

# FIRM CONVICTIONS (CALEB)

**Numbers 14:20-38**

**BIBLICAL PASSAGE**

**Numbers 14:24**

**MEMORY VERSE**

But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.  
**Numbers 14:24**

Teenagers, as well as most adults, like to follow the crowd. It's much easier to go along with the majority (even when it's wrong) than to stand for what they know is right. But God honors those who do what is right even when it differs from the masses. Having a wholehearted commitment to honor the Lord will reap benefits that can carry into future generations. On the other hand, continual refusal to follow God, can lead to consequences that affect others for many years.

Read Numbers 14:20-38. Twelve spies were sent to explore the promised land of Canaan. Seeing giants in the land, 10 came back in fear and persuaded the others not to move forward. Only Caleb and Joshua had confidence in God's promises. They believed the Israelites could overcome the giants and take possession of the land,

just as God had promised. The result was the entire nation, including Joshua and Caleb, wandered in the desert for 40 years. Only Joshua and Caleb and those under 20 years of age were able to enter the promised land. Caleb's public allegiance and trust in God showed how firm convictions will be blessed.

If you described your teenager, would you include the phrase, "follows God wholeheartedly?" If your teen chooses to be different than the crowd and faces opposition, and even persecution, would that bother you? Or would you rejoice in their steadfast faith? Pray your child develops a strong sense of conviction to do what is right even when it differs from the crowd, or even when no one else is watching.

## FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

### Connect . . .

A family member reads the following case study: **A group of friends gather at the movie theater. Most are from church. Kristen has already told her parents which movie she plans to see and they approve. But once everyone gathers, Kristen realizes the movie is sold out. Someone suggests another movie with questionable content. Everyone agrees to see it. But Kristen's not so sure her parents would approve. She knows it would damage her Christian witness to those with her who don't know the Lord.**

Next, a family member asks: **How difficult would it be for Kristen to refuse to see the movie? How would her friends react if she told them they shouldn't go? What consequences might she face if she went along with the crowd and her parents found out later?** Finally, family members share times when they have had to stand up for their convictions.

### Explore . . .

Family members take turns reading Numbers 14:20-38. Next, the family discusses: **How were Caleb and Joshua different from the other spies? What were the consequences of being disobedient? (Include consequences for the 10 spies, the nation, future generations, and Joshua and Caleb.)**

### Transform . . .

A family member reads Numbers 14:24. Then, the family discusses: **What does it mean to follow God wholeheartedly? Someone reads: Integrity is doing what is right even when no one is looking. Conviction is the resolve to do what is right even in the midst of opposition.**

*Pray that your family will commit to living a life of commitment and integrity, serving God without wavering.*