



Sermon-based reflections connect the week to the weekend!

Dig deeper into the talk each week, in a small group or independently. Challenge yourself to see how the message actually makes sense and applies to your everyday life.

Message Info: Killjoy, 8/20/23 - Negative. Critical. Cynical. Like the Israelites in the desert, freshly rescued from slavery, that's us sometimes. Always seeing the cup half empty. We often forget it's a choice. We can choose how we look at things, and follow a mighty God who redeems everything. (*Passages: Numbers 13 & 14, Luke 1:37, Philippians 4:13*)

Discussion Questions: Take your time and dig into these questions.

Do we tend to assume the worst? Is it easy to list negatives? Are you quick to assign mistakes to others' character? Do you feel annoyed constantly or quickly? Is it hard to see the good?

Read through Numbers 13 & 14. What stands out to you in this passage? Why?

The 12 men were tasked with exploring the land and bringing back a report. They returned after 40 days with bittersweet news: though lush and vast, the land was occupied by some intimidating inhabitants. The spies didn't try to sugarcoat it, they claimed it impossible to possess the land. Have you ever been confronted with one of God's promises but been intimidated by how things appeared? Did you trust God or turn around?

God's people were (and are) so good at focusing on the negatives; despite witnessing incredible things since their rescue from slavery. Instead of heading back to Egypt, let's walk in faith to the promised land, no matter how impossible things appear. Remember these takeaways to help get you there.

1. See life & people through the lens of faith; not fear.
2. Look for opportunities for God to show up.
3. Look for positives to focus on.
4. Resist the crowd noise; listen for the voice of Jesus.
5. Focus on the right "cluster." i.e. God's provision, character, goodness, etc.
6. Flip your but. Don't justify the negative - focus on God's redemption.
7. Nothing is impossible with God, and he is strong in our weakness. (Luke 1:37, Phil. 4:13)
8. *Know* God is your protector.

Weekly Challenge: Cressona regular? Visit Grace Tremont! If you typically attend Tremont, go to Grace Cressona next Sunday!

COME  **GROW**  **GO** 