

Joshua and Caleb

Bible Passage: Numbers 13-14

Key Passage: ⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. **Proverbs 3:5-6**

Bottom Line: God's Word is always right and His commands are always for our best. We can trust and obey Him.

Big Picture Question: What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.

Christ Connection: *The Israelites rebelled against God because they did not trust Him. Jesus trusted God perfectly. He took the punishment we deserve for our sin, or rebellion against God. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us eternal life*

LEADERNOTES:

CONTEXT

Before God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt, He promised to bring the Israelites back to the land He had given to Abraham so many years before. (Ex. 3:8) From Egypt, the Israelites crossed the Red Sea and traveled toward Mount Sinai. When they were hungry and thirsty, God provided food and water. (See Ex. 16-17.) Israel spent one year at Mount Sinai, where Moses received God's law, including the Ten Commandments.

Time and again, the Israelites rebelled against God, Moses interceded, and God pardoned the people. When Israel arrived at the edge of the promised land, God instructed Moses to send scouts into the land. Moses sent out a leader from each tribe. Twelve men, including Joshua and Caleb, traveled through the promised land of Canaan for 40 days. They returned with fruit—grapes, pomegranates, and figs—and gave a report on the land.

The scouts described the land's abundance, as "flowing with milk and honey." They gave an account of the people, various tribes who were physically strong and whose cities were fortified. Caleb's immediate imperative—"Let's go up now!"—was met with resistance by most of the group. Assessing their own strength against the strength of the inhabitants, they concluded that to move forward would mean certain defeat.

The Israelites complained: "If only we had died in the land of Egypt, or if only we had died in this wilderness!" Joshua and Caleb tried to persuade the people of God's presence and protection, but the people would not trust God. So God gave them what they thought was better. He sent them into the wilderness to wander for 40 years.

TEACHING FOCUS (Numbers 13-14)

We learned about how God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt. He led them in the wilderness and taught them the right way to live to honor Him. When they were hungry, God provided them with food; and when they were thirsty, God gave them water. God dwelt with His people and taught them how to love Him and how to offer sacrifices when they sinned against Him. You would think the people would have gotten really good at trusting God's promises.

We will learn today that they continued to struggle with trusting God. Our story today is called "Joshua and Caleb."

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

The Gospel Project
Unit 7 Session 1- Edited by Parkway Church

- *No matter what God did to prove His faithfulness, the Israelites always seemed to turn away from Him or believe wrong things about Him.*
- *The enemies living in the promised land were powerful, and they had strong cities. That was all true. Even so, God is more powerful, and He has the ability to defeat any enemy. God gave Moses the help he needed because every needs help to love and follow God.*
- **BL:** *God's Word is always right and His commands are always for our best. We can trust and obey Him.*
- *Every time I choose sin instead of obedience, it shows I do not trust that God's commands are good for me. Even though God has never been unfaithful to me, I am unfaithful to Him. I sin even though I should trust Him and obey.*

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer the following activities to 3-, 4-, 5- year olds as they arrive.

Relay Stones

What you Need: 4 foam bowls, 2 plastic spoons, 24 "rocks"

What You Do:

- Form 2 teams.
- Line up teams at one end of the room.
- Place an empty bowl in front of each team.
- Place 2 bowls, each filled with 12 "Stones" at the other end of the room.
- Give the first child in each line a spoon.
- When you say go, direct her to walk to her team's bowl at the other end of the room, put a stone on her spoon, walk the stone on the spoon, back to her team's empty bowl, and drop it in.
- Then give the spoon to the next child in line.
- Guide preschoolers to continue until all 12 of their team's stones are in their bowl.
- The team that moves all their stones first wins.
- Encourage preschoolers to cheer on their team as they wait for their turn.
- If teams doesn't work best, you could just have one long line of kids.

What You Say:

"God used to stones to help His people remember Him and all that He did to get them to the promised land. We will spend the next weeks learning about this journey to the promised land. I pray that we all see God's power and learn to trust and obey Him more everyday.

Worship Time

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)

What You Say: "Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible today."

Story Time: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Bible Story

What You Need: Bible

What You Do: Place a bookmark at Numbers 13-14 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it.

What You Say: "Today's Bible story is from the Old Testament Book of Numbers. Numbers is the fourth book in the Bible. Let's say the first 4 books: "Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers." Moses sent some men to look at the land God was giving His people. Listen to hear what they discovered."

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Talk about the Bible Story:

"God's people reached the promised land. God told Moses to send 12 men to see what the land was like and if the people who lived there were strong. Twelve men went to look at the land. The land was very good, filled with pomegranates, figs, and grapes. But 10 of the men were afraid of the people who lived there, and they did not want to go in! Joshua and Caleb were not afraid. Caleb said, "God is with us! Do not be afraid!" The people would not listen. The people did not trust God to give them the land, so God made them walk in the wilderness for 40 years. Only Joshua, Caleb, and the Israelite children would go into the promised land.

Learn the Big Picture Question

What You Say: The Israelites chose not to go into the land God promised them. They disobeyed God and sinned against Him. **What does it mean to sin? To sin is to go against God and His commands."**

Practice the Memory Verse

Open your Bible to Proverbs 3:5-6. Read the memory verse aloud several times.

What You Say: "This verse reminds us that we should do what Joshua and Caleb did. They trusted God with all their heart. Even when the Israelites wanted to go back to Egypt, they knew God would be with them and help them.

Transition to small group.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

1. Outdoor Scavenger Hunt

What You Need: "Outdoor Checklist" (1 copy per kid), pencils, binoculars (optional)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a checklist and pencil.
- Take an outdoor walk.
- Suggest boys and girls look around outdoors and see what the land is like.
- Show kids how to check off an item from their list when they discover it.
- Allow kids to take turns looking through binoculars (optional)
- Talk about things you all see.

What You Say "Moses sent men into the land to see what it was like. When the men saw that there were strong people already living there, they were afraid. They wanted to go against what God wanted. They wanted to go back to Egypt. **What does it mean to sin? To sin is to go against God and His commands.** Because Joshua and Caleb trusted God and wanted to obey Him, God allowed them to line the land many years later."

2. Practice signing the Memory Verse

What you need: Memory Verse Poster

What You Do:

- Show the poster to the kids
 - As you say the words point to them on the poster
 - Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include "**Trust in the Lord** (ASL sign – like pulling a rope) **with all your heart** (point to heart) **and lean not on your own understanding** (point to head); **in all your ways submit to him** (ASL sign for all- draw a circle around your hand), **and he will make your paths straight** (hold hands up like making a road). **Proverbs 3:5-6**
- What You Say:** This verse reminds us that we should do what Joshua and Caleb did. They trusted God with all their heart. Even when the Israelites wanted to go back to Egypt, they knew God would be with them and help them.

Pray and Dismiss:

What You need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- Pray- " Father, thank you that we can trust You to keep Your promises. Thank you for leading us away from sin. Help us trust You more each day. Give us courage and wisdom to share the gospel with our friends and family. Amen

What You Say: Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Send home the binoculars kids made and tell families, we are talking about sin and that we can trust and obey God.