

WEEK 1

The Promised Land of Canaan

The Story of Moses and the Twelve Spies

Week's Objective:

To know and understand how brave Joshua and Caleb were to speak up about God's promise to the Israelites. God wants us to be brave like them. When we are brave it shows God we trust Him even when we are scared. Let's remember that God wants us to **Be Brave!**

Prayer as you Prepare:

Father, even when I feel scared, I trust You. Help me to be brave so others can see how I trust You. Thank You that You are always with me, so I never have to be afraid. May I boldly speak out about You and Your love. Amen.

IN THE CLASSROOM...

COLORING PAGE: Picture of the twelve spies.

Hear It:

OBJECT LESSON: BAG OF MYSTERY

*Black bag and secret object (goo)

[LEADER SAY]: You see this bag? You cannot see what is inside of it. It could be candy or it could be a family of bugs. Would anyone like to feel what is inside this bag?

Now, have some students put their hand into the bag and feel what is inside.

[LEADER SAY]: It was probably scary not knowing what was inside the bag. You were very brave and trusted that what I had in this bag was not going to hurt you. Today, I want to share with you a Bible story about being brave. It is about a man named Moses who sent 12 spies into a foreign and scary place.

STORY SUPPORT: GIANT

*Giant and tape

Before telling the Bible story, tape the rolled up picture of the "Giant" on the wall. Then, have your students act like the 12 spies who were sent to Canaan. As they approach Canaan, unroll the "Giant." Throughout the Bible story, have your students look up at the "Giant" and remember how big and strong the Canaanites were.

Find It:

1. Where did God tell Moses to send the leaders from Israel's 12 tribes?
The land of Canaan
2. What did God tell Moses He planned to give the people of Israel?
The entire land of Canaan
3. What did Moses send the 12 leaders to do?
To spy on Canaan—see what the people were like and how good the soil was.
4. How long were the 12 leaders gone?
40 days
5. What did ten of the leaders tell Moses and the Israelites about the land of Canaan?
The people are giants and the city would be impossible to take over.
6. How did the people feel after they heard the bad report?
They were afraid and angry at Moses.
7. Why were the people angry at Moses?
Because they thought God would not protect them and they would get hurt.
8. Who were the two spies who gave a good report?
Joshua and Caleb
9. Why was God disappointed with the Israelites?
God was angry because they did not trust Him.
10. Even though God chose to forgive the people, what happened because they were afraid and didn't trust Him?
He made them wander in the desert for 40 years, never resting or finding a place to call home.

Say It:

Joshua 1:9a – "Be strong and brave. Do not be terrified."

See It:

The 12 spies had to be very sneaky when they went to Canaan. Can you find all 12 spies hiding on the road to Canaan?

Be It:

[LEADER SAY]: Our Bible story this week reminds us that God wants us to be brave. What does the word "brave" mean?

"Brave" means you show courage, knowing that you will be protected. We can trust God and act in faith. It does not mean we will have no fears at all. But, it does mean you can act in spite of your fears. When was a time that you had to be brave?

Remember that God wants us to be brave because it shows Him and others that we trust Him to protect us. Be brave because God is always with You. He will never leave you.

Show It:

Your hands show you becoming brave as they make fists of courage and strength.

ACTIVITY: SERIOUS SEARCH

Materials – Bundle of grapes, Tupperware, clue sheet and zone markers

[LEADER SAY]: Like we heard in our Bible story today, we want to send you out to scope the land and see if it is good. We are going to give you clues along the way to help you find three spots until we reach the final goal. Remember, like the spies, we have to stay very quiet and not wake up the giants! We also need to work as a team and stay together—if anyone runs away the game will be over and we will have to go back to our classroom. I am going to read the first clue and give you two places to choose where to go. Listen closely because the first clue will help you choose the correct place. Once we reach Canaan, there will be a "treasure" that we will bring back to our small group to show that the land was indeed good and fertile.

Tell your students the first clue and start walking to the location they choose. The answer will be on your page and you will have a map to help correct the path if things get a little off. Do not correct the students though. Let them be brave and find the right way to go! Each location will have a "Rest Stop" sign. Once you reach the first "Rest Stop" ask your students to sit down and read the next clue. The final location will have a bundle of grapes. Like the Israelites, your students will bring back the bundle of grapes to the classroom and get to eat them for snack.

NOTE:

- This game will be played outside for 10-15 minutes.
- Make sure there is no running; they should be tiptoeing in order to get to each location without being detected.

FOLLOW-UP:

Would you rather play hide-and-seek or freeze tag?