

September 22  
Lesson 4 (NIV)

## FAITHFUL DESPITE UNFAITHFULNESS

DEVOTIONAL READING: Psalm 106:1-12, 48

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Numbers 13:1-  
14:10a

### NUMBERS 13:1, 2, 17, 18, 25-28

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders.”

.....  
<sup>17</sup>When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, “Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. <sup>18</sup>See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many.”

.....  
<sup>25</sup>At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land.

<sup>26</sup>They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. <sup>27</sup>They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land

to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. <sup>28</sup>But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there.”

### NUMBERS 14:1, 2, 5-10A

<sup>1</sup>That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. <sup>2</sup>All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness!”

.....  
<sup>5</sup>Then Moses and Aaron fell face-down in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. <sup>6</sup>Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes <sup>7</sup>and said to the entire Israelite assembly, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. <sup>8</sup>If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. <sup>9</sup>Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them.”

<sup>10a</sup>But the whole assembly talked

about stoning them.



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### KEY VERSE

*If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. —Numbers 14:8*

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

### Unit 1: God Is Faithful

LESSONS 1-5

### LESSON AIMS

After participating in this lesson, each

learner will be able to:

1. Relate the events surrounding the sending out of the spies into Canaan and the Israelites' response.
2. Explain the consequences that could accompany taking a stand based on faith in the Lord in Moses' day.
3. Evaluate personal and communal fears that make walking by faith especially challenging, and consider ways to address these fears.

### LESSON OUTLINE

#### Introduction

- A. What Do You See?
  - B. Lesson Context
- I. Responsibility (NUMBERS 13:1, 2, 17, 18)
    - A. The Lord's Command (vv. 1, 2)
    - B. Moses' Counsel (vv. 17, 18)
  - II. Report (NUMBERS 13:25-28)
    - A. Produce of the Land (vv. 25-27)
    - B. People of the Land (v. 28)  
*Bitcoin*
  - III. Response (NUMBERS 14:1, 2, 5-10a)
    - A. Cries of Anguish (vv. 1, 2)
    - B. Concerned Leaders (v. 5)
    - C. Courageous Leaders (vv. 6-9)
    - D. Cries of Anger (v. 10a)  
*Mutiny!*

#### Conclusion

- A. Words Printed in Yellow
- B. Prayer
- C. Thought to Remember

## HOW TO SAY IT

Anak	Ay-nak.
Anakites	An-a-kites.
Canaan	Kay-nun.
Hamath	Hay-muth.
Hebron	Hee-brun or Heb-run.
Jephunneh	Jih-fun-eh.
Kadesh Barnea	Kay-desh <b>Bar</b> -nee-uh.
Negev	Neg-ev.
Paran	Pair-un.
Sinai	Sigh-nye or Sigh-nay-eye.

## Introduction

### A. What Do You See?

Dale Carnegie (1888–1955) is probably best known for his self-help book entitled *How to Win Friends and Influence People*. Carnegie authored another book of the same style; its title is *How to Stop Worrying and Start Living*. In it he included this brief but thought-provoking illustration: “Two men looked out from prison bars / One saw the mud, the other saw the stars.” Two individuals can be in the same challenging, perhaps even desperate, situation and see it quite differently.

The children of Israel faced the challenge of conquering the promised land. Two outlooks emerged on whether this feat was possible. This was not a matter of mud vs. stars; it was a matter of un-

belief vs. faith.

### B. Lesson Context

The previous study covered an incident that occurred on the fifteenth day of the second month after the Israelites’ exodus from Egypt ([Exodus 16:1](#); see lesson 3). On the first day of the third month, the Israelites entered the Desert of Sinai ([19:1](#)). There they camped before the mountain where the Lord established his covenant with the Israelites and gave his Ten Commandments and other laws to them.

The Israelites stayed at Mount Sinai for a little less than a year (comparing [Exodus 19:1](#) with [Numbers 10:11](#)), in what should have been a sacred time of dedicating themselves to be God’s covenant people. But the attitude of rebellion and discontent that we saw demonstrated in last week’s lesson ([Exodus 16:2, 3](#)) reappeared at the foot of the mountain. Sadly, while Moses was on the mountain receiving God’s laws, the people were breaking them (specifically the first two of the Ten Commandments) by building a golden calf and attributing God’s mighty act of deliverance from bondage to the gods the calf represented ([32:1-4](#)).

Thus, perhaps it should come as no surprise that as the people traveled from Mount Sinai toward the promised land, their grumbling and discontent were

right by their side. Once the Lord sent a fire to burn among the people, which consumed the fringes of the camp. Moses interceded on the people's behalf, and the fire died down ([Numbers 11:1-3](#)). Then the "rabble" ([11:4](#); likely comprised of non-Israelites who had chosen to journey with the Israelites; compare [Exodus 12:38](#)) initiated a complaint about growing tired of the manna provided by God. They claimed as they had done previously that living in Egypt was so much better than journeying through the desert ([11:5](#)).

At this point, Moses became extremely frustrated with the people's behavior and voiced his frustration to the Lord. The Lord provided 70 men from among the elders of Israel to assist Moses with leading the people for a time ([Numbers 11:25](#)). The Lord also responded to the people's complaint with a provision of quail ([11:31, 32](#)), similar to what he had done in the Desert of Sin ([Exodus 16:1, 12, 13](#)).

Still, the grumbling did not end. Moses' brother Aaron and sister Miriam lodged their own protests against Moses, expressing an envy of Moses' position of authority ([Numbers 12:2](#)). The Lord responded by afflicting Miriam with leprosy. She was quarantined for seven days, during which time the people paused their travels. When their journey resumed, they reached the Desert of

Paran ([12:16](#)) and specifically Kadesh Barnea ([Deuteronomy 1:19](#)), where today's lesson text begins.

## I. Responsibility ([NUMBERS 13:1, 2, 17, 18](#))

### A. The Lord's Command (vv. 1, 2)

**1, 2a. The LORD said to Moses, "Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites."**

*The Israelites* are on the verge of a great turning point in their history. The time has come for preparing to enter *the land of Canaan*, which God had promised centuries before to give to Abraham's descendants ([Genesis 13:14-17; 15:18-21](#)). The land as a gift from God is emphasized throughout the history of God's dealings with the Israelites ([Exodus 6:4, 8; Leviticus 23:9, 10; 25:38; Numbers 10:29; Deuteronomy 6:23; 28:11](#); etc.).

The people themselves have certainly done nothing to earn such a gift, but *the Lord* is committed to fulfilling his promise to Abraham. As with any gift, the giver sets the terms of how and when it will be given. In this case, the Lord determines how and when his people will receive the inheritance of land he has promised to give them.

**2b. "From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders."**

The Lord tells Moses to *send ... leaders*, one for each of the 12 tribes, who will search out the land of Canaan prior to the nation's entry. Each man is to be someone who is trusted and respected by his *tribe*.

When Moses refers to this process later while speaking to the second generation of Israelites, he will say that the Israelites came to him and suggested sending men to spy out the land ([Deuteronomy 1:22](#)). But this should not be seen as a contradiction of the account in Numbers. Most likely the people offer their proposal, then the Lord gives his approval to what they have suggested. [Numbers 13:3-16](#), not in the printed text, lists the 12 men who are chosen for this task.

### **B. Moses' Counsel (vv. 17, 18)**

**17. When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, "Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country.**

When one examines a map of this territory, it shows that Moses sends the spies north from Kadesh Barnea, where the people are currently camped. The spies are to explore *the Negev*, the Hebrew word that means "south." This indicates the territory south of that which will eventually make up the land possessed by Israel. Moses also instructs the 12 men to go *into the hill country*. The

instruction to explore the Negev and the hill country will result in the spies' exploring the entire land.

**18. "See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many.**

Moses specifies what the 12 men are to look for as they carry out their mission. They are to examine the terrain. Then they are to observe *the people who live there*. Are they *strong or weak, few or many*? Though God has allowed their proposed espionage mission (see commentary on [Numbers 13:2b](#)), 20/20 hindsight indicates that it would be better for the people to trust God to give them the land without their scouting it out, given the fear their mission ultimately causes (see commentary on [Numbers 13:28; 14:1, 2, 9, 10](#)).

