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**Q1:** Was the intelligence mission to Canaan doomed from the start? If so, why did God command it? If not, where did it go wrong?

**Q2:** Why are the spies equally distributed between the tribes? Why do they need to be important men?

**Q3:** Look for the repeated incidence of imagery of eyes and seeing (use the most literal translation you can find). How much does what people see exist before they see it? For extra credit, go back to last week's reading to continue the search.

**Q4:** Look for the repeated incidence of imagery of grapes and wine. What is the relationship between fruit and promise, and how are the Israelites supposed to interact with that relationship?

**Q5:** Does the spies' initial report betray a bias? Or are they reporting plain facts?

**Q6:** Is Caleb's minority report realistic? Is realism a virtue in this situation?

**Q7:** What is the root cause of the people's doubt? Is it utterly irrational, or can it be justified?

**Q8:** When God's presence descends in a cloud to talk to Moses, can the people hear their whole conversation?

**Q9:** Compare the drama of anger and appeasement between God and Moses to the similar episode after the Golden Calf (Exodus 32-33). What are the stakes? What are the results? What rhetorical strategies does Moses use?

**Q10:** Why don't the Israelites have the opportunity to repent? Is it possible for a group to repent for its collective failure? If not, why not? If so, why is this case different?

**Q11:** What error have the Israelites committed when they attempt a belated conquest of Canaan, and how does that shed light on their previous error?

**Q12:** What relationship does the legal passage in chapter 15 have to the narrative that precedes it? Is it meant as a result of, or a redress for, the people's existential crisis?

**Q13:** What is an example of a transgression that could be committed by a *whole community* inadvertently? How would that come about, and how would the error be realized?

**Q14:** What is the source of their uncertainty about the wood-gatherer? Does not the scripture say, he who profanes the Sabbath shall be put to death? Are they unsure about the crime or about the punishment?