

April 4
Words of Faith, Words of Unbelief

■ **Text:** Numbers 14:26~30 (April 23 Text)

■ **Point:** Those who complain against God cannot enjoy any blessings that God has prepared for them.

≡ **1. Prayer**

Thank you, God, for protecting us from this sinful world.

≡ **2. Praise**

당신은 영광의 왕

≡ **3. The Word**

Read Numbers 14:26~30 together (read the verse 3 times).

* Repeating the text in different translations helps us to understand the material deeply.

<ESV>

²⁶And the Lord spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, ²⁷“How long shall this wicked congregation grumble against me? I have heard the grumbings of the people of Israel, which they grumble against me. ²⁸Say to them, ‘As I live, declares the Lord, what you have said in my hearing I will do to you. ²⁹your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness, and of all your number, listed in the census from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against me, ³⁰not one shall come into the land where I swore that I would make you dwell, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.

<NASB>

26 The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron again, saying, 27 “How long shall I put up with this evil congregation who are grumbling against Me? I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel which they are voicing against Me. 28 Say to them, ‘As I live,’ declares the Lord, ‘just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you; 29 your dead bodies will fall in this wilderness, all your numbered men according to your complete number from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against Me. 30 By no means will you come into the land where I swore to settle you, except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.

Understanding the Text

We must see God's promises with the eyes of faith. However, the ten spies who came back from spying out the Promised Land spoke badly about it. Those who did not believe in the promise and grumbled against God could not enter the promised land. God listens to everything we say. Therefore, we should speak words of faith, not words of complaint.

Understanding the text for leaders

This passage is one of the two decisive events of Israel's rebellion against God after the Exodus from Egypt (Aaron's golden calf incident and the Canaanite spying incident). God told them to go up to the land of Canaan, but the people hesitated and said that they would spy out the land first. So Moses again received God's permission and sent spies (Deuteronomy 1:21~22). The Israelites who stayed in the wilderness of Baran sent twelve spies, one from each tribe. I asked them to look at the soil quality and how strong the city is. After spying out the land of Canaan for 40 days, they reported that it was a good land flowing with milk and honey. However, Caleb reported that the land could be taken by God if God was with him. The Israelites were crushed by the sound of the bad comments, and they cried out loud all night complaining against God. Finally, they began to agitate that it would be better for them to go back to Egypt by appointing a leader other than Moses (Numbers 14:1~4). Then Caleb and Joshua tore their garments, They appealed that because God was with them, they would be our food. In the end, God was angry with the people who grumbled. Except for Joshua and Caleb, who trusted in God, those over the age of 20, those who grumbled against God and did not trust Him, were not allowed to enter the land of Canaan.

4. Sharing

1) Why couldn't the rest of the people except Joshua and Caleb enter the land of Canaan? (verses 27~30)

Upper Grades

Why did the rest of the people, except Joshua and Caleb, not enter the land of Canaan? (verses 26~29)

Lower Grades

Why couldn't the rest of the people, except Joshua and Caleb, enter Canaan? (verses 26~29)

Question Guide

Remind them of the report of the ten spies and the reaction of the people (chapters 13~14). Let them think of God's heart when He heard them.

Commentary for Leaders

The Israelites experienced God's amazing power through the Exodus, but they did not trust in God's promises. The spies decided that the land of Canaan was good, but they could not conquer it with their own power. They did not believe in God's presence and in God's power. After the Exodus, they continued to complain and complain, and through the espionage incident, they showed their unbelief. In the end, God was very angry. Those who complained, grumbled, and poured out faithless words could not enter the land that God had promised. The promised land is the land of faith. Joshua and Caleb, who trusted in God's promise in faith, were blessed to enter the land of Canaan.

2) God listens to everything I say. Share what each of you often says about unbelief (complaining, complaining) and turn it into words of faith.

■ Upper Grades

Is there a negative word I use often? What kind of effort should we make to speak words of faith on a daily basis?

■ Lower Grades

How many times do I say things like "I can't!", "No!", "I can't! "? Shout "If God is with us, we can do it!"

□ Question Guide

Share what you usually say without faith and how to change it. Words of faith hold our minds and hearts steadily. In order for the language of faith to become a habit, you have to practice it constantly.

□ Commentary for Leaders

Words of faith can save you and save your community. However, words without faith make you fall into fear and hinder you from looking at God in despair and anxiety. You must remember that words of faith are pleasing and blessed by God, but words without faith are severely judged because God dislikes them. Words of faith not only give courage and hope to you and those around you, but also allow God to hear and fulfill them. So, practice words of faith from now on. So that we can encourage each other.

≡ 5. Be grateful

Give thanks to God for letting us know that there will be judgment for words of unbelief (complaining, complaining).

≡ 6. Prayer

God, I sincerely repent of my sin of speaking words of unbelief and complaint. Please let me change my language life with words of faith and gratitude that please You.

- Conclude the family worship service with the Lord's Prayer
