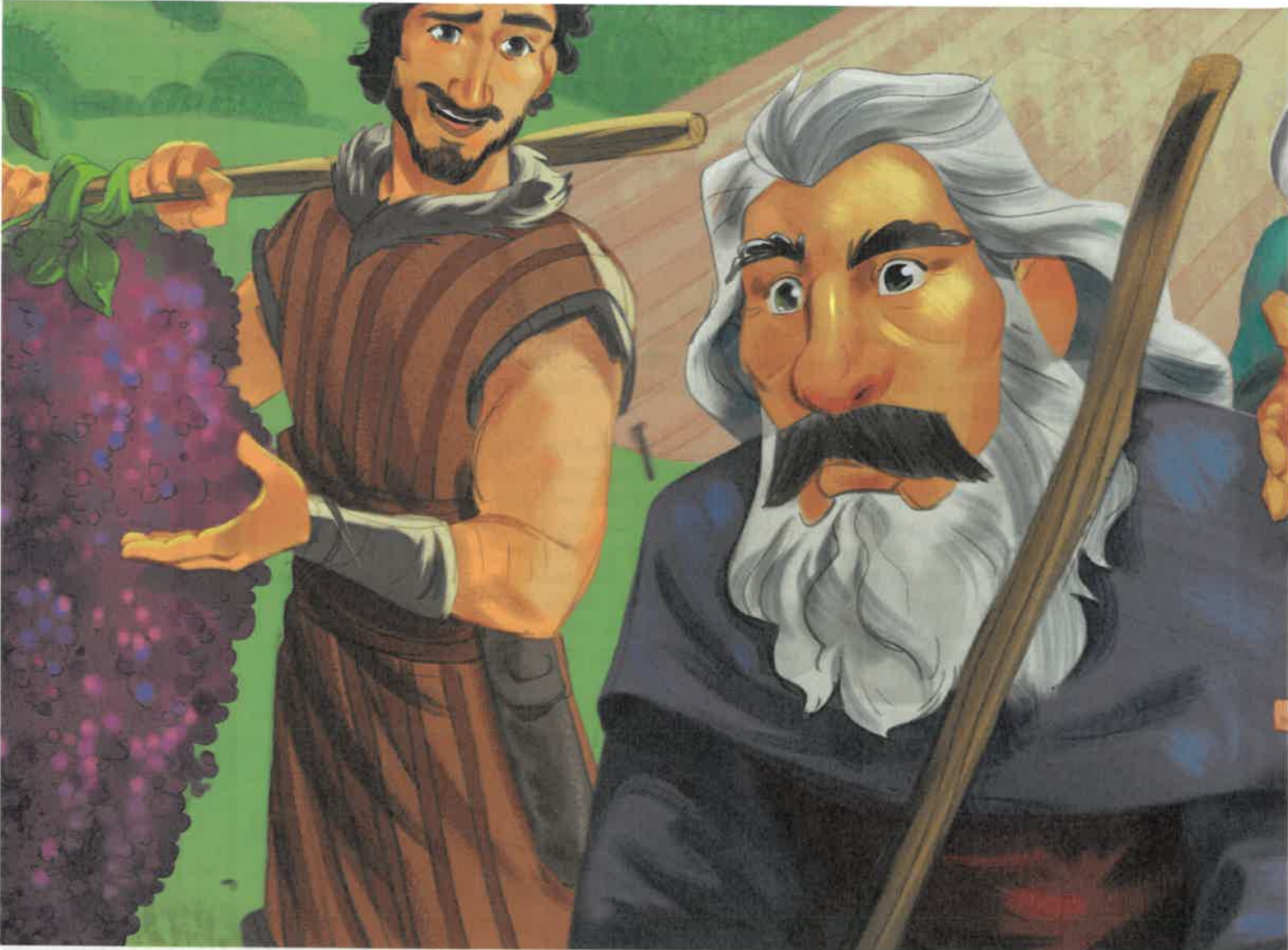


THE PEOPLE DOUBTED

NUMBERS 13-14



CHRIST CONNECTION: Joshua and Caleb believed God, and God let them go into the Promised Land. God wants us to believe Him and trust in His Son, Jesus. He will save us from our sins, and we will live with Him forever.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He loves us.

KEY PASSAGE: All things work together for the good of those who love God. Romans 8:28

STORY POINT: The people who did not believe God were not able to enter the Promised Land.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

Numbers 13 and 14 describe the culmination of the Israelites' dilemma of doubt. Though God continued to prove Himself faithful, the Israelites clung to their perception of certain death rather than the assurance of their God-given victory. They trusted in their own understanding rather than in God's covenantal promises.

What stopped God's people from entering the land of Canaan? How do our doubts keep us from worshipping God as He leads us through difficult circumstances?

