

The Gospel Project for Adults Spring 2016
Extended Instructional Approaches for Session 1

Introduction: Connect to one of the central points of the lesson.

Ask your group members to reflect on the theme *when faith fails* by asking them question “Who or what do you fear?” Consider distributing a notecard and asking group members to create three headings like this:

Past *Present* *Future*

Share these instructions: “In preparation for our study of the Book of Numbers, please jot down someone or something that caused you fear under the three categories.”

Do not call on group members at random, but give anyone who wishes an opportunity to share their responses. Ask, “For the items in the past, did you at that time believe that the Lord was with you?”

Ask, “For those things that are in the present or the future, is the Holy Spirit challenging you to trust God in these situations?”

Point 1: Explore the passage and engage by using Think-Pair-Share.

Ask your group members to read Numbers 13:1-2, and as they read, to consider this question “Why would God instruct Moses to have a group of leaders spy out the land?”

Give them 5-10 seconds to **think** about the question. Then ask each group member to **share** his or her answer with the person next to him or her. (Share with an elbow partner—**pair**.) Now call on some pairs to share with the entire group.

[For the leader: Reread the first paragraph on page 12 of the Leader Guide for additional insights.]

Read Numbers 13:30-33 with the group and ask, “What person or situation do you recall that made you feel like a grasshopper?” Then explain. Did the spies actually have contact with the inhabitants of the promised land? No, it was all self-perception. They had their eyes on the giants instead of God.

Point 3: *Reflect on the foreshadowing of Christ.*

Write on a handout, easel paper, or whiteboard these two headings:

Moses as Advocate

Christ as Advocate

Ask your group members to read Numbers 14:13-20, looking for specific ways in which Moses fulfilled the responsibility of an advocate before the Lord. Afterward, list 3-5 items and challenge the group to describe ways in which Christ is similar or dissimilar when compared to Moses and this situation. (Educational research reveals that discussing similarities and differences yields greater learning and strengthens higher-order thinking skills.)

Closing Application: *Pray for insight and foresight.*

Has the Lord called you as an individual or your church, perhaps, to ‘spy out’ a new opportunity for ministry? You may be considering moving your family. Or your church may be praying about partnering with a community in another country. In his book *The Power of Vision*, George Barna writes that *vision* is “foresight with insight based on hindsight.” That is, one can understand what is needed in the future when he takes the measure of the present and comprehends what has gone before. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you fresh awareness of His will in your life and the life of your church through today’s study.