

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. |
| Numbers 14:1-38 | The Day Israel Blew It | God's Curriculum | Learn the easy way. |