



3rd—6th Grade

Date: _____
Series: **The Story**
Lesson 6

Trust the Rescuer for Victory

Take Home Point: *Be a winner! Trust God for victory.

Bible Event: Numbers 13 and 14. The 12 Spies

Key Verse: John 16:33, “In the world you’ll have trouble. But cheer up! I have overcome the world.”

We will help kids know:

- Ten of the 12 spies did not trust God for victory and only reported how strong the enemy seemed.
- Caleb and Joshua could see how God would give them the victory to capture the promised land.
- Even when the people were frightened and complained against God, he did not destroy them. He forgave them. The consequence of their sin, however, meant they could not occupy the promised land for 40 years.

We will help kids feel:

- Confident when they face their own bullies or feel like a loser.
- Secure in going to the Lord for forgiveness and new strength.

We will help kids do:

- Identify those bullies in life that push them around, making them feel like losers.
- Call upon Jesus who gives us power to do all things, even giving us a victory as our rescuer.

The Story: Kingdom Quest Lesson 6 - 1

Lesson: The 12 Spies



Dramatic Presentation: "The 12 Spies"—The Bible event from Numbers 13 and 14 is done with audience participation.

The 12 Spies

Dramatic Presentation

Presenter: When the Israelites came to the border of a very beautiful country that was promised to them from God, he told them to send 12 men into the land of Canaan to spy it out.

Moses chose a leader from each of the tribes of Israel. He told them, "Go into the promised land and spy it out. See what kind of people live there. Are there many of them or few? Do they live in strong cities or towns? What are the crops like? Is it rich with fruit? Bring back some fruit from the land. The grapes should almost be ripe. Go with courage and bring us back a report."

For 40 days the spies went throughout the land called the promised land. When the spies returned, they were carrying a huge cluster of grapes on a pole and fruit from the land. They said it was a wonderful land filled with great fruit and lots of good things to eat. They said it was beautiful and a wonderful place to live. In such a land they would not be hungry for meat or fruits or vegetables. Never before had the people seen such wonderful food.

But then they gave the rest of their report. They talked about how there were great cities. They had tall walls that no one could get over.

Spy #1: There are giants living in the land. We could never beat them.

Spy #2: And the giants have big spears and sharp swords. We could never beat them.

Spy #3: And the giants are ugly with big noses and sharp teeth and bad breath.

Spy #4: And there are giants with big feet that would stomp on us and smash us like grasshoppers.

Spy #5: And the giants live in big cities with ugly children and mean dogs. We could never beat them

- Spy #6:** And these giants are so mean that their shadows are afraid of them."
- Spy #7:** And these giant, mean people especially hate small, puny people like us."
- Spy #8:** These mean, ugly giants are gross. They don't even wipe their noses.
- Spy #9:** These mean, ugly giants sit on small people like us just for fun.
- Spy #10:** There's no way we could beat such mean, ugly giant people."

And then...

- Spy #11:** Let's go at once and take the land for we can do it."
- Spy #12:** We can do it. They have lost their strength because we have the Lord with us.
- Presenter:** What do you think the children of Israel will do? Do you think they will go in and capture the land? No, because they were too scared by how fierce the enemy seemed and not how mighty the Lord would be for them.

When Moses and Aaron heard the people complain and beg to go back to Egypt, they fell on their faces and begged the people to obey God. How could they possibly doubt God who had great power and had been their rescuer all along? He was the one who rescued them from Egypt and brought them through the Red Sea. He was the rescuer who fed them manna and quail. He was the rescuer who protected them from their enemies. But the people would not listen. Instead, they wanted to kill the two faithful spies, Caleb and Joshua.

Just as they picked up stones to throw at Caleb and Joshua, they saw the glory of the Lord come down upon the tabernacle. He came in a most wonderful and terrible cloud. Moses went into the tabernacle and the Lord spoke to him. The Lord was angry at the people of Israel and thought he could not put up with them any longer.

