

March 29, 2020 PreK

Bible Passage: Joshua and Caleb / Numbers 13-14

Story Point: Joshua and Caleb trusted God.

Key Passage/Memory Verse: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.” Proverbs 3:5 ESV

Big Picture Question: What does it mean to sin? To sin is to go against God and His commands.

Christ Connection: *The Israelites turned away from God because they did not trust Him. Jesus always trusted God. He took the punishment we deserve for turning away from God. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us life with Him forever.*

*** BIBLE STUDY TIPS FOR PARENTS:**

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. They would die there. Only Joshua, Caleb, and the Israelites’ children would enter the promised land.

Help your preschooler contemplate the punishment Israel faced for their failure to trust God and their rebellion. Point out that, as sinners, we have all disobeyed God. But Jesus trusted God perfectly and took the punishment for our rebellion. When we look to Him for salvation, we have forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.

*** BIBLE STORY:**

Turn to Numbers in your Bible

Say • Today's Bible story is from the Old Testament Book of Numbers. Numbers is the fourth book in the Bible. Let's say: 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.

Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips, or both! You can use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Joshua and Caleb

Numbers 13-14

God's people had traveled out of Egypt and **were almost to the promised land. God told Moses, "Send men to go look at the land of Canaan (KAY nuhn). I am giving this land to My people."** So **Moses sent out one leader from each family tribe. Two of the men who went were named Joshua and Caleb.**

Moses told the men, "See what the land is like and what the people who live there are like." Moses had a lot of questions: Is the land good or bad? Are the cities like camps or forts? Is the land good for farming? Are there trees in it?

Moses told the men, "Have courage!"

So the men went and looked at the land. They traveled around the land for 40 days. They cut down a bunch of grapes in the valley. The grapes were so big the bunch had to be carried on a pole. **They brought different kinds of fruit back to Moses, Aaron, and the Israelite people.**

"The land is very nice," they said, "but the people living in the land are strong. The cities they live in are big and protected."

Caleb said, "We must go up and make the land ours! We can do it with God's help!" But other men said, "We cannot go up against those people! We looked like grasshoppers compared to them!"

All of the Israelites started to cry. "Let's pick a new leader and go back to Egypt!" they said.

Joshua and Caleb said to the Israelites, "If the Lord is pleased with us, He will give it to us. Don't be afraid of the people living in the land; God is with us!"

God spoke to Moses: “How long will these people dislike Me? How long will they not trust Me?” Moses said, “Please forgive their sin. I know You are patient, loving, and forgiving.”

God said, “Since you have asked, I will forgive them. But no one who complained against Me will get to see the promised land.” God said the Israelites would wander in the wilderness and would not enter the promised land. **Only Joshua, Caleb, and the children of Israel would one day enter the land.**

Christ Connection: *The Israelites turned away from God because they did not trust Him. Jesus always trusted God. He took the punishment we deserve for turning away from God. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us life with Him forever.*

SAY • Even though **Joshua and Caleb trusted God** would help them take the land, the other Israelites were afraid. They did not trust God. Jesus always trusted God, and He took the punishment we deserve for disobeying Him. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin.

KEY PASSAGE

Key Passage: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.” Proverbs 3:5 ESV

MOVEMENTS:

Trust in: arms crossed over chest

The Lord: point up

With all your heart: make a heart with hands

And do not lean: start with hands crossed in the middle and then push out

On your own understanding: point to head with both fingers

Proverbs 3:5: Open and close book with hands

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.

*** PRAYER**

God, you always keep Your promises. You love us and take care of us. You sent Your own Son to take the punishment we deserve for sin. Help us to trust in Jesus. Amen.

*** ACTIVITIES::**

WHAT COLOR IS THE FRUIT?

Place sheets of each of red, orange, green, yellow, blue and purple paper on the floor, with enough space between sheets. Call out the name of a fruit, and suggest kids move to the paper that represents the fruit's color.

Say: "The Bible says the men brought many kinds of fruit back to Moses, and the bunch of grapes they brought was so big they had to carry it on a pole. Joshua and Caleb trusted God and were ready to move into the land, but the rest were not. Jesus always trusted God. He took the punishment we deserve for turning away from God. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and give us life with Him forever."

***EXPLORE 40**

Gather various items such as cotton balls, pennies, blocks, rocks, buttons, straws, and so forth. Count and explore 40 things. Sort into 4 groups of 10, make designs with 40 things, or write the number 40 with crayons or markers.

Say: "Moses told 12 men to go into the land God promised to give His people to see what it was like. So the men went and looked at the land. They traveled around the land for 40 days. They discovered the land was just as nice as God said it was."

I SPY OUTSIDE-INSIDE

Hide some nature items (from outside) around a room. Play a simple "I SPY" game. Announce an item for them to find or just ask them to use their "looking eyes" to find things that are not usually in the room. Mention that God made everything in nature.

Say: "God created beautiful trees, green grass, and tasty fruits. God wants us to enjoy the beauty of the earth and the tasty food He made. Two men named Joshua and Caleb went to a beautiful land God provided for His people. They trusted God."

BIBLE VERSE and SONG

Open up your Bible to **Proverbs 3:5**. Let your child help open the Bible and try to read along with you. Then sing this week's song (which can be found in the resources sent out on Fridays) "**TRUST IN THE LORD.**"

Say: "Who helps you and keeps you safe? God wants us to trust Him. He helps us and keeps us safe. Joshua and Caleb trusted God by doing what God wanted them to do. They believed that God would keep His promise to give the Israelites the land."

BUILD A BIG CITY

Use a piece of masking or painters tape to create a line on a wall. Have kids build tall buildings by stacking blocks or Legos to reach the tape.

Say: “The men found that the cities in the promised land were big and protected. Joshua and Caleb trusted God to give them the land, but the people turned away from God because they did not trust Him. Jesus always trusted God. He took the punishment we deserve for turning away from God. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us life with Him forever.

MOVE THE GRAPES

Fill a bowl or cup with grapes (if you have them). Use a second empty cup or bowl. Using a spoon, have kids gently move the grapes from the full bowl to the empty one. You can count as you go. Then they can eat their “snack”.

Say: “What kind of fruit do you like best? 12 men went to look at the promised land. The land was good and filled with fruit. Joshua and Caleb trusted God to give His people the land.