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# New Things

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## Grasshoppers Don't Eat Frogs Numbers 13-14

Poem: Solomon Grundy

Three "G's" - Grapes, Giants and Grasshoppers

Psalm 25:4, "Show me **your** ways, Lord, teach me **your** paths."<sup>1</sup> (NIV)

### Prayer

*The Desert Problem: Living between the Past and a Promise*

Israel were freed from Egyptian slavery but in transition from past to promise they became *afraid* and chose to not follow God into the Promised Land. And so they would end up wandering around in the desert for 40 years.<sup>2</sup>

*Grapes, God's Good Plan*

Numbers 13:1-27

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<sup>1</sup> Psalm 25:4

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjQhsqGsoLgAhUUUVH0KHYSTBasQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=https%3A%2F%2Fatozmomm.com%2Ftag%2Fmap-of-exodus-route%2F&psig=AOvVaw1gtkYCiiC\\_Jll19gbMwlvq&st=1548280874548797](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjQhsqGsoLgAhUUUVH0KHYSTBasQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=https%3A%2F%2Fatozmomm.com%2Ftag%2Fmap-of-exodus-route%2F&psig=AOvVaw1gtkYCiiC_Jll19gbMwlvq&st=1548280874548797)

“Go explore the land I am giving you.”

Did you know God has a plan for grapes in your life?

+ Jeremiah 29:11

+ Luke 4:18

+ John 10:10

+ Psalm 34:8

***Step 1: Put yourself in a position to listen***

**Giants, the Battle Ahead**

Numbers 13:27-30

*.... if you want to have the grapes you have to be prepared to enter a land of giants.*

***Step 2: Prepare for the battle in the land of giants***

Max Lucado, “Faith is the grit in the soul that puts the dare into dreams.”<sup>3</sup>

**Grasshoppers, Boldness by Belief**

Numbers 13:31-33

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<sup>3</sup> M. Lucado, *When God Whispers Your Name* (Dallas: Word, 1994), 44

..... "We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them." (NIV)

Have you ever noticed how our beliefs determine our perception?

- + When you've been listening to God's plan your boldness is going to be inspired by what you believe.

***Step 3: Let belief inspire boldness***

**Grasshoppers Don't Eat Grapes: Choose Faith over Fear**

- + Grasshoppers don't eat grapes because their beliefs have pushed them into a prison rather than propelled them towards God's promise.

***A response of fear*** - Numbers 14: 1-5

***A response of faith*** - Numbers 14:6-9

(10) "...but the community began to talk about stoning them." Their courage to speak the truth didn't make these guys very popular.

The Lord responds - Numbers 14:27-31

- + God allowed the people to live by their choice of belief, a belief that ultimately was a rejection of the promise— *Grasshoppers Don't Eat Grapes*.

## Moving from Agreement to Action

- + Grapes: God has a good plan for your life.

**Action:** Listen to the plan by spending time in the Word, worship, and prayer. Let your listening strengthen your heart and mind so you will be ready for battles ahead.

- + Giants: Be prepared to encounter opposition along the way toward the promise.

**Action:** Have courage to live with bold faith, keep pursuing what is good and right despite the giants.

- + Grasshoppers: choose faith over fear.

**Action:** Let your beliefs shape your sense of direction and identity. When you've listened well, lived with courage, even when things get tough, you'll remember our victory is not about the size of our efforts but the Presence of Christ with us as we pursue His promise.

## Jesus, our Promise Assured

- + Romans 8