

# Moses Sends Spies Into the Promised Land

Numbers 13:1–14:23

Children don't like to see the people they love being teased, but they don't know how to handle those situations. Use this lesson to help children know God's with them, and help them learn how they can be brave by standing up for God and for others.



### ► Bible Point

Be brave for God.

### Key Verse

"For the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will be brave by standing up for God and believing he's with them.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Getting Started</p> <p><i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Welcome and Celebrate</b></p> <p>Welcome each other, and praise God through music.</p>	<p>CD player</p> <p><b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Key Verse Activity</p> <p><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Silly Shadows</b></p> <p>Try to escape their shadows.</p>	<p>Bible, bright lamp</p>	
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Bible Exploration</p> <p><i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Puppy Pointers</b></p> <p>Hear how Theo wants to stand up for God.</p>	<p>CD player, Theo puppet, shoe</p> <p><b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	<p>Put the shoe on Theo's foot.</p>
	<p><b>Bible Time: Sneaking Into Canaan</b></p> <p>Explore the church as the Israelites explored Canaan.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player, scissors, bowl of sliced grapes and Fig Newtons, card stock</p> <p><b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, spy mask pattern</p>	<p>Hide the bowl of sliced grapes and Fig Newtons for kids to find. Make card stock copies of the spy mask pattern, and cut out the masks so there's 1 mask per child.</p>

**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: Grapes and Giants</b> Find hidden pictures of grapes.</p>	My Bible Hugs, highlighters	Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.
	<p><b>Center 2: Canaan Snack</b> Enjoy the snacks they found while exploring "Canaan."</p>	bowl of sliced grapes and Fig Newtons from the "Sneaking Into Canaan" activity, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p><b>Center 3: We Spy</b> Take turns hiding and spying for the bendable man.</p>	crayons, two 12-inch pieces of yarn for each child, spy masks from the Bible Time activity <b>Teacher Pack:</b> bendable man	
	<p><b>Center 4: Grape Expectations</b> Make a craft to represent the Promised Land.</p>	paper plates, markers, glue sticks, blue drink-mix powder	Write "Thanks for standing up for God" across the top of a paper plate, 1 per child.
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b> Pray and cheer as a group.</p>		
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*





## Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Welcome to Our Class" (track 16),

"Stand Up!" (track 17)

# 1 GETTING STARTED

## Welcome and Celebrate

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

### What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

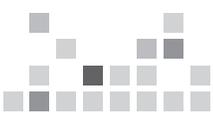
Lead children in singing "Welcome to Our Class" (track 16 on the CD) to the tune of "The Ants Go Marching." Encourage children to march around the room and follow the motions in parentheses.

 **We're so glad you're here today.**  
**Hooray! Hooray!** (*clap to the beat*)  
**We're so glad you're here today.**  
**Hooray! Hooray!** (*clap to the beat*)  
**We're here to worship God today**  
**To dance and shout and sing and play.**  
**So let's all shake hands and say "Hooray!"**  
**Hooray! Hooray! Hooray!** (*clap to the beat*)  
 (*Repeat 2x.*)

Say: **We really do have something to shout "Hooray" about because we have a great big God! And today we're learning we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD, too. One way we can do that is by standing up for God. