

STEPPING INTO THE PROMISE (Bill Cahusac)

- Where have you seen God at work in your life this week? (Share any brief examples and encouragements).
- Was there anything from Sunday's message which you found particularly inspiring or challenging?
- Was there anything else you particularly noticed?

Numbers 13:26-30 [13:26-14:9] (NIVUK)

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. 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. ²⁸ But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. ²⁹ The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.' ³⁰ Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, 'We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.' ...

After 400 hundred years of slavery and oppression in Egypt, the people of Israel are free at last. But now, rather than living on the fertile Nile delta, they find themselves in a desert. They are exhausted already, and the journey has barely begun. First they must walk the 467 kilometres (290 miles) from Rameses to Mt Sinai, where they stay for 40 days while Moses disappears. Then, baffled, and traumatised, they must travel a further 290 km (180 miles) from Sini to Kadesh Barnea. All around is wilderness. They have no idea where home is. Entering the Land of Promise seems a step too far – one battle too many.

- What are you facing that seems like a step too far? Are there challenges that feel too big right now?
- Do you know (at least vaguely) where you want to get to, but you find yourself wondering how to move on from where you are?
- Does the challenge feel bigger than ever? Do you wonder whether things will ever feel 'normal' again?
- Do you have a promise – a sense of God-inspired purpose – but you are wondering "How do we step into this?"



1. Remind ourselves who made the promise: **The Lightbulb**

- Is there a promise from the Bible that is strongly personal to you? Is there one you need especially to remember now?
- Paul wrote, "Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well." Are there prophecies you need to recall?



2. Retell the stories of what God has done in the past: **The Photograph Album**

- Who are the people in the 'Photo Album' of your life who have made the biggest impact? What are the places where you have seen God most 'alive' and at work? What are you most thankful for?
- Sometimes the Bible says, 'remember the former things...'; sometimes, 'remember not...' Are there some old photos that it's time to get rid of – memories about which God might be saying, 'Let it go...'?



3. Refocus your perspective: **The Binoculars**

- Are you looking at the problems and people around you, or are you looking to God as your help? When you look ahead, do you see the impossible mountains and wonder where help is coming from, or do you KNOW that the Lord, creator of all things, is the one who will help you? (See Psalm 121:1-2)
- What do you need to do to 'fight for the promise'?
- And finally, are you ready to go now, or (be honest) do you still need to rest and recuperate a bit? (Remember, Jesus wasn't averse to sending his disciples on lake-side mini-breaks from time to time)