[Numbers 13:19, 20](#) (not in our printed text) records additional instructions to the spies, concluding with the exhortation, "Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land" ([Numbers 13:20](#)). Verses [21-24](#) record the itinerary of the group, noting that they gathered some of the fruit of the land (grapes, pomegranates, and figs). Their travels took them as far north as Lebo Hamath ([13:21](#)), which eventually became the northern boundary of the promised land ([34:8](#)).

*What Do You Think?*

What factors should we consider before setting out to fulfill something we sense God has called us to do? Why?

*Digging Deeper*

What evidence should we require when reevaluating work we think God called us to do? How is this process different from secular models of decision-making?

## II. Report (NUMBERS 13:25-28)

### A. Produce of the Land (vv. 25-27)

#### **25. At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land.**

Moses has not specified how long the spies' journey is to take. He is probably more concerned that the land be searched carefully and thoroughly than he is with a specific timeline. Given the territory the spies have covered (from Kadesh Barnea north to Lebo Hamath is approximately 250 miles), a time of *forty days* is reasonable.

The number 40 often indicates the significance of a period of time (see [Genesis 7:4, 12, 17; 8:6; Jonah 3:4; Matthew 4:1, 2; Acts 1:3](#); etc.). The story of the exodus contains three good examples. Moses' life is broken into 40-year increments ([Exo-](#)

[Exodus 7:7; Deuteronomy 34:7](#)), and he fasts for 40 days ([Exodus 24:18; 34:28; Deuteronomy 9:9, 18](#)). Including the years before the spy mission, the people wander for 40 years, the time given for a generation to pass away ([Numbers 14:34; 32:13](#)).

**26. They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land.**

The 12 display their sample of *the fruit of the land*, including a single cluster of grapes so large that it requires two people to carry it on a staff ([Numbers 13:23](#)). The initial reaction of the people must have been one of wide-eyed amazement and anticipation, especially after all the time spent in *the Desert of Paran*, where comparatively little grew.

**27. They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit.**

The spies report back to *Moses*, who had given them their instructions. He had told the spies to report on essentially two items: *the land* and the people.

The phrase *flow with milk and honey* signifies an abundance of good things. When the Lord first called Moses to lead the Israelites out of bondage, he told him



that the land was “flowing with milk and honey” ([Exodus 3:8](#)). Moses gave that same description to the people as they departed from Egypt ([13:3-5](#)). The people can see for themselves, judging from the *fruit* before them, that the words are no exaggeration.

### **B. People of the Land (v. 28)**

**28. “But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there.**

While the land offers much to be desired, *the people who live there* are another matter altogether. They are powerful, and *their cities are ... very large* and well-defended. The *descendants of Anak*—called Anakites—are a people group known for being exceptionally “strong and tall” ([Deuteronomy 9:2](#)).

The spies who do not believe the land can be taken will refer to them as “Nephilim,” or giants ([Numbers 13:33](#)). These are the very people whom courageous Caleb, one of the 12 spies, will drive out of Hebron 40 years later so that he can possess that portion of the promised land ([Joshua 15:13](#)). In fact, the three sons of Anak named in [Numbers 13:22](#) are the ones Caleb will defeat ([Joshua 15:14](#))!

In [Numbers 13:30](#) (not covered in today’s text), Caleb responds to the claims about the formidable inhabitants of

Canaan. He remains confident that the Lord will defeat these foes. But Caleb quickly finds himself in a minority; out of the 12 spies, only he and Joshua (not noted as part of the minority until [Numbers 14:6](#), below) believe that the Lord will keep his promise. Their faithful voices are outweighed by the other 10 spies, who are intimidated rather than inspired ([Numbers 13:31-33](#)).

#### *What Do You Think?*

How should we prepare for opportunities and obstacles as we set out to fulfill God’s calling to complete a task?

#### *Digging Deeper*

Considering especially [Proverbs 3:5, 6; 15:22; Matthew 6:25-34; and Luke 14:28-33](#), how do we know at what point a fact-finding mission is really just a failure to trust?

### **BITCOIN**

As the end of 2017 neared, investors were asking two questions: “Should I invest in Bitcoin?” and “What is Bitcoin?” As the name suggests, Bitcoin is a type of currency. Unlike others, this worldwide currency works without a central bank or single administrator. Instead, it operates through computer coding that verifies transactions and prevents counterfeiting.



