

# **Lifestyles of Faith**

## **Book 1**

Caleb, Gideon, Samson, Ruth, Elijah, Jehoshaphat

Marilyn Kunz & Catherine Schell

Published by Q Place

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com) The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

Scripture quotations marked NASB are taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®. Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. ([www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org))

Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation. Copyright 1996, 2004, 2007, 2013 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system without written permission from Q Place, P.O. Box 1581, Wheaton, IL, 60187, USA; 1-800-369-0307; [info@QPlace.com](mailto:info@QPlace.com).

*Lifestyles of Faith, Book 1: Caleb, Gideon, Samson, Ruth, Elijah, Jehoshaphat*  
Copyright © 2016 by Catherine Schell

Previously published as *Lifestyles of Faith, Book 1: Choosing to Trust God*  
Copyright © 1993 by Marilyn Kunz and Catherine Schell

Cover image Elena Butinova/Shutterstock  
First Q Place Printing 2016  
Printed in the United States of America  
ISBN 978-1-880266-50-2

# CONTENTS

## GETTING STARTED

How to Use this Discussion Guide .....	5
What is a Q Place? .....	6
Q Place Guidelines .....	6
Q Place Discussion Tips .....	7
Tools for Studying the Bible in a Q Place .....	7
When You Are the Question-Asker .....	8

## Lifestyles of Faith, Book 1

Introduction .....	9
1. <b>Caleb, the Committee Man</b> .....	11
2. <b>Gideon, a Hesitant Hero, Part 1</b> .....	17
3. <b>Gideon, a Hesitant Hero, Part 2</b> .....	23
4. <b>Samson, the Careless Comic, Part 1</b> .....	29
5. <b>Samson, the Careless Comic, Part 2</b> .....	33
6. <b>Ruth, a Woman of Noble Character, Part 1</b> .....	39
7. <b>Ruth, a Woman of Noble Character, Part 2</b> .....	47
8. <b>Elijah, the Pendulum Prophet, Part 1</b> .....	53
9. <b>Elijah, the Pendulum Prophet, Part 2</b> .....	59
10. <b>Jehoshaphat, a Man of Faith, Part 1</b> .....	65
11. <b>Jehoshaphat, a Man of Faith, Part 2</b> .....	71
12. <b>Fresh Discoveries</b> .....	77

# Lifestyles of Faith

## Book 1

---

### Introduction

**L***ifestyles of Faith, Book 1* spans Old Testament history from the end of Israel's wandering in the wilderness before entering the Promised Land (~1400 B.C.) through the time of King Jehoshaphat (~860 B.C.), who reigned after the nation of Israel had been divided into two separate kingdoms.

The story of the people of Israel began with the major characters of Abraham, Joseph, and Moses (featured in the Q Place study *Four Men of God*, along with David). Now the story continues with the account of Caleb as the twelve tribes of Israel are preparing to enter the land God had promised to the people of Israel. The biblical narratives of Gideon, Samson, and Ruth are all set in the land of Israel during the period of the Judges (~1380-1050 B.C.).

Some two hundred years after Israel's first king, God sends the prophet Elijah to challenge the northern kingdom of Israel to choose between the LORD and the gods around them. King Jehoshaphat's reign reveals God's dealings with the southern kingdom of Judah toward the end of that same period.

*Lifestyles of Faith, Book 2* will take you chronologically through the remainder of Old Testament history with six additional character studies.

This study not only enables you to see the faith of six men and women of the Old Testament, it also reveals God's character as he works in the lives of his people. In the Hebrew text, three names referring to God are *YHWH*, *Adonai*, and *Elohim*. In translating the Old Testament into English, most English versions write the divine name *YHWH* (*Yahweh* or *Jehovah*) as **LORD**. The Hebrew word *Adonai* is translated as **Lord**. Whenever the two names are used together in the Old Testament, they are translated as **Sovereign LORD**.

When the plural Hebrew word *Elohim* is treated as a singular word, it means “the one supreme deity,” written in English as **God**. When treated as a plural, *Elohim* is translated **gods**, images of wood and stone or the imaginary beings they represent.

As you get started, note the chart on pages 78-79. At the end of each discussion in this study you’ll have an opportunity to jot down what you have observed regarding challenges faced by each person, actions in response to those challenges, the results in their lives, biblical principles that you notice, and steps that you can take to apply those principles in your own life. When you reach Discussion 12, you will be able to compare all of the individuals in order to gain and apply new insights.

