

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 4 • Unit 6 • Week 1

JOSHUA AND CALEB SPY ON CANAAN

OBJECTIVE:

To show the courage and trust in God we should have in trials, we looked at the story of Joshua and Caleb spying out the land of Canaan.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Have "spy training" to sharpen observation skills.

Supplies: Grapes
Milk
Small container of honey
Figs or Fig Newtons
Basketball
Plastic grasshoppers
Stones

Do: Lay out all of your props. Choose one student "spy" to take something while the other student spies cover their eyes. Then have the spies try to guess what has been taken. Take turns.

BIBLE LESSON:

Do: Tell with enthusiasm and emphasis the story told in Numbers 13 and 14. If the children begin to drift, throw in a question.

Say: "Spies needed for under cover work. Please put your applications in with Moses." After traveling across the wilderness, the Lord commanded Moses to check out the land of Canaan. Pretend you're one of those chosen to be spies. Your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to learn all you can about the land of Canaan. You'll need to check out the lay

of the land: Is it good and rich or poor land? Are there good crops and trees and vineyards? You'll also spy on the people. Are they weak or strong? Will they put up a fight? And the towns—are they walled and fortress-like or vulnerable and open, like camps?

As spies, you will see with your own eyes what the Lord will give to you. Moses chose 12 men—one leader from each tribe. Joshua represented Ephraim—the half-tribe of Joseph. Caleb was the man chosen from the tribe of Judah. The spies explored and spied for 40 days. They cut a bunch of grapes so large they had to carry it on a stick supported by two men.

Do: Show a bunch of grapes held up on a new pencil.

Say: And then the spies returned with their report. The good news: It is a land of milk and honey. Here is its fruit.

Do: Show a tiny pitcher of milk and a tiny jar of honey. Show the bunch of grapes and figs or Fig Newtons.

Say: The bad news: The people are strong. The cities are large, walled and well-fortified. We saw giants! We felt like grasshoppers when we looked at them.

Do: Compare the size of these giants to basketball players. Use the basketball and plastic grasshopper as props.

Say: Caleb speaks. He is a man of courage who has caught the vision. He is a "can do" kind of man. "Let's go," he says, "and walk into the land God intends to give us!"

But the other 10 spies whine: "Giants! Oh, no! Grasshoppers! We are like grasshoppers!"

The crowd responds, "We don't want to hear! We are all going to die! Waaaah!" And they cried all night, "Boohoo, let's go back to Egypt."

Joshua and Caleb stand up to the crowd and remind everyone of God's involvement. These men were heroes, men of courage who trust in God. "It's a wonderful land," they say, "a land of milk and honey, figs and grapes. The Lord is with us. He intends to give this land to us. The giants' protection is removed, the Lord is with us. Do not rebel. Let's go!"

But instead of becoming excited and confident, the crowd wants to stone them!

Do: Hold up a rock or two.

Say: God is fed up with the Israelites. It's time to abandon them. Just let them die. God will make a new nation, a greater nation of the faithful, and their children will be as numerous as the stars.

Moses pleads with God. "The surrounding peoples saw the pillar of fire and the cloud. These pagan people will say that You, God, could not bring them to the new land you promised them, so You killed them. Please forgive these people!"

God forgives the people because Moses asked God to do so. God forgives the people (even though the people aren't asking for forgiveness).

He gives them a 40-year penalty (one year for each day the spies spied). They will spend 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, waiting.

It is a death sentence! All the adults (those over age 21) will die during the 40 years of wandering before entering the Promised Land—all except for Caleb and Joshua. Their children and grandchildren will walk into the Promised Land.

It's also a death sentence for the 10 leaders who focused on the bad report and led the people to murmur against God's plan. They resisted God's purposes and rebelled, and because of that, they will die of the plague (Exodus 14:37).

But Caleb and Joshua, bold and with noble and heroic spirit, have followed God fully. God showed each the way to take and they were willing to boldly go where other men were afraid to go. Now God promises that each shall enter the Promised Land. And sure enough, 40 years later Joshua and Caleb see the walls of Jericho fall.

Ask: What made these men heroes? How were they different from the others? Where did those who trust in God find their courage? Where did they get their strength?

Say: We need time alone with God to pray, to think and to study His Word and His ways.

Let's look up and read the following scriptures:

Deuteronomy 31:7 "Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, 'Be strong and of good courage, for you must go with this people to the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it.'"

Joshua 1:7-9 "Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Ask: If they had a motto, what do you think it would be?

LESSON APPLICATION:

Have the children draw 12 stick men (or whatever type of men they can draw within the time allotted). Then ask them to put the names, "Joshua" and "Caleb" under two of the men. Have them put the title "lacks faith and courage" under each of the others. Then ask them to place a large "X" across those who have the title "lacks faith and courage" under them.

Music:

Sing the following song:

"Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho"

Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho.
Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, and the walls came a tumbling down.

You may talk about your men of Gideon,
You may talk about your mighty men of Saul,
But there's none like good old Joshua,
At the battle of Jericho.

Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho.
Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, and the walls came a tumbling down.

Up to the walls of Jericho,
He marched with spear in hand.
Go blow those rams' horns, Joshua cried,
For the battle is in my hand.

Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho.
Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, and the walls came a tumbling down.

Then the lamb- ram- sheep horns began to blow,
And the trumpets began to sound.
Joshua commanded the children to shout,
And the walls came a tumbling down.

Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho.
Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, and the walls came a tumbling down.

MEMORY VERSE:

Joshua 1:9 "Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

family activity

THE POINT:

Show your courage under trials. Trust in God like Joshua and Caleb.

ASK ME...

Who were Joshua and Caleb?

How does it take courage to follow God?

How does following God give a person courage?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Decorate your Sabbath table with milk and honey, grapes and abundance to symbolize the richness of the Promised Land.

Take a walk or a country drive and admire the beauty of the earth and the abundance of our land. The pioneers who came to the United States thought of this land as the "Promised Land."

Fill in the blanks:

Joshua 1:7-9 "Only be _____ and very courageous, that you may observe to _____ to all the _____ which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may _____ wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it _____ and night, that you may _____ to do according to _____ that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good _____. Have I not commanded you? Be _____ and of good _____; do not be _____, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with _____ wherever _____ go."

Deuteronomy 31:7 "Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be _____ and of _____ courage, for you must go with this _____ to the _____ which the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it."

MEMORY VERSE:

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