Visual for Lesson 4. Point to this visual as you ask how both the wild and the cultivated natural worlds witness to God's enduring faithfulness.

The value of Bitcoin fluctuates wildly. In 2011, the value of one Bitcoin rose from about \$0.30 to \$32, then fell to \$2. On December 12, 2017, a single Bitcoin was valued at \$17,749 before plummeting again. The volatility of Bitcoin can cause an speculator to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars in a very short time.

All investors struggle to balance risk and reward. The Israelites on the way to Canaan didn't know whether to risk an investment in Canaan. But Joshua and Caleb knew that, unlike Bitcoin, the promise of God came with a guarantee.

—J. E.

### III. Response

(NUMBERS 14:1, 2, 5-10a)

#### A. Cries of Anguish (vv. 1, 2)

##### 1. That night all the members of the

**community raised their voices and wept aloud.**

It does not take long at all for the negative outlook of the 10 spies to dampen the enthusiasm of the entire *community*. Cries of despair are heard that very *night* throughout the Israelite camp.

**2. All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness!"**

As they did in last week's study, the people begin to grumble *against Moses and Aaron* (compare [Exodus 16:1, 2](#)). They also voice their wish that God had taken their lives, either *in Egypt or in this wilderness* (compare [Exodus 16:3](#); [Numbers 14:22-24](#)). It is sobering to consider how the nation has managed to push out of their collective memory the mighty works that God has done for them in their own experience, going back to the 10 plagues in Egypt. To claim that the Lord has brought them into the promised land to die is utter blasphemy.

#### What Do You Think?

Under what circumstances, if any, is it appropriate to express concern publicly over the actions of leaders or members of the congregation?

#### Digging Deeper



How do passages such [Acts 18:12–16](#); [21:27–36](#); [1 Corinthians 6:1–4](#); and [14:40](#) help you answer this question in terms of issues within the church vs. violations of secular law?

## B. Concerned Leaders (v. 5)

**5. Then Moses and Aaron fell face-down in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there.**

In [Numbers 14:4](#) (not in today's printed text), the people propose that they mutiny against the leadership of *Moses and Aaron* and return to Egypt. Moses and Aaron sense the gravity of the people's demand and fall *facedown*. Perhaps this reflects a combination of emotions: fear of the Lord, alarm at the possible outpouring of his wrath against the people, and shock at such a brazen act of defiance.

## C. Courageous Leaders (vv. 6–9)

**6. Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes**

The two courageous, faith-inspired spies, *Joshua* and *Caleb*, express their anguish at what the people are doing: turning against Moses and Aaron and ultimately against the Lord.

**7. and said to the entire Israelite assembly, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good.**

The other 10 spies have caused the people's attention to dwell on and be discouraged by the residents of Canaan and the size of their cities. Joshua and Caleb now remind the people of the *exceedingly good land* that lies within their grasp.

### *What Do You Think?*

What can a church do to ensure that no one is denied having his or her voice heard while also ensuring that a spirit of divisiveness does not result ([Titus 3:10](#))?

### *Digging Deeper*

How would the fact that divisiveness is coming from the biggest financial givers change the approach, if at all? Why?

**8. “If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us.**

Joshua and Caleb highlight the most important factor in taking the *land: the Lord*. He has not brought the Israelites this far to let them die (contrast [Numbers 14:3](#)). He is *pleased* with them; he has made a covenant with them; he has shown them his favor on repeated occasions ([Exodus 12:1–13](#); [14:21–29](#); [16:4](#), 5;

17:5-7; etc.). He will lead them into that land and *give it* to them.

The emphasis on the promised land as God's gift to the people is clear (see commentary on [Numbers 13:1, 2a](#)). The giver will not desert his people or break his promise to them. Joshua and Caleb also remind the people again of the exceptional abundance of the land (see commentary on [13:27](#), above).

**9. “Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them.”**

Joshua and Caleb plead with the people not to *rebel* or *be afraid*. The people have grumbled, murmured, and rebelled against *the Lord*, testing his mercy and patience. Joshua and Caleb likely sense that judgment will follow if the people do not repent.

