

# the HOME SHEET

## this week's topic: THE BIG CONUNDRUM: FEAR: THE GREAT MOTIVATOR



### I. CHECK-IN

- Check-in with each other. How is life? What is happening? How is everyone doing?
- Last week you were challenged to gather non-perishable items for the BRCC Food Pantry. How did that go?



### II. SCRIPTURE

**Exodus 3:7-10:** I've clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I've heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters. I know about their pain. I've come down to rescue them from the Egyptians in order to take them out of that land and bring them to a good and broad land, a land that's full of milk and honey, a place where the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites all live. Now the Israelites cries of injustice have reached me. I've seen just how much the Egyptians have oppressed them. So get going, I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

**Numbers 13:25-14:4:** They returned from exploring the land after forty days. They went directly to Moses, Aaron, and the entire Israelite community in the Paran desert at Kadesh. They brought back a report to them and to the entire community and showed them the land's fruit. Then they gave their report: "We entered the land to which you sent us. It's actually full of milk and honey, and this is its fruit. There are, however, powerful people who live in the land. The cities have huge fortifications. And we even saw the descendants of the Anakites there. The Amalekites live in the land of the arid southern plain; the Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites live in the mountains; and the Canaanites live by the sea along the Jordan." Now Caleb calmed the people before Moses and said, "We must go up and take possession of it, because we are more than able to do it." But the men who went up with him said, "We can't go up against the people because they are stronger than we." They started a rumor about the land that they had explored, telling the Israelites, "The land that we crossed over to explore is a land that devours its residents. All the people we saw in it are huge men. We saw there the Nephilim (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We saw ourselves as grasshoppers, and that's how we appeared to them." The entire community raised their voice and the people wept that night. All the Israelites criticized Moses and Aaron. The entire community said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt or if only we had died in this desert! Why is the Lord bringing us to this land to fall by the sword? Our wives and our children will be taken by force. Wouldn't it be better for us to return to Egypt?" So they said to each other. "let's pick a leader and let's go back to Egypt."

### III. PRAYER

Spend some time sharing prayer requests with each other. As the small group leader, we ask that you do two things:

1. write them down
2. ask someone to pray

### IV. CHALLENGE

In her book *The Liturgy of Politics*, Kaitlyn Shiness says that "it's no wonder then, that so much scripture is devoted to fighting fear."

What are some ways that you can fight fear in yourself and those around you and instead continue to trust in God's promises?

**HINT:** God's promise is that God already knows what lies ahead, and God is going to take care of it.

**Be prepared to share about this next week.**

### V. DISCUSSION

- Reflect on the various scriptures Pastor Fernie referenced as he explained the irony of the fear experienced by the disciples. What stood out to you?
- How have you seen fear used as a political motivator? Does it work?
- What are the dangers of believing the fears that are spoken into our lives?
- Pastor Fernie mentioned that the Israelites were reminded over and over of God's promises and because of fear, forgot. What are some examples of how you have forgotten God's promises because of fear?
- God promises that there will be a day, when there is no more pain, no more sorrow, no more suffering, no more inequality, no more war, no more sickness, no more of anything bad or harmful. And on that day everything will be made right. How can you hold tight to this promise?

