

Sermon Study

Kingdom Under Construction - Caleb's Neighborhood
Joshua 14:6-15

vision

Eastview
Christian
Church is a
fearless church
of Christ
followers whose
ridiculous love
and dangerous
witness are
irresistible.



AUTHOR'S NOTES (summary of key points for this study)

This famous story where Caleb approached Joshua for the land Moses promised him can be our prayer to follow the Lord in two ways. First, may we develop a pattern of serving God "with our whole heart" for a lifetime. And second, may we pursue God to the very end like this ancient brother so that we may say along with him "and now, behold, the Lord has kept me alive...I am still as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me...". This story encourages us to fight the good fight and receive the inheritance of the crown of righteousness.

Gather (your group getting to know each other)

1. Who do you know that followed the Lord wholeheartedly into old age?

-What observable behaviors did they have that demonstrated such commitment?

2. Do you ever get weary of following?

-How do you overcome such weariness?

Go
(your group on mission)

Consider reaching out to an elderly neighbor or to those at a senior living facility and acknowledging the perseverance aging requires. Affirm their journey as a Christ-follower, if they are, or share the gospel message of Jesus with them as the ageless gift of grace that frees them now and for all time.

Grow (your group growing as Christ-followers)

Joshua 14:6-15 (NIV)

Now the people of Judah approached Joshua at Gilgal, and Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, “You know what the LORD said to Moses the man of God at Kadesh Barnea about you and me. ⁷ I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to explore the land. And I brought him back a report according to my convictions, ⁸ but my fellow Israelites who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt in fear. I, however, followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly. ⁹ So on that day Moses swore to me, ‘The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly.’

¹⁰ “Now then, just as the LORD promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the wilderness. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! ¹¹ I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I’m just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. ¹² Now give me this hill country that the LORD promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the LORD helping me, I will drive them out just as he said.”

¹³ Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as his inheritance. ¹⁴ So Hebron has belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, because he followed the LORD, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly.

¹⁵ (Hebron used to be called Kiriath Arba after Arba, who was the greatest man among the Anakites.)

Then the land had rest from war.

1. Read Joshua 14:6-15 out loud. What is reinforced about God’s character from these verses? Reflect on God as promise-keeper, sustainer, strengthener, and more in your own life.

2. How have you developed (or how might you develop) a pattern of serving God with your whole heart for a lifetime?

3. Are you committed to pursuing God to the very end like Caleb?

-What scares/worries you about that, if anything?

-How will you access God’s strength and vigor to run the “good race?”

4. Your relatives/friends may, someday, get an inheritance from you. What non-financial legacy do you hope to leave for generations to come?

5. As children of God, what do you expect your inheritance from Him to be?

6. Do you think there is significance in the last line of this section of text: “Then the land had rest from war.”? If so, what?

Give
(your group serving each other)

Consider honoring a Christ-follower in your life who has followed God wholeheartedly. This is a gift that will no doubt be valuable to him/her.