Joshua and Caleb describe the residents of the promised land as something to be devoured. The expression means that the Israelites can easily defeat them, or “have them for lunch.” Their size, the strength of their cities, and whatever weaponry or defenses they possess are non-factors. All of that is totally worthless when the Lord is *with* his people. If he is, and there is no question of that for Joshua and Caleb, then there is no need to

fear the inhabitants of the land (compare [Isaiah 8:12, 13](#)).

### **D. Cries of Anger (v. 10a)**

**10a. But the whole assembly talked about stoning them.**

One would hope that the Israelites would take heart from Joshua and Caleb's challenging words. Their response, however, is the very opposite; they prepare to stone the two men. The nation's contempt for the faithful men's message is so great that they would rather silence the messengers than listen any longer. But the people's real offense is committed against the Lord.

#### *What Do You Think?*

When leaders within a congregation disagree, what are some productive ways to deal with extreme reactions by church members?

#### *Digging Deeper*

Considering that Jesus, John the Baptist, Paul, and others could rightly be called extremists, under what conditions would extreme reactions be appropriate?

### **MUTINY!**

In 1610, British navigator Henry Hudson and the crew of his ship *Discovery* ventured into modern-day Canada trying to find a northwest passage from Europe

to Asia. The voyagers succeeded in locating a large bay—later named the Hudson Bay. *Discovery* became lodged in ice, forcing voyagers to spend winter ashore with very limited provisions. The crew’s morale eroded. Starving and desperate for home, many of the crew convinced themselves that Hudson was hoarding food.

By the time the ice had finally cleared, the men refused to continue searching for the passage. Instead they revolted, commandeered the ship, and abandoned Hudson, his son, and seven others. A later expedition looking for Hudson found a small shelter that they may have built. Their bodies were never recovered.

Some mutinies are justifiable, and that against Henry Hudson may have been one such. But mutinies in Christian contexts are especially fraught with danger, lest we discover too late that we are opposing God himself!

—J. E.

## Conclusion

### A. Words Printed in Yellow

Some Bibles print Jesus’ words in red so that they stand out to the reader. Perhaps today’s lesson text should be printed in yellow, a cautionary signal. The Israelites rebelled against God and his chosen leaders, refusing to trust that the

Lord would lead them into the promised land. When Paul recounts the examples of the Israelites’ disobedience, he emphasizes that these incidents are not just ancient history: “These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us” (1 [Corinthians 10:11](#)).

We can easily read an account like the one in today’s text, shake our heads, and wonder how the Israelites could have forgotten so quickly all that the Lord had done for them. Instead of becoming haughty, reading today’s account should humble us (see 1 [Corinthians 10:12](#)). We can learn much from the Israelites’ negative examples. We should not treat their failures lightly as we journey toward our own “promised land.”

### B. Prayer

Father, examine, convict, and strengthen us so that we do not become guilty of faithlessness. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

### C. Thought to Remember

In the midst of unfaithfulness,  
God remains faithful.

## INVOLVEMENT LEARNING

*Enhance your lesson with [NIV Bible](#)*

Student (from your curriculum supplier) and the reproducible activity page (at [www.standardlesson.com](http://www.standardlesson.com) or in the back of the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary Deluxe Edition).

## Into the Lesson

Before class, search the internet for free motivational posters. Download about 10 such posters. Print them out and display them around your classroom. (Option. Using digital files to create a slide show instead.)

As class members arrive, have them to move around the room and look at the posters. (If you choose the slide-show option, have it on a continuous loop.) Ask for volunteers to tell which posters are their favorites. Discuss the value of having such posters at a school, in the office, or even at home. Ask what kinds of situations discourage us more than others.

*Alternative.* Distribute copies of the “Motivation” exercise from the activity page, which you can download. Have students work individually for no more than one minute or in pairs for a few minutes to complete it as indicated.

Lead into Bible study by saying, “When life puts obstacles in our paths, why contributes to our ending up discouraged easily?” Discuss. Make a transition by noting that two Israelite spies believed that God could lead Israel to

possess the promised land. But their inability to overcome human nature has something to teach us today.

## Into the Word

Have some of your good oral readers take turns reading the text aloud. Then divide the class into groups of three to five. Distribute handouts (you create) to learners with identical instructions to create a military-style report for “Operation Homeland,” the spy mission described in the lesson text. The report is to include the objective of the mission, personnel involved, observations from the mission, and recommendations.

