

## **Vision Reset Small Group Guide**

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part altogether, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What is one area of your life in which you could use some fresh perspective?
2. Describe one small risk you have taken this year.

**Read the following passages:** Numbers 13:1-3, 26-33; 14:1-9.

In Numbers 13, it appears that the Israelites are on the verge of experiencing the fulfillment of a promise that was given to Abraham generations earlier (see Genesis 12:7). But when twelve spies explored the land, ten felt that displacing the peoples currently living in the land would be impossible. The people living there were physically large and very powerful. The vast majority of Israelites believed their situation was hopeless. Their best option was to choose a leader and go back to Egypt.

Joshua and Caleb, however, saw things differently. They believed that, in spite of the challenges they were facing, they “should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”

All of us experience obstacles, setbacks, and failures. How do we persevere in the face of great challenges? Like God’s description of Caleb, we need a “different spirit” (Numbers 14:24).

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Our ability to “keep going after failure” (as Angela Duckworth puts it) plays a critical role in our longterm success. Why do you think this factor often has more influence on our success than innate talent or beneficial circumstances?
2. How well do you respond to failure in your life right now? Does the fear of failure prevent you from taking risks? Are past or potential failures impacting your identity? Explain.
3. Generally speaking, how do you think about the past? Do you idealize it? Do you avoid thinking about it? Do you regret it? Do you learn from it? Do you constantly replay it in your mind?
4. Read Philippians 1:18-26. What were the keys to Paul’s near-term and long-term hopefulness? How can we be hopeful for a better future even if our outward circumstances don’t significantly change?
5. Jesus told the Jewish leaders: “I seek not to please myself but him who sent me” (John 5:30). How can living to please God simplify our lives? Should living to please

God feel like an overwhelming or impossible goal? Explain.

6. How can living to please God increase our confidence in God?
7. How do we recognize when our own feelings of fear are not giving us an accurate picture of reality?
8. Read Matthew 28:19-20. After summarizing the mission that he has for his disciples, what promise does Jesus give us? How does that promise help us push back on fear?

**Pray**