

Unwavering Determination



Session 6 • Joshua 14:1-15

ENGAGE

PREPARE: Display **Pack Item 2** (*Poster: Outlines of Joshua, Judges, Ruth*), **Pack Item 3** (*Poster: Key Characters in Joshua, Judges, Ruth*), and **Pack Item 4** (*Poster: Key Verse: Joshua 14:8*) on a focal wall.

ASK: What have you learned about trusting God's timing? (p. 53)

READ: Enlist a volunteer to read the opening paragraph on page 53. Affirm that it's never easy to wait, even on God.

EXPLAIN: Summarize this content from **Understand the Context** on page 53 to highlight the importance of God dividing the land:

- “Most allocations of the tribal territories are described using combinations of the listings of towns and geographic features of the land, linking them in order to trace the boundaries. . . . Some scholars believe these similarities suggest these records of tribal allotments would have contained the legal force of a treaty. When new towns sprung up in the various territories, they were added to the document throughout Israel's history. This procedure would update and recognize the existence of new settlements in those tribal areas

for as long as Israel possessed them. Consequently, the tribal allotments served as a record of God's faithfulness to keep the promises He made in His covenant with Israel.”

TRANSITION: Point out that today's session focuses on one person who trusted God for more than forty years. Direct attention to **Pack Item 3** (*Poster: Key Characters in Joshua, Judges, Ruth*) and highlight the description of Caleb. Affirm that Caleb serves as an example of God's faithfulness to those who trust Him.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

CONTEXT: Direct attention to “Allotment of the Land” on **Pack Item 2** (*Poster: Outlines of Joshua, Judges, Ruth*). Share that after detailing the battles Israel fought in the promised land, the writer described the allocation of land to the tribes.

READ: Invite a volunteer to read aloud Joshua 14:1-5 as the group listens for how many tribes received land in Canaan. Remind adults that the tribes of Gad and Reuben, along with half of Manasseh, had received their inheritance on the eastern side of the Jordan River.

RECAP: Note that these verses reveal that the tribe of Levi received cities rather than a land allotment. Describe the process of distributing land to the remaining nine and a half tribes:

- **(14:2)** *Lots were used to determine God's will in a matter. No one is sure what lots looked like or how people knew how to interpret them. What is most important is that Scripture indicates the outcome of the lot was not random. God was in control of the procedure and outcomes.*

ASK: How was the dividing of the land a demonstration of trust in God and His wisdom? (p. 55)

DISCUSS: Encourage adults to suggest why the tribe of Levi (the Levites) did not receive an inheritance of land. Note that God said He was their inheritance. Point out that being spread across the land ensured they could teach the entire nation about God and His ways.



The Tribal Allotments of Israel

Learn more about where the Israelite tribes settled in the promised land

READ: Call for a volunteer to read aloud Joshua 14:6-9, directing the group to consider how old Caleb was at the time of Joshua 14.

RECAP: Direct attention again to Caleb's name on **Pack Item 3** (Poster: Key

Characters in Joshua, Judges, Ruth). Review his experiences as a spy when the Israelites had approached the promised land more than four decades earlier:

- **(14:6-7)** *Caleb reminded Joshua of the Lord's promises given when they were spies at Kadesh-barnea. The Israelites had camped at this site when Moses sent the spies into Canaan. That's also where the Lord condemned the Israelites to forty years of wilderness wandering because of their lack of faith. Only Joshua and Caleb were exempt (Num. 13-14). While they still had to wander for four decades, God promised to give them a place in the promised land. Caleb was forty years old when he scouted the land. Now, he was receiving his inheritance forty-five years later.*

ASK: What does it look like to follow the Lord wholeheartedly? (p. 55) Encourage volunteers to share the names of people they believe demonstrate wholehearted devotion to God. Discuss what qualities stand out with those people. Compare those qualities to the life of Caleb.

DISCUSS: Lead the group to discuss the obstacles Caleb may have faced in his decision to obey God wholeheartedly. Point out **Pack Item 4** (Poster: Key Verse: Joshua 14:8). Note that this is the memory verse for this session. Encourage the group to read the verse a couple of times and to continue reviewing it and asking God to help them apply it during the week ahead.

TRANSITION: *Though it had been 45 years since Caleb had scouted out the land, he was*

still not afraid to tackle any problems that might come up. If anything, his longstanding relationship with God gave him even more confidence of what the Lord could do.

READ: Call for a volunteer to read Joshua 14:10-15 as the group listens for what Caleb requested from Joshua.

ASK: What was significant about what Caleb asked of Joshua? (p. 55)

DISCUSS: Allow volunteers to share their responses to the question. Highlight Caleb's faith despite his advanced age. Also, note that his request involved the territory with the most difficult terrain and the most intimidating enemies.

RECAP: Summarize the following to point out Caleb's attitude as he embraced the challenge:

- "Not only did the Lord keep Caleb alive at eighty-five years old, but He also kept Caleb as strong as he was forty-five years prior. . . . Caleb was not too old or too weak to do what God had promised him he could do. . . . Caleb was eager to take on the same giants that had terrified the other ten spies who caused Israel to be too frightened to trust God and conquer the land. Joshua 11:21-22 indicates Israel had already defeated the Anakim, but some had gotten away only to return later. Caleb was ready and eager to go in and finish them off." (**Day Five**, p. 59)

ASK: Which of God's promises do you rely upon when facing unknown challenges? (p. 55)

CHALLENGE

SUMMARIZE: Review these points from this week's Bible passage:

- We will face daily opportunities to obey or disobey God's instructions.
- We can be assured that God knows and rewards those who follow Him wholeheartedly.
- We can be assured of God's presence and aid when we follow Him wholeheartedly.

REVIEW: Point out **Pack Item 4** (*Poster: Key Verse: Joshua 14:8*) again and lead the group to read the verse together at least twice.

ASK: What did Caleb mean in the second part of this verse? What does that mean for us as believers today?

DISCUSS: Guide the group to discuss the **Apply the Text** questions on page 55.

PRAY: Encourage adults to identify silently one area where they are currently wrestling with a choice to obey or disobey God. Provide time for them to talk with God about those struggles. Close in prayer, thanking God for keeping His promises and asking Him for the strength to live in complete obedience.

AFTER THE SESSION

During the week, send a text or email to the group. Share a promise from God in Scripture and explain why this promise is meaningful to you. Share the verse and reference. Encourage them to "reply all" and to share their favorite promise.