After an appropriate amount of time, reassemble the class. Allow groups to read and explain their reports on Operation Homeland, which should be something like this:

Objective of Operation Homeland: *To scout the hill country and report on its natural resources, population, and state of military preparedness.*

Personnel Involved: *Twelve leaders, one from each tribe, to serve as a reconnaissance team.*

Observations: *The land has abundant resources and is very desirable. But the cities are well fortified, and the people are numerous. The warriors appear to be quite strong..*

Recommendations: *While the land is more than adequate to support the people of*

Israel, the majority concludes that the risk of defeat in mounting an invasion far outweighs the possible rewards. Those who object to this plan are few but vocal; they and those who agree with them must be punished for their presumption and silenced.

After discussion, make a transition by asking, “Taking to heart the power of a negative committee report, as evidenced by the power of 10 spies to sway the people, let’s discuss how we can strengthen our faith in such a way that we conquer our fears.”

## Into Life

On the board, write the words FEARS and FAITH vertically columns. Work with the class to create two acrostics that identify the danger of being ruled by fear and the power of faith to motivate us to accept challenges. Here is an example of a completed FEARS acrostics:

**F**acing situations and  
**E**vents that are threatening  
**A**re likely to keep us from  
**R**eaping the benefits we  
**S**hould be enjoying.

*Alternative.* Distribute copies of the “Counseling Session” exercise from the activity page. Have students work in small groups or as a whole class to complete it as indicated.

To print the reproducible activity page, simply click the highlighted text below to create a pdf file on your hard drive. Then open the pdf file in Acrobat Reader and print.

## Activity Page (September 22—Faithful despite Unfaithfulness)

### FAITHFUL DESPITE UNFAITHFULNESS

*Lesson 4, Numbers 13:1, 2, 17, 18, 25-28; 14:1, 2, 5-10, NIV*

#### MOTIVATION

Match the beginning of each motivational quote to its conclusion.

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. Life shrinks or expands . . .  | f. it can achieve. (Napoleon Hill) |
| _____ 2. I attribute my success to this: . . .  | g. you're right. (Henry Ford)      |
| _____ 3. Every strike brings me closer to . . .                                       | h. in proportion to one's courage. |
| _____ 4. The most common way people give up their power is . . .                      | (Anais Nin)                        |
| _____ 5. Eighty percent of success is . . .   | i. I am a product of my decisions. |
| _____ 6. Whatever the mind of man can conceive and believe, . . .                     | (Stephen Covey)                    |
| _____ 7. I am not a product of my circumstances; . . .                                | j. you don't take. (Wayne Gretzky) |
| _____ 8. You miss 100% of the shots . . .   |                                    |
| _____ 9. Whether you think you can or you think you can't, . . .                      |                                    |
| _____ 10. The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and . . . |                                    |
- 
- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| a. showing up. (Woody Allen)              | f. it can achieve. (Napoleon Hill) |
| b. the next home run. (Babe Ruth)         | g. you're right. (Henry Ford)      |
| c. I never gave or took any excuse.       | h. in proportion to one's courage. |
| (Florence Nightingale)                    | (Anais Nin)                        |
| d. by thinking they don't have any.       | i. I am a product of my decisions. |
| (Alice Walker)                            | (Stephen Covey)                    |
| e. the day you find out why. (Mark Twain) | j. you don't take. (Wayne Gretzky) |

#### COUNSELING SESSION

As was the case in today's Bible lesson, walking by faith is not often easy. Consider these three cases of people who know they should trust God and move forward, but they are paralyzed with fear. Without “giving advice,” how would you counsel them?

**Case 1:** Mark and Gwen have prayed for years that they be used by God in a greater way. They applied to a missions agency, were accepted, and have been able to secure pledges of financial support. But their fears are mounting, and they wonder if this move is God's will.

**Case 2:** Calvin's congregation is conducting a capital fundraising campaign. He has been blessed financially in great ways over the years and has the means to give a five-figure gift. And though his financial advisor assures him that he can do this, Calvin balks.

**Case 3:** The Morrisons are a family of five, with children aged 12–17. They believed that God was leading them to add another child to their family through an overseas adoption, and the process has been proceeding without problems. But as the day comes closer for a child to be available, the difficulties they will face seem more and more daunting.

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