

# Study Questions for Personal Reflection or Small-Group Discussion

## Chapter 1: Hard Times

1. What is the question the psalmist asks in Psalm 42:5? How would you answer that question today? What are the big issues in your life today that cause you concern or despair?
2. In what ways have Americans been living as though the riches of this world are certain? How have you been living that way? What new realities are now challenging that certainty?
3. Read Psalm 42:5 again. What is the hope offered in this verse? What are the three certainties that form the (true) foundation of our hope?



## Chapter 2: Giants

1. What does it mean to “fight the giants”? What sort of giants did the Israelites run into in their journey to the Promised Land? How did God use Joshua and Caleb to “fight the giants”?
2. Why were the men selected as two of the twelve to go into the land notable? In what way were they “not able”? In what ways were they “panicked leaders”? What are the results of panicked leadership? What examples of this can you note from your own experience?
3. Respond to the following statement: “Every man who desires to be used by God will face the giants.” How does that make you feel? What are some examples of biblical characters who faced giants because God was using them? Have you experienced this in your own life? Describe that experience.



## Chapter 3: Gravitas

1. Summarize the example from the introduction to this chapter that illustrates the importance of character. Why is it true that “character is never a minor issue”? Describe why character was the primary difference between Joshua and Caleb and the other ten spies.
2. Review Titus 2:2. In what ways might this be a glimpse into the character of Joshua and Caleb? What is the character “recipe”? What are the four “s” traits the author describes? How have you observed these in leaders you’ve known? How do you exhibit these traits in your own life at home? At work? Among friends? Strangers?
3. What does it mean that God is “self-existent”? Why is that important? (See Ps. 50:10–12.) Read Malachi 3:6. What does this verse teach us about God? What can we conclude about God from this?

4. How does God's "infinite" nature impact the way we view Him? How does this truth help us when dealing with challenges or facing giants? Consider God's "all-knowing-ness." (See Prov. 15:3.) How does God's knowledge help us face challenges?
  
5. What does it look like to trust God? How does our trust of God put us in a place where God can use us? Think of examples in your own experience where you had a hard time trusting God. Did you sense Him using you during those times? How might your trust of Him have changed the circumstance or results?
  
6. What was your reaction to Paul Lanier's story? How is his story an example of facing giants? Where did Paul get his strength when his body was becoming weak? In what ways did he exemplify a man with gravitas?

## Chapter 4: Slaves

1. Why is it significant that Joshua and Caleb were born slaves? How did their experience in suffering help prepare them for the roles they would play in the Israelites' story?
  
2. What are the four giants a man who is a slave must fight? How did David Livingstone fight these giants? How did Joshua and Caleb fight them? In what ways are you a "slave" too? When and where have you encountered these four giants in your own life?
  
3. Respond to the following statement: "If Christ is your Lord and Savior, then you are not a slave. Nor are you an owner." What does it really mean to be a steward? How does this truth help to mitigate the fears that come when the economy is struggling?



## Chapter 5: Increased Hardship

1. What is the author's observation about nearly every person whose biography he has read? Why do you think this is true? What are the two possible responses a man can have when facing increased hardship?
2. What was the "straw that broke the camel's back" in the Israelites' story? (See Ex. 5.) What giants were they fighting while in captivity? Why might the Israelites have blamed God for their circumstances?
3. What are the possible responses to increased hardship that seemingly comes from God? What is the "brokenness" that comes from difficult circumstances? How can brokenness lead to fruitfulness? How did this happen in the lives of the Israelites? How have you experienced this in your own life?

4. Read 2 Corinthians 1:8–10. What are some ways you can relate to the message of this passage? How have you been “burdened beyond your strength”? How has the giant of increased hardship appeared in your life?
  
5. What observations did Frank W. Boreham make in a sermon on Benaiah? How did Benaiah respond to his horribly difficult circumstances? What allowed him to “take care of business” even though the odds were stacked against him?
  
6. Respond to the following statement: “Facing the giant of increased hardship means that deliverance is right around the corner—maybe.” Read 2 Corinthians 1:9–10. What does Paul report about his deliverance? Why do some people turn bitter when facing increased hardship? How does bitterness affect our ability to do God’s work?

## Chapter 6: Circling the Airport

1. How do you think Joshua and Caleb felt after being spared the plague that killed the other ten spies? Why do you think God still chose to let the Israelites wander in the wilderness another forty years?
  
2. What are some examples in your own life where God didn't seem to make sense to you? Read Isaiah 55:8. How does this verse speak to our understanding of God's ways?
  
3. What are the three things every man who encounters the giant of maintenance and monotony must become acquainted with? What does it mean that God works "in" you before He works "through" you?

4. What are some of the life disappointments you've experienced? How might God have used those disappointments to shape your life? In what way have you known the truth espoused in Proverbs 13:12: "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but desire fulfilled is the tree of life"? Why does deferred hope make us heartsick? What role does trusting God play in these seasons of life?
  
5. How does the story of the dog training relate to your own experience with what it means to "stay"? Do you prefer to be "where the action is"? Why or why not? Why is the command "stay" so hard to obey?
  
