

Moses Sends Spies Into the Promised Land

Numbers 13:1–14:23

First- and second-graders are, by nature, self-centered. The children in your group want to be first at all times, so it might seem foreign to them to think about being brave for God and standing up for him. Use this lesson to help children see that they are very important to God and that God wants them to be brave for him.



► Bible Point

Be brave for God.

Key Verse

“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will be brave for God.

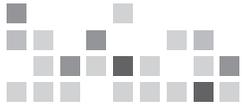
LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p>Loyal Following <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play Follow the Leader, and talk about standing up for God.</p>		
<p>2</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p>Canaan Treasures <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Hear about how Moses sent spies into Canaan, and go on a hunt to find treasures in a new land.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player, scissors, paper, pencils Teacher Pack: CD, “Canaan Treasures” cards</p> 	<p>Cut apart the pictures on the “Canaan Treasures” cards. Hide the pictures in another area of the church where they’ll be undisturbed until kids find them.</p>
	<p>The Final Report <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Hear what the spies reported from their trip to Canaan, and play a game while hearing the Israelites’ reaction to the spies’ report.</p>	<p>CD player, marker, paper, tape Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Use a bold marker to write “Yes!” on one sheet of paper and “No!” on another sheet of paper. Hang the “Yes!” sign on one wall in your meeting area and the “No!” sign on another wall.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Standing Up <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and practice standing up for God in different situations.	Bible, My Bible Fun	Tear out the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun, pens	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



1 GETTING STARTED

Loyal Following

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together.

Then tell children they're going to play Follow the Leader. Say: **I'll be the leader the first time, and then we'll switch so each person has a chance to be the leader.**

Lead children in playing Follow the Leader. If possible, go outside or to other areas in the building. As you lead, have kids go through a series of silly moves, such as jumping jacks, and more challenging maneuvers, such as crawling under chairs.

After a few minutes, appoint a child to be the leader. Continue to switch leaders every few minutes until everyone has had a chance to be the leader.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to follow each other in this game?
- Why does following someone sometimes require us to be brave?
- What do you think it means to be brave for God?

Say: **Sometimes when we're following someone, we have to be brave. We have to be brave when we're asked to do something we're not used to doing, and we have to be brave by standing up for that person when others aren't. This week we'll learn how God's people were brave when he told them to do something risky. And we'll learn that we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD, too.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Canaan Treasures

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Numbers 13, and show kids the passage. Say: **In the Bible today, we'll learn how God asked his people, the Israelites, to be brave for him.**

Canaan Treasures Supplies

Bible
CD player
scissors
paper
pencils

Teacher Pack

CD: "Canaan Spies,
Part 1" (track 10)
"Canaan Treasures"
cards

Canaan Treasures Easy Prep

Cut apart the pictures on the "Canaan Treasures" cards. Hide the pictures in another area of the church where they'll be undisturbed until kids find them.

Distribute pencils and paper, and say: **First let's hear what happened. As you listen, jot down one or two things that the spies were supposed to look for.** (If children can't write, encourage them to instead draw quick pictures that can serve as a reminder.)

Play "Canaan Spies, Part 1" (track 10 on the CD). Pause the CD when directed to do so, and ask kids to explain what they'd be most interested in spying on of the four things mentioned.

Continue playing the track. When the track is over, stop the CD and have kids explain what part of Canaan they'd be most excited about, based on what the spies said they found.

Say: **Now that we've heard about the spies in the Bible, let's pretend to be spies and search for some hidden treasures, kind of like the spies did.** Lead kids to the area where you hid the "Canaan Treasures" cards.

Say: **As you pretend to be spies, look for the Canaan treasures. You'll find them on little picture cards that show grapes, a grassy land with trees, a strong man, or a building. Once you've found one, bring it to me.** Encourage kids to find more than one if you have fewer than 20 children. When all the treasures are found, lead kids back to your meeting area.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to find the Canaan treasures you heard about?
- Tell about a promise someone made to you that came true.
- How were you brave as you waited for that promise to come true?
- Why would you want to be brave for God?

Say: **The spies were excited about the fruit and the land they found in Canaan. But there were some other things about the Promised Land that they weren't so excited about—the people living there at the time. Sometimes as we do what God asks of us while we wait for his promises, we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD, too.**

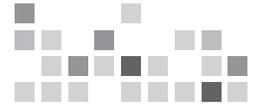
The Final Report

What You'll Do

Say: **We heard about the brave spies and some of what they found, but we didn't hear much about the scary things in Canaan. Let's listen to their report now. As you listen, think about what sounds scariest to you.**

Play "Canaan Spies, Part 2" (track 11 on the CD). Then let kids share what they thought sounded scariest about Canaan.

Say: **Let's play a game to help us think about what the Israelites may have been going through.** Have children stand in the center of the room. Point out the "No!" and "Yes!" signs hanging in your meeting area.



