

Old Testament

Exploring Canaan

Numbers 13-14

Younger Memory Verse We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20

Older Memory Verse We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20

Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament. Each lesson will have both Old Testament and New Testament passages.

PLEASE remember to always include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

Has anyone ever asked you to do something wrong or go along with something that you knew was wrong? In today's story, two people know what is right to do. Will they stand up for what is right, or go along with what is wrong? Let's see.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

We have been following God's people as they traveled through the desert. Remember that God had promised them that He would take them to a wonderful land that was very beautiful and full of delicious fruits and vegetables.

Finally the people got to the border of the land that God had promised them. The people were excited!

Moses chose 12 leaders to spy out the land. They were from 12 different clans, or families. Two of the people were Joshua and Caleb.

The 12 secretly spied out the land. They saw that the land was full of crops and fruit. In fact, it took two of the spies to carry one cluster of grapes! They also saw the people. They looked like giants. They had heard many things about these people too. The people were expert warriors who got whatever they wanted.

After 40 days, the men returned to Moses. Ten of the men were afraid and scared. They told God's people that there was no way that they could take over the land. They saw the warriors' strength and their own weaknesses.

Joshua and Caleb told the people that with God's help, they could do anything. However, the people were not listening to them. They were afraid of what the people might do, instead of what God could do!

Lesson Goals

Look at the positives and not the negatives
Understand why Joshua and Caleb were so confident
Realize that we don't have to fear because God is here

During the night, cries were heard everywhere. People were scared and frightened. They began to argue and complain. They thought about getting another leader and going back into slavery! Can you imagine that! They wanted to trade their freedom for slavery again.

As they were complaining, they were forgetting one thing. They forgot about all the ways that God had helped them. He freed them from slavery, made a wall of water for them so they walked through the Red Sea, gave them food in the desert, and protected them from the heat. All they could think about were the negative problems.

The next morning, they gathered together. Moses, Aaron, Joshua and Caleb told the people that God would help them conquer these enemies. The people became angry. They even picked up stones to try to kill them.

Finally, God's presence filled the area where they were gathered. God told the people that they would now have to wait 40 years to enter the land. He also told them that only Joshua and Caleb would get to enter the new land because they were the only 2 out of the 12 who believed and trusted God.

The people were very sorry for the sin that they had done. They told God they were sorry for the things that they had done. They decided to go ahead and enter the land, even though God had told them that they would not have the land for 40 years.

Sure enough, God did not help them, and they lost the battle. The people in the land attacked them and drove them back into the desert.

God's people had to stay in the land for 40 years before they could enter into God's promised land of Canaan.

God loved His people and forgave them for the sin that they committed. God also knew that they would have to suffer the consequences for the sin that they did. Because they did not follow God, they had to stay in the hot desert for 40 more years!

When we do wrong, we must pay for our mistakes too. God knew that sometimes we would choose wrong instead of right. He knew that this would separate Him from us. So, He thought of a plan. He made a bridge so that we could get to Him. He sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus died and rose again to take the punishment for all our sin. To cross the bridge to God, we must trust in Jesus and believe that He died for our wrongs. We must ask Him to be our best friend and come into our lives. He will take away our sin and take us to Heaven one day!

Do you want to know how God can erase all your sin? Talk to us today about it.

Learning Activities

Look at the ideas and use whatever will help you teach the lesson and help the kids learn how to apply it to their lives.

Memory Verse Activities

Play charades to act out the verse. Make it fun and memorable!

Prayer Time

Pray that you can have a positive attitude this week and see what God can do!

Snack Time/CleanUp

Praise and encourage everyone today. Help them say good things about others.

Planning for Lesson 32
Balam and the donkey
Numbers 22

Preschool Lesson For Exploring Canaan

Moses chose 12 people to spy out the land. They were from 12 different families. Let's count to 12. Two of the people were Joshua and Caleb.

The 12 secretly spied out the land. (Put your hand over your eyes as if you are spying) They saw that the land was full of fruits and vegetables. In fact, it took two of the spies to carry one cluster of grapes! They must have been very, very big!

They also saw the people. They looked like giants. (Raise your hand as high as it will reach) They had heard many things about these people too. The people were mean warriors who got whatever they wanted.

After 40 days, the men came back to Moses. Ten of the men were afraid and scared. They told God's people that there was no way that they could take over the land. They saw the warriors' strength and their own weaknesses.

Joshua and Caleb told the people that with God's help, they could do anything. However, the people were not listening to them. They were afraid of what the people might do, instead of what God could do!

During the night, cries were heard everywhere. People were scared and frightened. (Make crying noises) They began to argue and complain. They thought about getting another leader and going back into slavery! Can you imagine that! They wanted to trade their freedom for slavery again.

As they were complaining, they were forgetting one thing. They forgot about all the ways that God had helped them. He freed them from slavery, made a wall of water for them as they walked through the Red Sea, gave them food in the desert, and protected them from the heat. All they could think about were the negative problems.

The next morning, they gathered together. Moses, Aaron, Joshua and Caleb told the people that God would help them conquer these enemies. The people became angry.

Finally, God's presence filled the area where they were gathered. God told the people that they would now have to wait 40 years to enter the land. He also told them that only Joshua and Caleb would get to enter the new land because they were the only 2 out of the 12 who believed and trusted God.

The people were very sorry for the sin that they had done. They told God they were sorry for the things that they had done. God loved His people and forgave them for the sin that they had done.

God loves us and wants us to obey Him and do what He says.

Pray and ask God to help us do and say good things this week.

Hands-On Activities
For
Exploring Canaan

Glue or tape 2 paper rolls together to look like binoculars. Talk about how the leaders spied out the land.

Enjoy grapes and think about how big the grapes must have been that the leaders saw.

Joshua and Caleb knew that with God all things are possible. Talk about other examples in the Bible that show how God made something impossible happen!!

Blow up purple balloons to resemble the big grapes in the story.

Measure out how tall a giant must have been. Talk about how scary it would be to try to fight a giant. Now, share how nothing is impossible with God. Talk about the courage of Joshua and Caleb and how they stood up for what was right. Ask them to give examples of how they can stand up for what is right.

Play the “I spy” game.

Bring real binoculars or a magnifying glass if you have one. Place an object far away and try to zoom in with the glass and see it.
