

D Group Lesson

Dark Horses #2: Wholehearted

Text: Joshua 14:1–15

Big Idea:

Wholehearted faith trusts God's promises, waits on God's timing, and pursues God's purposes for a lifetime.

Key Verse:

"I followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly." (Joshua 14:8)

Objective:

By the end of this discussion, participants will identify where God is calling them to trust, wait, or obey Him wholeheartedly this week.

HOOK (Connect the Heart)

Icebreaker

Ask the group:

1. Who is an underdog or "dark horse" story that you love? (Sports, movies, history, or someone you know.)
2. Why do people naturally root for underdogs?
3. What do we usually overlook about successful people before their breakthrough?

Transition

Say:

We often celebrate someone's moment of victory while forgetting the years of faithfulness that came before it. Caleb's story isn't about one great moment—it's about a lifetime of wholehearted faith.

LOOK (Discover God's Word)

Read Joshua 14:6–15 together.

1. Caleb Trusted God's Promises (vv. 6–9)

Ask:

- What do you notice about Caleb's attitude compared to the other spies?
- What does it mean that Caleb "followed the Lord wholeheartedly?"
- How did Caleb demonstrate faith when everyone else chose fear?

Discussion Point

Wholehearted faith isn't perfection.

It is complete devotion.

Caleb believed God's promises more than he believed the obstacles in front of him.

Reflection Questions

- Where do fear and faith compete in your life today?
 - What promise of God do you need to trust instead of your circumstances?
 - Is there an area where you've compromised because everyone else was doing it?
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2. Caleb Waited on God's Timing (vv. 10–11)

Ask:

- How long did Caleb wait?
- What hardships did he experience during those years?
- What surprises you most about Caleb's attitude after forty-five years?

Discussion Point

Caleb never viewed the waiting years as wasted years.

Instead of becoming bitter, he became stronger.

His confidence remained in God's faithfulness.

Reflection Questions

- What are you currently waiting on God for?
 - How does waiting test your faith?
 - What would wholehearted trust look like while you continue to wait?
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3. Caleb Pursued God's Purposes (vv. 12–15)

Ask:

- What mountain did Caleb request?
- Why is his request so surprising at eighty-five years old?
- What does this teach us about following God later in life?

Discussion Point

Caleb didn't ask for comfort.

He asked for opportunity.

His confidence wasn't in his strength but in God's presence.

Reflection Questions

- What "mountain" is God placing before you?
 - Where have you chosen comfort over obedience?
 - What next step of faith is God asking you to take?
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TOOK (Apply God's Word)

Read Matthew 25:21 together.

Ask:

Jesus praises servants who are faithful.

What does faithfulness look like in everyday life rather than extraordinary moments?

Application

Invite each person to answer these three questions:

Trust

Where is God calling you to trust Him wholeheartedly?

Wait

Where is God asking you to remain faithful while you wait?

Obey

What mountain has God asked you to climb that you've been avoiding?

Weekly Challenge

Each morning this week, pray:

"Lord, help me trust Your promises, wait on Your timing, and pursue Your purposes with my whole heart."

Then take one practical step toward the mountain God has placed before you.

Examples could include:

- Having a difficult but loving conversation.
 - Serving where you've been hesitant.
 - Taking a step toward reconciliation.
 - Saying yes to a ministry opportunity.
 - Choosing integrity when compromise would be easier.
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Wrap-Up

Say:

Caleb's story isn't ultimately about Caleb.

It's about the God who remained faithful for forty-five years and beyond.

Caleb trusted God when obedience was costly.

He trusted God while waiting.

He trusted God until the very end.

The same God who sustained Caleb is still faithful today.

Prayer

Close by inviting group members to pray specifically over the three areas discussed:

- Courage to trust God's promises.
- Patience to wait on God's timing.
- Strength to pursue God's purposes.

Pray that each person would become known not merely for moments of success, but for a lifetime of wholehearted faith in the God who always keeps His promises.