

# State of the Church Address

I. The extent of the challenge (Numbers 13:1-29).

II. The wrong way to face a challenge.

- Don't \_\_\_\_\_.
  
- Don't \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>8</sup> Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, <sup>9</sup> and said to the men, "I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have melted away before you. <sup>10</sup> "For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. <sup>11</sup> "When we heard *it*, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. Joshua 2:8-11 (NASB)

- Don't \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. Romans 8:28 (NASB)

- Don't \_\_\_\_\_.

III. The right way to face a challenge.

- \_\_\_\_\_
  
- \_\_\_\_\_

IV. How are we doing?

## Life Group Questions

### Numbers 13-14:11

1. Why do you think God had Moses send out the spies to spy out the land?
2. How do you balance assessments of reality with exercising faith when you make your decisions?
3. Pastor Mark identified four things not to do when facing a challenge: Don't magnify the problems and difficulties. Don't focus on your own weaknesses and insufficiency. Don't doubt the goodness of God. Don't reject God's leaders and his plan. Which of these is your worst problem? Which mistake is easiest for you to avoid?
4. What assumptions did the Israelites make about the Canaanites that proved to be false?
5. Share a time when a false assumption led you into a bad decision.
6. Why do you think most of the Israelites doubted God's goodness? When do you have the most trouble believing in his goodness?
7. How do you define "good?" Does your definition of good allow for the presence of pain and suffering?
8. Do you agree with Pastor Mark's contention that the majority is usually wrong in determining God's will?
9. Why do you think the Israelites were so weak in faith in spite of all the miracles they had seen God perform?
10. What do you think will be the greatest challenges our church faces in receiving a new Senior Pastor?