

FIGHTING DISCOURAGEMENT IN THE CONGREGATION

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SECOND EBENEZER CHURCH

FIGHTING DISCOURAGEMENT IN THE CONGREGATION

- ▶ Principles to manage discouragement:
 1. Distinguish between changeables and non-changeables.
 - a) Non-changeables are often things God is allowing for His purposes.
 2. Keep your eyes focused on God's power and resources

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3. Remember God's promises and all the ways He provided before.
4. Rejoice in who God is and rejoice in His attributes.
5. Trust that God is right and good no matter what the situation.

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► Congregational Discouragement

Numbers 13:1-2

- ¹ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
- ² Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them.

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Numbers 13:17-20

- 17** And Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said unto them, Get you up this way southward, and go up into the mountain:
- 18** And see the land, what it is, and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they be strong or weak, few or many;

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- ¹⁹ And what the land is that they dwell in, whether it be good or bad; and what cities they be that they dwell in, whether in tents, or in strong holds;
- ²⁰ And what the land is, whether it be fat or lean, whether there be wood therein, or not. And be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land. Now the time was the time of the firstripe grapes.

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Numbers 13:23-33

- ²³ And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs.
- ²⁴ The place was called the brook Eshcol, because of the cluster of grapes which the children of Israel cut down from thence.

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- 25 And they returned from searching of the land after forty days.
- 26 And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land.
- 27 And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.

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- 28 Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.
- 29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.

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³⁰ And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

³¹ But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.

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- ³² And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.
- ³³ And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

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Numbers 14:1-12

- ¹ And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.
- ² And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!

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- 3 And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?
- 4 And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.
- 5 Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

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- 6 And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:
- 7 And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.
- 8 If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.

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- 9 Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.

- 10 But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.

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- ¹¹ And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?
- ¹² I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they.