6. What are the six phases of leadership development Dr. J. Robert Clinton describes in his book *The Making of a Leader*? What transitions have you experienced (or are you anticipating) as you mature in your faith life? Who is responsible for the transitions? How will you know when it's time for a transition? What are some practical things you can do to recognize and be ready for those transitions?

## Chapter 7: High Wire Promotion

1. In what ways did the forty years in the wilderness take its toll on the Israelites? How did the transition to Joshua's leadership take place at the end of that forty years? (See Josh. 1:1–9.)
2. What is your reaction to the statement that “every leader is replaceable”? How does God apply this truth to the story of the Israelites? What does this say about God's sovereign plan? God's timing?
3. What is significant about the promotion that Joshua got? How did he get this promotion? (See Num. 27:15–23.) What lessons can we extract from how God worked in this story? (See also Ps. 75.)
4. What is the “good ambition” that Paul references in 2 Corinthians 5:9? What is the root of this ambition? How does this compare to what the author calls “arsenic” ambition? (See James 3:13–17.)

5. Describe the greatest problem with “the high wire of promotion.” What is the compass a Christian man must trust in life? How does this compass help us make good choices in the area of promotion and leadership? What are the three coordinates God gave Joshua in 1:1–9?
  
6. Why is it so important to know God’s Word? Read Psalm 119:105. What are some of the promises you know well? How have they helped you to be bold and courageous? To make wise decisions?

## Chapter 8: The Worst Possible Time

1. Briefly summarize the stories of Dave Ramsey and Patrick Morley. How did these men respond to the challenges of the Tax Reform Act? What surprised you most about these stories? Where do you see God in these stories?



5. Read Exodus 14:17–18; Matthew 6:9; Psalm 9:10; and Proverbs 18:10. What do all these verses tell us about honoring God’s name? What does that look like in today’s culture? How do we honor God’s name?
  
6. Summarize the author’s “house selling” story. How do you see God being honored in that story? What are some similar examples of God being honored through seemingly ordinary events in your life or the lives of people you know? What does this tell you about how God works His plan?

## Chapter 9: Fighting Off Fear

1. Respond to the following quote: “Manliness, like suffering, deals with fear.... Manly men rise above their fear, but in doing so they carry their fear with them, though it is under control.” What does it mean that men “carry their fear with them”?





2. What is the “giant of complete vulnerability”? How does God “show up” when we’re facing this giant? What was this giant for the Israelites? What does this giant look like in your life?
  
3. How does “circumcision in heart” affect a man? Respond to the following statement: “Everything within Christianity is an issue of the heart.” Do you agree? (Read Deut. 6:5 and Rom. 10:6–10.)
  
4. Read Psalm 55:22. In what way does this verse speak to the issue of fear? What does it mean to be “sustained” by the Lord? Is it easy to trust God’s sustenance? Why or why not?
  
5. Look at Joshua 5:10–12. What does this passage tell you about God’s provision? What are some examples from your own experience where you’ve been the recipient of God’s provision? What is your “daily bread” today?

6. Describe what the author means by “take a knee.” What prompted Joshua to take a knee in Joshua 5:13–15? Moses, in Exodus 3:5? How are these examples of what it means to submit to God? In what ways are you on “holy ground” today? What ought your response be to that truth?

## Chapter 11: Two Spies

1. In what ways was Jericho like the Death Star? How would you have responded if God had given you the instructions He gave Joshua in Joshua 6:1–5? How did Joshua respond?
  
2. The author contends that the conquest of Jericho actually began in the second chapter of Joshua. What is his reasoning? Why does Joshua pick just two men to spy on Jericho instead of twelve, or for that matter, one? (See Eccl. 4:9.)



6. Why do so many men seek the spotlight? What does it say about a person's character if he seeks notoriety for his actions? Are you a spotlight seeker? If so, what are some practical things you can do to refocus your attention on giving God the glory instead? (See 1 Thess. 4:11–12.)

## Chapter 12: God Is My Banker

1. What was the most significant thing you learned about Joshua and Caleb's faith journey? How can their example of "fighting the giants" help you as you face your own giants? What aspect of their story is most inspiring to you? Most challenging?
  
2. Respond to the following quote: "Character is formed in relation to convictions and it is manifested in the capacity to abide by those convictions even in, especially in, the face of temptation." How does God fit into this definition of character? What are the "layers" of character God is forming within you?

3. When you started reading this book, how concerned were you about the current economic situation? How has the content of this book affected your level of concern?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Think about the giants you're facing today—economic, relational, emotional, or otherwise. How much of the battle are you taking upon yourself? In what ways are you trusting God to help you fight the battle? Are there some practical steps you can take that will force you to trust God more? What are they? Think about taking those steps in the coming weeks.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Read James 2:15–17. If you are in a season of surplus, how are you using that surplus? What would it look like to trust God with those resources? How might God be glorified by your actions?

6. The author states that God never failed to come through on a promise to Joshua. Reflect on this in your own life. If there are areas where you're unsure about God's role, step back and consider ways He might be testing you or stretching you or preparing you for battle. How might God glorify Himself through your current trials?