For 40 days, the Israelite spies traveled and scouted out the Promised Land before returning with their report. Indeed, the land flowed with milk and honey—just as God promised. However, it was also brimming with strong men inside fortified city walls. The fearful Israelites lacked faith in God and in the leadership He provided.

Moses urged God to relent from His anger, reminding Him of His perfect character and how the Egyptians would try to defame Him. God pardoned them, yet swore these unbelievers would not witness the fulfillment of God's promises for themselves. Only Caleb, Joshua, and the next generation of Israelites would inherit the land. Upon hearing this, the people tried to circumvent God's plan by now going to battle on their own. This failed, of course, and many of the people were struck down by the Amalekites and Canaanites. Doubt and disobedience became the Israelites' downfall. Rather than experience rest in the land of Canaan, they were left to die in the wilderness.

Though Israel failed to believe God and trust His Word, God remained faithful to His people. Today, because of the finished work of Jesus, we can turn from unbelief and turn to Him as the object of our trust. Though we may not know what is next on our journey with Jesus, we can trust that eternal communion with the Father awaits us and that the gift of eternal life is available to all who abide by faith. Lead boys and girls to see the great mercy of God in allowing the next generation of His people to enter into His promises. May the children who learn this Bible passage recognize God's call to abide in His love through faith in His Son.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



LOVE

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

30–40 MINUTES



LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



BONUS

60–65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Scoop, sift, and measure

- Big Picture Question Poster
- large shallow bin
- sand
- sifters
- funnels
- measuring cups



LEARN

Tell the Bible story

- "The People Doubted" video (optional)

Review the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Move pom-poms

- empty egg cartons, 1 per group of 3 or 4
- tongs, 1 per group of 3 or 4
- pom-poms, 12 per group of 3 or 4

Eat a grape snack

- plates, 1 per child
- grape jam
- crackers
- raisins
- grape juice boxes
- plastic spoons, 1 per child
- napkins, 1 per child



LIVE

Paint with grapes

- art smocks
- paper plates, 1 per child
- purple fingerpaint
- white and green construction paper
- wet wipes

Missions activity

- "Windham Family Photo" printable

Snack and Transition

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- "What Does Not Belong?" activity page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards for Families



BONUS

Say the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker

Experiment with a paper tube

- poster board
- assorted classroom items
- painter's tape

Try on boots and a backpack

- empty backpack
- slip-on boots
- Bible Story Picture Poster



WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, Christ Connection, story point, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

SCOOP, SIFT, AND MEASURE

Place a large shallow bin of sand on a table just inside the classroom door. Lay the Big Picture Question and Answer Poster next to the bin along with measuring cups, sifters, and funnels. As the children arrive, get down on their level and ask them to tell you one thing that they had fun doing in the previous week. Direct the preschoolers to the bin of sand. Invite them to scoop, sift, and measure the sand using the provided items. As the children play, remind them to try to keep the sand in the bin. Periodically point to the Big Picture Question and Answer Poster and read it aloud.

SAY It's fun to play in the sand, isn't it? The sand reminds me a little bit of what it must have been like for God's people who were living in the wilderness. Show me just a little bit of sand in your hands. Now show me a lot of sand in your hands. Good job. Thank you for listening and obeying. It's important to obey, especially to obey God. Our big picture question asks, **Why should we obey God?** **We should obey God because He loves us.** Today, we are going to hear how some of God's people didn't trust God and they didn't believe that He would let them go into the Promised Land. Not trusting God is disobeying Him. God loves us, and we should obey Him and to trust what He says.



worship songs
* I've Got The Joy
* I will Trust You God

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TAKE A TRIP



Invite the children to go on a trip with you. Guide them to line up behind you. Lead the children several times around the classroom. If permitted, walk the children to different areas in your church. Show the preschoolers how to place their curled hands in front of their eyes like binoculars. Point out things for children to look at through their “binoculars.” End in the group time area where you invite children to sit and rest from their adventure.

SAY “ Thank you for traveling with me. What did you see? [Allow responses.] Today we are going to hear about 12 men whom Moses sent into the Promised Land and what they said when they came back from their trip. ”



2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY *video*

Open your Bible to Numbers 13–14. Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling points. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

THE PEOPLE DOUBTED

SAY “ God told Moses to send men into the land of Canaan. This was the land God promised to give His people. Moses chose 12 men and said, “Go see if the land is a good place to live and how many people live there.”

The men went into the land. When they came back, they were carrying big fruits like grapes and figs. The men said, “The land is amazing! But the people there are strong, and their cities are huge.”

One of the men, Caleb, said, “Let’s go take the land! We can do it!” But some of the other men said, “No, we can’t! They are too strong. We are like little bugs compared to them.” The people got scared and did not trust God’s promise.

Caleb and another man, Joshua, said, “The land is very good! God will help us. He is with us. Do not be afraid!”

