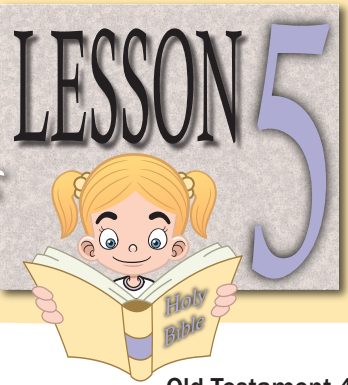


# Twelve Spies Sent into Canaan

Numbers 13 and 14



Old Testament 4  
Part 1: God's People in the Desert

## SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 4 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Numbers 13 and 14; Deuteronomy 1:19-46

### MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord" (Jeremiah 17:7).

OLDER CHILDREN: "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["The Twelve Spies in Canaan"](#)
- ["The Faithful Spies"](#)

### LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be scriptural.]
- [God's People and Joshua Bible fact cards](#) (provided under "O.T. 4 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- Apologetics Press' [Bible Timeline](#)
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Life of Moses, Journey through the Wilderness A Beka Flash-A-Card Series (DISCLAIMERS: use the cards, *not the lesson book*; Note on cards 6.3 and 6.5 that angels are not said to have wings in Scripture)
- [Map showing route of Israelites' travels through the wilderness](#) (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)
- Have broom handle or other pole on which you have hung bunches of plastic grapes. Also, if possible, have grapes, pomegranates, and figs for the children to eat.



## PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God can help me overcome problems and feelings (fear, uncertainty, etc.), if I trust Him and His great power.

## LESSON STARTS HERE

### INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Do you ever get scared? What about the first time you went to school, or spent the night away from home? What do you do when you get scared? Sometimes the Israelites were afraid because they forgot about the power of God and all He had done for them. Today we're going to talk about what happened when some of God's people were too afraid to obey Him.

### INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson.

After the Israelites left Egypt, God showed His great power to the Israelites over and over. In spite of all the incredible things they had seen God do for them, they were still sometimes afraid. And when they were afraid, they didn't trust Him. Today we're going to see what happened one of those times when God's people were too afraid to obey Him.

### POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. From Mount Sinai, the Israelites turned northward (to the Wilderness of Paran) and then came to Kadesh-barnea on the southern border of Canaan. Before they went into Canaan, they wanted to know more about the land. So Moses chose 12 men, one from each tribe, to go into the land and "spy out the land" (i.e., to investigate the land conditions).
2. The 12 men went across the plain (Negev) and into the hills of Canaan. The spies traveled throughout the land for 40 days. They saw a beautiful land with all kinds of food. They also learned something about the idol-worshipping people who lived there and how the cities were built.
3. When they returned to the Israelite camp, the spies brought a huge cluster of grapes on a pole—the largest fruit the Israelites had ever seen—as well as pomegranates and figs. The spies gave a good report about the food that was available and the beauty of the land itself. But 10 of the men said the people of Canaan were like giants, and their cities had walls that were too strong for the Israelites to conquer. The crowd listening to the spies' report became very upset and afraid.



**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See "[How Big Is a Giant?](#)" by Kyle Butt on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to the charge that the Bible is mythical for mentioning the existence of giants.

4. Finally, Caleb and Joshua quieted the people and told them to remember that God was on their side and that no people could stand against them as long as God was with them. The Israelites were not remembering the times that God had won battles for them, or miraculously provided them with the food and water they needed. They became overwhelmed with fear instead of

trusting God. They decided that Caleb and Joshua could not possibly be right; they believed the report of the other 10 spies instead.



**NOTE:** Notice how many times the spies used the word “saw” (see 2 Corinthians 4:18).

5. The people all began to complain again that God had brought them into the wilderness to die, and said they wished they were back in Egypt! They were ready to choose another leader to replace Moses and return to Egypt. When Joshua tried to persuade the people that they were acting foolishly, the crowd picked up stones to kill Caleb and him.
6. God was so angry with the people that He told Moses He was going to destroy them all. But Moses prayed and pleaded with God not to destroy them. God decided that He would punish them in another way. He told Moses to take the Israelites back out into the wilderness for 40 years—one year for every day the spies had been in Canaan—until all those who had complained and had no faith died. He said that only Caleb and Joshua would live to go into Canaan after those 40 years.
7. The 10 men who came back with the bad report died of a plague sent by the Lord. When the people heard Moses’ words of punishment, they became frightened and realized that they had rebelled against God. They decided that they **would** go into the land of Canaan and take it. But God was not with them. Moses told them not to try to take the land now, or they would be terribly defeated in battle. Again, the people refused to listen to Moses, and many were killed in a terrible battle with the Amalekites and Canaanites (Amorites).
8. Joshua and Caleb helped Moses as the Israelites moved from one place to another, shepherding their flocks in the wilderness. Although they had to wait 40 years, Joshua and Caleb were rewarded for their great faith in God. They were given special sections of land, and they made leaders of the people when they finally did go into Canaan.
9. Hebrews 11:1 says, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Joshua and Caleb could not see their reward, but they believed that God would keep all His promises, and they obeyed Him (Deuteronomy 1:29-32). God has promised to bless us and help us, too, if we trust Him and obey Him.

**PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):**

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

**Ages 2-5:**

- “[The Twelve Spies Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “Men of Little Faith” game: Write review questions about the 12 spies going into Canaan on cutouts of grape clusters. Put a real branch (or one made of brown paper) on the bulletin board and attach other cutouts of grape clusters on which you have written the answers to the review questions. Read each question to the children, and as they answer, let them attach the question cluster to the appropriate answer cluster. (For non-readers, use pictures representing the answers, i.e. a grasshopper, a giant, honey, etc.)
- Have magnifying glasses for the children to examine a few small objects. Then hide those objects in the room. Ask the children to pretend to be spies, and to look for the objects with their

magnifying glasses.

- Role play the story: Make signs with names of spies taped to paint stir sticks or rulers.

### 1st-2nd Graders:

- “Spying Out the Land” game: Cutout 24 magnifying glass shapes (or use Carson Delosa shaped notepad). On 12 magnifying glass shapes, write the questions and the biblical references where answers can be found. Write the answers on the other 12 magnifying glass shapes. (Magnifying glass [cutouts](#) provided in activity sheets) .
  1. How many men were sent out from each tribe? (1) [Numbers 13:2]
  2. How many spies were there in all? (12) [Numbers 13:4-15]
  3. What was the name of the land they were to check out? (Land of Canaan) [Numbers 13:17]
  4. What were they to find out about the people? (If they were weak or strong, and if they were few or many) [Numbers 13:18]
  5. What were they to find out about the land? (If it was good or bad, rich or poor, and if there was wood or not) [Numbers 13:19-20]
  6. What were they to find out about the cities? (If they were camps or strongholds) [Numbers 13:19]
  7. What were they to bring back to show the people? (Some of the fruit of the land) [Numbers 13:20]
  8. What fruit did the spies bring back? (Pomegranates, figs, and a single cluster of grapes) [Numbers 13:23]
  9. How many days passed before the spies returned from spying out the land? (40) [Numbers 13:25]
  10. How many spies gave a bad report of the land? (10) [Numbers 14:6]
  11. Which spies gave a good report? (Joshua and Caleb) [Numbers 14:6]
  12. How did God punish the people for their lack of faith? (He said the Israelites would not enter Canaan for 40 years. They would wander/move around for 40 years.) [Numbers 14:26-38]
- [“The Twelve Spies Word Scramble”](#) activity (provided in activity sheets): Scramble the names of the 12 spies on the board or on worksheets. (Give the students Scripture references to look up the names of spies if they need help unscrambling them.) Let the students work in pairs or small groups and race to unscramble the names.
- [“The Twelve Spies Matching Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [“The Twelve Spies Word Search”](#) (provided in activity sheets)

### 3rd-4th Graders:

- “Spying Out the Land” game: Cutout 24 magnifying glass shapes (or use Carson Delosa shaped notepad). On 12 magnifying glass shapes, write the questions and the biblical references where answers can be found. Write the answers on the other 12 magnifying glass shapes. (Magnifying glass [cutouts](#) provided in activity sheets)
  1. How many men were sent out from each tribe? (1) [Numbers 13:2]
  2. How many spies were there in all? (12) [Numbers 13:4-15]

3. What was the name of the land they were to check out? (Land of Canaan) [Numbers 13:17]
  4. What were they to find out about the people? (If they were weak or strong, and if they were few or many) [Numbers 13:18]
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- “[The Twelve Spies Word Scramble](#)” activity (provided in activity sheets): Scramble the names of the 12 spies on the board or on worksheets. (Give the students Scripture references to look up the names of spies if they need help unscrambling them.) Let the students work in pairs or small groups and race to unscramble the names.
  - “[The Twelve Spies Matching Activity](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
  - “[The Twelve Spies Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
  - Have the children read the following:
    - Numbers chapters 13 and 14
    - Deuteronomy chapter 1
    - *Discovery* article: [October, 2003 \(“Grumbling, Mumbling, Gripping, and Complaining”\)](#)

## SONGS:

### “THE TWELVE SPIES IN CANAAN”

Author: Jewel Kendrick

(Tune: “Over the River and Through the Woods”)

(Words: See *Sing a Story: Volume I*, by Jewel Kendrick)

### “THE FAITHFUL SPIES”

Author: Jewel Kendrick

(Tune: “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”)

(Words: See *Sing a Story: Volume I*, by Jewel Kendrick)

**\*\*\* IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE  
“SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE  
CURRICULUM WEB SITE.**





# Twelve Spies Sent into Canaan

## Numbers 13 and 14



Old Testament 4  
Part 1: God's People in the Desert

## WEDNESDAY EVENING

Old Testament 4 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Numbers 13 and 14; Deuteronomy 1:19-46

### MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord" (Jeremiah 17:7).

OLDER CHILDREN: "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

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- [Map showing route of Israelites' travels through the wilderness](#) (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)



- **Have broom handle or other pole on which you have hung bunches of plastic grapes. Also, if possible, have grapes, pomegranates, and figs for the children to eat.**

### PERSONAL APPLICATION:

- God can help me overcome problems and feelings (fear, uncertainty, etc.), if I trust Him and His great power.

### INTRODUCTION:

Review [O.T. 4 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under “O.T. 4 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

### POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson (see [O.T. 4 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
2. Continue to review books of Bible

### PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning’s lesson.

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