

# Asking and Receiving

Joshua 14

## Key Points

In Joshua 14, Joshua and the Israelites are at the point of distributing land west of the Jordan to the various Israelite tribes. This having been done, Caleb comes to Joshua and asks him for the land that God promised him. Caleb tells Joshua that, moreover, he has been faithful to God over many years, including acting as a spy and completing a recce of the land of Canaan (Numbers 13). He is now 85 but is confident in his military strength and ability to defend the land in question. Joshua gives Caleb the land.

Jane talked about what 'the land' looks like in our lives: we are not being called by God to take possession of literal land in the same way as Caleb was asking to do (most probably!) but we are called to inhabit space that God is calling us into. Jane used the examples of where we are called to be a Christian influence in the world - whether at work on the local community - and the kind of vocational things that we might feel called into but which haven't come yet to fruition.

She looked at the characteristics of Caleb's coming to God (via Joshua) and asking for the land. First of all, that it comes out of being in right relationship with God: Caleb reminds Joshua of his (Caleb's) faithfulness to God, and God's faithfulness to Caleb, over many years. Caleb is asking in the context of their relationship. Second, she made the point that Caleb dares to ask and keep asking and emphasising why that land should be his. We are called, equally, to be persistent when asking God for things, particularly those things we have felt him calling us to / promising us.

## Questions

1. Do you find it helpful to think about God calling 'take more of the land' as an image? Why /why not?
2. Are there areas / things in your life which you feel God is calling you into / has promised you? Do you feel as though you know where God is calling into new things / calling you to grow?
3. What positive qualities does Caleb demonstrate as a follower of God?
4. What does it look like to be in right relationship with God in the day to day? (How do we know when we are not?) How does it look for you personally to be 'wholehearted' in walking with God?
5. What is your experience of persistence in prayer (either positive or negative)?
6. How can we sustain our persistence in prayer when things are difficult?
7. What might it look like to advance further into 'God's land' as a church? Where do we see those signs in Springfield, and how might God be calling you / your small group to be involved?