Also, throughout this guide there are questions that encourage you to take practical steps to incorporate what you learn into your life. For the greatest impact, support each other through prayer and encouragement and share success stories along the way.

# 1

**Numbers 13:1—14:38; 32:10-12**

**Deuteronomy 1:34-36**

**Joshua 14:6-15**

## —— Caleb, the Committee Man

**C**aleb lived during the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt, some 400-450 years after Jacob and his sons entered Egypt to escape famine in Canaan. During the period of the Exodus, God freed the Israelites under Moses from Egyptian bondage and led them through the desert to possess the land of Canaan—the land that had been promised to Abraham and his descendants centuries before.

We first hear of Caleb when the Israelites are on the edge of Canaan. By a series of deliverances from starvation, thirst, and human enemies, God has already demonstrated to the people of Israel his mighty power and his love for them.

### **Read Numbers 13:1-33**

1. What qualifies Caleb to be chosen as one of the spies?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What instructions does Moses give the spies (verses 17-20)?

3. Describe what they find as they carry out their mission (verses 21-29).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. At what point does Caleb assume leadership, and on what issue does he disagree with the spies? How soon does Caleb want the people to go up into the land?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What do you think Caleb's feelings are at this point?

**Read Numbers 14:1-38**

6. What is the people's reaction to the negative report of the ten spies (verses 1-10)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. In striking contrast to the ten spies, what reasons do Joshua and Caleb give for what they recommend to the people?

What causes them to come to a different conclusion from the other spies?

8. Imagine such a circumstance in your own life. Think through the temptations you might face, and your reaction. What might it cost you to take a similar stand?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. How does God view his people's reaction to Joshua and Caleb's warnings not to rebel against the LORD and not to fear the people of the land (verses 10-12)? Why should the Israelites have known better?

*Note: To understand the background of the name translated LORD, refer back to the description in the Introduction on page 9.*

10. Though the LORD does not strike the Israelites with pestilence or disinherit them, how does the judgment that he passes on them fit their crime (verses 13-38)?

*Note: At times God's judgment upon us is to give us our own way.*

11. How do Caleb and Joshua differ from the other spies?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. What consequences arise from the decision of the ten spies, both to themselves and to those whom they represent?



What dangers are there in making a decision based solely on your own wisdom?

**Read Numbers 32:10-12 in a few different translations (e.g. NIV, NLT, and Good News Translation)**

13. The LORD was angry with the people of Israel for not wholly following him as Caleb and Joshua had done. What difference is there between following and wholly following the LORD?

Into which category in similar circumstances would you honestly have to put yourself?

What could you begin to do this week to more fully follow the Lord?

**Read Deuteronomy 1:34-36**

14. What difference does it make to Caleb and to his children that he has wholly followed the LORD?

## Read Joshua 14:6-15

15. Forty-five years later, describing his actions as a spy with Joshua, what contrast does Caleb draw between himself and the other spies?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
16. How does Caleb describe himself and his condition at this point? What is he about to undertake and why?

*Note: These fortified cities of the Anakim in the hill country are the very ones which had made the people tremble more than forty years earlier.*

## SUMMARY

1. What are some of the basic characteristics of Caleb?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What did Caleb learn about the LORD in his lifetime?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How would you like your life to more closely resemble Caleb's approach to life? What steps can you take this week to begin to make that happen?

4. While this study is fresh in your mind, turn to the chart on pages 78-79 and quickly jot down your observations related to Caleb's life.

## CONCLUSION

Caleb was a man assigned to a committee. His decision, to which he held firm despite the contrary majority opinion, changed the course of his entire life and that of his descendants. He based his decision on the reality of God and committed his entire allegiance to him. Even though Caleb was not successful in persuading the people to obey God, to the end of his life he continued to believe God, and he lived to see the terrible consequences of unbelief in the lives of the people. Caleb discovered that the LORD is wholly dependable and therefore is to be wholly followed.

## PRAYER

*O LORD, God of Moses, Joshua, and Caleb, we are challenged by your servant Caleb's loyalty to you and his courageous obedience. We recognize how difficult it is for two to stand against ten on an issue that will mean difficult experiences and dangerous times.*

*Grant that we may follow you wholeheartedly as Caleb did. May we have the same courage and zest for life in our old age as Caleb showed in his. For your sake we pray, amen.*