The Final Report Supplies

CD player
marker
paper
tape

Teacher Pack

CD: "Canaan Spies, Part 2" (track 11)

The Final Report Easy Prep

Use a bold marker to write "Yes!" on one sheet of paper and "No!" on another sheet of paper. Hang the "Yes!" sign on one wall in your meeting area and the "No!" sign on another wall.



Say: I'll describe some people arguing. When you hear me say "yes," run to that side of the room (point to the "Yes!" sign) and stand under the "Yes!" sign. When you hear me say "no," run to that side of the room (point to the "No!" sign) and stand under the "No!" sign. Any questions? Check for understanding.

Say: After the spies told what they'd seen, the people still wondered whether they should move into Canaan. Caleb, one of the spies, said, "Yes! (Pause as kids run to the "Yes!" sign.) Let's move into Canaan. We can do it." Joshua, one of the other spies, agreed with him.

But all the other spies said, "No! (Pause as kids run to the "No!" sign.) No way. We can't attack those people. They're bigger and stronger than we are!"

So all the people became afraid and started to whine and complain. "God brought us all the way to this land, and now we're going to die," they cried. "Maybe we should just go back to Egypt. There we would be safe."

But Moses and Aaron and Caleb and Joshua said, "Yes! (Pause as kids run to the "Yes!" sign.) We can go into Canaan. We don't have to be afraid of those people. We need to be brave for God. God brought us to this land, and he wants us to have it. He's stronger than those people, so if we fight them, we'll win. Be brave for God!"

But the people refused to listen. They said, "No! (Pause as kids run to the "No!" sign.) We won't go!" They became very angry with Moses and Aaron and Caleb and Joshua. And they refused to move into Canaan.

And God became angry with the Israelites because they weren't loyal to him. So God said, "Because these people weren't loyal to me and didn't trust me, they will never go to the Promised Land. Only Joshua and Caleb will get to go to Canaan because they were loyal to me."

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to run back and forth as you heard the different arguments?
- Tell about a time you weren't sure what to do because you were scared.
- How might God help you be brave in a time like that?

Say: Joshua and Caleb trusted God. They remembered how God had led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, and they trusted God's promise to give them this new land of Canaan. They were brave for God when the other spies doubted. Sometimes we face scary things in life that make us feel as if we're running back and forth, like in our game. But we can always do what God says and ► **BE BRAVE FOR GOD** because we know he's powerful and he'll help us do anything he asks us to do.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Standing Up

What You'll Do

Say: **Today we're learning how God wants his people to be brave for him.**

Have children form three groups. Be sure there is at least one strong reader in each group, or read the situations to groups yourself.

Say: **Let's practice being brave for God in some pretend situations. First we'll learn our Key Verse to help us with being brave.**

Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 15:58, and show it to kids. Say: **Our Key Verse today encourages us to be brave. This is what it says: "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you."** Have the children repeat the verse with you several times: **"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you" (1 Corinthians 15:58).**

The Bible tells us to always stand firm for God and to let nothing move us. That means that we can always ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD and not let anyone talk us out of it. It's just like how Joshua and Caleb stood up for God. No matter what the other spies said, Joshua and Caleb were brave because they knew God was bringing them into their Promised Land.

Let's practice standing up for God, just as Joshua and Caleb did. Give each child a Lesson 8 My Bible Fun page, and point out the "Be Brave for God!" activity.

Give each group one of the situations described on the page. If you have mostly first-graders, go from group to group and explain the situations to the children.

Say: **In your group, look at the situation I gave you. Then practice acting out the situation. In a few minutes, we'll act out the situations for each other and try to come up with ways to stand up for God in those situations.** If possible, have an adult leader help each group in this activity.

After a few minutes of reading and practicing their situations, have groups act out the situations for each other.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you think about the situations we acted out?**
- **Tell about a time you had to be brave to do the right thing.**
- **Why do you want to be brave for God?**

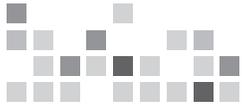


Standing Up Supplies

Bible
My Bible Fun

Standing Up Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun
pens

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges in their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Lead your family in a prayer, asking God to help each of you be brave for him—no matter what!**
- **Read Daniel 6 with a parent, and discuss ways you can be brave for God in your own life.**
- **Tell a friend who doesn't know God why you follow God.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **The spies were scared, but God had asked them to do something that he would give them the strength to do. God asks us to do things, too, and when he does, we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD. Let's do just that as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how we can be brave for God. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God that he's always with us, taking care of us. Let the children share things they want to be brave about this week. Then close the prayer. Pray: **Dear God, thank you for your Son, Jesus, who you sent to help us. Thank you so much for teaching us how to be loyal to you. Like Caleb and Joshua, we want to be brave for you. Please give us the courage to be brave for you when we're afraid. In Jesus' name, amen.**