God was not happy because the people did not trust Him. He said, “None of you will go into the land, except Caleb and Joshua. They believed Me.” ”

Christ Connection: Joshua and Caleb believed God, and God let them go into the Promised Land. God wants us to believe Him and trust in His Son, Jesus. He will save us from our sins, and we will live with Him forever.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Invite children to stand and spread out. Hold the Bible Story Picture Poster where all can see. Ask a question and invite children to raise their hands if they know the answer. Walk the picture to a child with a raised hand, give it to him, and prompt him to answer the question. Continue the pattern of asking a question, calling on a child, and leading the child holding the picture to walk it to another child who answers. Questions to ask: How many men were chosen to explore the land? (12) What fruit did the men bring back? (grapes and figs) Which two men said that God would help His people take the land? (Caleb and Joshua) Did the people get scared and not trust God? (yes) Was God happy that the people did not trust Him? (no) What was the punishment for not trusting God? (They would not enter the land.) Who are the only two men who would go into the Promised Land? (Caleb and Joshua)

SAY “ Moses chose 12 men to go into the land of Canaan. This land was called the Promised Land. When they came back, 10 of the men did not trust that God would let them take the land. But Joshua and Caleb believed God, and God let them go into the Promised Land. **THE PEOPLE WHO DID NOT BELIEVE GOD WERE NOT ABLE TO ENTER THE PROMISED LAND.** God wants us to believe Him and trust in His Son, Jesus. He will save us from our sins, and we will live with Him forever. ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “Are You Sleeping, Brother John?”:

All things work, all things work
 Together for the good, together for the good
 The good of those who love God, the good of those who love God
 Romans 8:28, Romans 8:28

* "we know" worship song

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

* Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Romans 8:28. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Say the phrase aloud. Invite children to march around the room while repeating the phrase.

SAY “ ‘All things work together for the good of those who love God. Romans 8:28.’ When we love God, we believe Him. Joshua and Caleb believed God, and God let them enter the Promised Land. ”

6 PRAY

Pray, asking God to help us trust and believe His Word.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 WHICH IS BIGGER?



Place a bin of blocks in front of you. Hold up two different-size blocks, one in each hand, for the children to see. Ask the question “Which block is bigger?” Invite children to answer by pointing to the hand holding the bigger block. Hold up two more blocks and ask the same question, guiding children to point to the hand holding the bigger block. Play several rounds. Then ask “Which is bigger?” about other items, such as car or a house; bumblebee or a bird, and so forth. End by asking, “Who is bigger, a person or God?”

SAY *“When the 12 men came back from exploring the land, some of them said that the people there were big and strong. This scared God’s people, and they did not trust God’s promise. Joshua and Caleb believed God, and God let them go into the Promised Land. **THE PEOPLE WHO DID NOT BELIEVE GOD WERE NOT ABLE TO ENTER THE PROMISED LAND.** God wants us to believe Him and trust in His Son, Jesus. He will save us from our sins, and we will live with Him forever.”*

2 MOVE POM-POMS

Place an egg carton on a table with pom-poms and tongs next to it. Place several stations for groups of 3 or 4 children around the room. Demonstrate how to use the tongs to grasp a pom-pom and move it to the egg carton. Prompt the children to take turns moving all the pom-poms into spots in the egg carton.

SAY *“Let’s count to 12 together. 1–2–3–4–5–6–7–8–9–10–11–12. Moses sent 12 men into the Promised Land to see if the land was a good place. Some of the men came back and said that the people who lived in the land were too big and too strong for God’s people to take the land. Only Joshua and Caleb believed God. **THE PEOPLE WHO DID NOT BELIEVE GOD WERE NOT ABLE TO ENTER THE PROMISED LAND.**”*

3 EAT A GRAPE SNACK



Post the Allergy Alert sign on the classroom door. Prepare a plate for each child with a juice box, two crackers, grape jam, a plastic spoon, a napkin, and some raisins. Invite children to be seated at a table. Say a prayer thanking God for the snack. Distribute the plates of food and prompt the children to spread the jam on crackers with their spoons. Then, guide children to eat as you review the Bible story together.

SAY *“When the 12 men came back from exploring the land of Canaan, they were carrying big fruits like grapes. They said that the land was amazing. Let’s enjoy a snack of grape things together. Caleb and Joshua told the people that God would help them take the land; however, the people did not trust God. **THE PEOPLE WHO DID NOT BELIEVE GOD WERE NOT ABLE TO ENTER THE PROMISED LAND.**”*

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 PAINT GRAPES

Prior to the session, write the key passage phrase on a piece of construction paper for each child. Glue a green stem cut from construction paper onto each paper. Squeeze purple fingerpaint onto plates. Help the child put on an art smock. Give each child a prepared piece of paper. Guide children to use their thumbs as grapes, dipping into the paint and onto the green stem on their papers. Set the papers aside to dry. Remove smocks and wipe hands with wet wipes.

