

SPYING OUT THE LAND

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: NUMBERS 13-14



The STORY

Read "The Promised Land in Sight" and "We Can Do It" from The Children's Bible in 365 Stories (pages 85 - 86)

Please note: The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- How did Israel respond to the spies' report? (Their hearts were full of fear at the report of fortified cities and giants in the land.)
- How was the report from Joshua and Caleb different? (They were full of faith and they believed that the Lord would help the Israelites occupy the land He had promised to them.)
- How did the Israelites respond to Joshua and Caleb's appeal? (They talked about stoning them, see Numbers 14:10, and they grumbled against God and Moses, see Numbers 14:2-3.)
- What is grumbling? (Grumbling expresses doubt about God's faithfulness and care. It comes from an ungrateful and wicked heart.)
- What is the consequence for Israel's grumbling against God? (They wandered in the desert for 40 years and eventually died there without entering the Promised Land. But God allowed their children to enter the Promised Land)

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CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: twelve spies giving their report. Engage the children by asking:

- Why did Joshua and Caleb believe Israel could take the land? (They trusted in the Lord for their strength.)
- What did the other spies say? (They said the people of the land were big and strong but the Israelites seemed like grasshoppers.)
- What did that the faithless spies forget? (They forgot how God had already delivered them from the Egyptians and parted the Red Sea.)

SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- Have you ever been afraid? (Accept any answer.)
- What does fear do to our faith in God? (When we are afraid we forget how great our God is and God seems smaller to us.)
- What did Joshua and Caleb believe that pleased God? (They remembered God's faithfulness in leading them out of Egypt and through the Red Sea and they believed God's promises to bring them into the Promised Land.)



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Where is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

When the fearful reports of ten of the twelve spies incited the people to fear and not trust the Lord, God became angry at the people's lack of faith. He said, "I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them." Once again Israel fell into sin and once again their mediator, Moses, stepped in for them and appealed to God.

In Numbers 14:20 God says, "I have forgiven them as you asked." Again, looking forward toward Christ, God is able to forgive His sinful people. We, today, are just like the Israelites. Though God provides wonderfully for us, we are quick to complain and quick to fear in adversity. We must trust in our redeemer just as they needed to trust in the God who revealed Himself to Moses. Moses mediated between the sinful people and God. Jesus would one day mediate our case before the Father. Moses however could not provide atonement for our sin. His appeal to God, apart from the work of Christ, would have been unacceptable. God did not hear the appeals of Moses because of Moses, but because of the future mediation of Christ. by dying on the cross for our sin, Christ became the big "M" Mediator, a divine mediator. Moses was only a man who pointed to Christ.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