But Moses prayed earnestly for his people, and he reminded the Lord, "If you were to destroy these people now, what would the Egyptians say? They would say you were not able to take them to Canaan."

God heard this prayer and forgave the Israelites. However, God refused to let them change their minds and go into the promised land. He told them they must wander the desert for 40 years. Following that time, the only ones allowed to enter the promised land

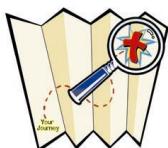
would be Joshua and Caleb because they were faithful, and those younger than 20.

Think of the blessings the Israelites missed because they didn't trust God. All they could see was the size of their enemies. That made them feel like losers. They were afraid and didn't trust God. Caleb and Joshua knew there were strong enemies in the land, but they knew God was much stronger.

God is much stronger than all our enemies. He sent His Son, Jesus who gave his life for us, he won the victory over the power of sin and the devil. When we face problems, we need to trust Jesus.

If Jesus gave his life for our forgiveness, won't he also be with us to help with whatever we need? Jesus is leading us to our promised land, in heaven, where we will be able to live with him forever. Not even death can keep us from that.

Application:



Purpose: Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives.

Read the **questions** in bold – the answers are italicized.

Use your Bibles! Children look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Numbers 13 & 14 in their Bibles.

Read Numbers 13:17-20. What was the 12 spies' mission? (They were to check out the land.)

How many spies gave a bad report? (Ten.)

According to Numbers 13:27-32, What were they afraid of? The people were too strong and too big.)

Look at Numbers 14:6. What were the names of the two spies who gave a good report? (Caleb and Joshua.)

Read Numbers 14:7-9. Why were Caleb and Joshua confident that the people could take the land? (They believed the Lord was with them and he was more powerful and strong than the Canaanites.)

In Numbers 14:1-4, How did the people rebel against God? (They

(whined and complained about God and would not follow Joshua and Caleb.)

What did Moses do when God was angry and thought about destroying them all? Reference Numbers 14:17-20. (*He prayed for the people.*)

In Numbers 14:26-35, we see the punishment for Israel. What was it? (*They would not get to see the Promised Land and they would die in the desert.*)

How many days were the spies gone? (Numbers 13:25) (*Forty days.*)

How many years would the people have to wander in the desert? (*Forty years.*)

Look at Numbers 14:29-31. Who would be allowed to enter the promised land? (*Joshua and Caleb and those younger than 20 years of age.*)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

What do you think was the worst mistake the people of Israel made?

Why do you think Caleb and Joshua thought the people of Israel could take the land? (*They had seen and remembered the wonderful miracles God had done for his people in the past. They had faith that God would take care of them.*)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Have the children think about something that is scary for them. Examples might be failed attempts in school or sports, family problems, sickness, worries, or trauma.

These are like giants that keep us from living in the promised land. God has a promised land for all of us in our hearts. It's a promised land filled with his joy and love.

Lesson Activity - optional

After kids have thought about some of the giants that keep them from living in a promised land, have them draw or write this giant on a balloon. To do this, have them blow up his balloon and you can hold the nozzle so the air can't get out. Then they can write or draw one or more of these giants with permanent marker on the balloon.

After they have written on their balloons, have them let the air out of their balloons while still holding on to them. Say:

See how small the writing has become. Maybe there is a way those things that push us around can become not so scary.

Jesus said he has won for us a promised land. He said in John 16:33, “*In the world you'll have trouble. But cheer up! I have overcome the world.*”

Jesus beat our enemies...sin, death, and the power of the devil when he came and gave his life on the cross. When we believe that, even though there are big things that bully us around, we can think about Jesus. He tells us to trust him for a victory. He can take those problems and make them small like a balloon losing its air.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for helping us be a winner, even when we sometimes feel like a loser. We trust that you will be with us since you gave your own Son for us. Help us be like the two spies, Caleb and Joshua, who trusted you even though they faced giants. In Jesus' name, Amen.