SAY “ We learned that God’s people did not believe in His promise to work for their good. The men found that the Promised Land had good food and strong people living there. Some of the people doubted God and did not believe He would help them take the land. ”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY



Print and display a copy of the “Windham Family Photo” printable. Explain to preschoolers that missionaries train students, pastors, and church leaders in Africa to tell people in their country about Jesus. Show preschoolers how to move like the following African nature items and animals by following your lead: Stretch up high like a giraffe, swing your arms like an elephant trunk, run in place like a lion, sway like a tree, stand tall like a mountain, walk like missionaries going to tell people about Jesus.

SAY “ Missionary Randy Windham and his wife, Kimberly, have trained many Zambian people on how to start new churches and tell people about Jesus. Some of the new churches meet under a shade tree, others might use a room at a school, and some have their own buildings. All the leaders are taught to train the believers in their churches and help them know how to start new churches. [Lead a prayer.] ”

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ Connection.

SAY “ Joshua and Caleb believed God, and God let them go into the Promised Land. God wants us to believe Him and trust in His Son, Jesus. He will save us from our sins, and we will live with Him forever. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 EXPLORE THE LAND

Invite children to join you in the group time area. As children arrive, assign some to be explorers, one to be Moses, one to be Joshua, one to be Caleb, and then assign the rest of the children to be ordinary people. As you tell the story, invite each of the assigned children to act out their roles. For example, tell Moses to hold his hand over his eyes as he tells the explorers to “Go see the land.” Prompt explorers to walk around the room. Lead the people to act afraid. Guide Joshua and Caleb to stand and say, “We can do it!”

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Numbers 13–14. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story:

THE PEOPLE DOUBTED

- God told Moses to send men into the land of Canaan. Moses told 12 men, “Go see if the land is a good place to live and how many people live there.”
- The men went into the land. They came back and said, “The land is amazing! But the people are strong, and their cities are huge.”
- Some of the men were afraid to go into the land. They did not trust God’s promise. But Joshua and Caleb said, “We can do it! God will help us!”
- God was not happy that the people did not trust Him. He said, “None of you will go into the land, except Joshua and Caleb.”

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of “Are You Sleeping, Brother John?”:

All things work, all things work
Together for the good, together for the good
The good of those who love God, the good of those who love God
Romans 8:28, Romans 8:28

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Romans 8:28. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the marker aloud. Invite the children to clap the phrase with you on the beat of each syllable.

5 PRAY



Pray, asking God to help us trust Him and believe in His Son, Jesus.



BONUS Teaching Hour Activities



6 GO ON A SCAVENGER HUNT

Gather 10 common classroom items that you have multiples of such as crayon, marker, doll, block, beanbag, glue stick, and so forth. Say to the children that you are going to send them on a hunt to find items in the room and then to bring them to you. Show children an item. Guide them to look for it and bring it back. When all the children have found that item, set those items aside and show them another item. Continue playing the game as time allows.

SAY  What are some of the things you brought to me as you explored our classroom? [Allow responses.] We learned that Moses sent 12 men to see the land of Canaan. The men brought back a big cluster of grapes to show that the land was good. Some of the people doubted God would help them take the land. **THE PEOPLE WHO DID NOT BELIEVE GOD WERE NOT ABLE TO ENTER THE PROMISED LAND.** 



7 EXPERIMENT WITH A PAPER TUBE

Prior to the session, write the key passage phrase on a piece of paper and use painter's tape to adhere it to the wall. Roll a piece of poster board into a tube and use painter's tape to adhere the tube to the wall. Gather an assortment of classroom items: small balls, toy cars, crayons, markers, large pom-poms, toy food items, and so forth. Invite children to experiment with the items to see what will drop through the tube. As children drop items, say the key passage phrase together.

SAY  The key passage phrase reminds us that we need to love God and believe His promises. When we doubt God, like God's people in the wilderness did, there are consequences. The people who did not believe God were not able to enter the Promised Land. 

8 TRY ON BOOTS AND A BACKPACK

Display the Bible Story Picture Poster and place the backpack and the boots next to it. Invite a child to pretend to be an explorer, like the twelve men whom Moses sent into the land of Canaan. Help the child take off his shoes and put on the boots. Place the backpack on his back. Hold the child's hand so he won't trip, and encourage him to walk several steps in the boots. Then take off the backpack and boots, and put the child's own shoes back on his feet.

SAY  The men Moses sent into the land did not wear hiking boots or carry a backpack like this one. Putting on these items was just for fun. But the 12 men were told to go and see the land and the people living there, and then to tell what they saw. Some of the men said God's people couldn't take the land because the people there were too big and too strong. God was not happy the people did not trust Him. We can trust God. He is good, and He loves us. 

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church's security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.