

## Case Studies

Circumstances, peer pressure, and personal resolve all come into play in this case study. Any of them can affect what we do when "golden opportunities" come our way. This case study invites us to think about ourselves and ask if we are any different from the people described here. Follow the study in order, read the Bible passages that come up, and answer the questions.

### **Lost Opportunities A Case Study in Life's Influences**

#### The Lesson in Israel's History

- 1 – Deuteronomy 1:19-25. After the people of Israel left Mt. Sinai (Horeb) in the second year of the exodus, what was the next goal of their journey?
- 2 – Deuteronomy 1:26-33; Numbers 13:25-14:1. What discouraged them from obtaining this goal?
- 3 – Whose word carried more weight with the Israelites, the word of God or the word of ten spies?
- 4 – Deuteronomy 1:34-40; Numbers 14:26-30. What punishment did the Israelites receive for their faithlessness?
- 5 – Deuteronomy 1:41-44; Numbers 14:40-45. After they lost the opportunity to enter the promised land, what did the Israelites try to do? What happened to them?

#### The Lesson Still Applies Another Situation

A young man learned about Christadelphians while he was in college. He began attending meetings at a nearby ecclesia and took a real interest in the Bible. But his college roommate had a different story to tell. "I know all about Christadelphians," he said, and he told the young man terrible things about them. The young man stopped going to Christadelphian meetings.

Later on the young man married. When children came along, he began to think about finding a church for his family to attend. There was a Christadelphian ecclesia several miles away, but when he suggested going to it, his wife refused. "We'll find a church nearby or not at all," she insisted.

No one in the family came into the truth.

### Questions

- 6 – In college days, what carried more weight with the young man, the Bible or the word of a friend?
- 7 – Why do you think the young man stopped going to Christadelphian meetings?
- 8 – How did the circumstances of life keep the man from becoming a Christadelphian after he married?
- 9 – How might life have been different for this man if he had come into the truth when he first had the opportunity to do so?
- 10 – When the opportunity to serve God is passed up, is it likely to become easier or harder to do it later? Explain.
- 11 – At what point do we stop letting outside influences dictate our path in life and take ownership of the things we do before God?
- 12 – How easily do you let friends talk you into things or talk you out of them? What determines the kinds of decisions that you make in life?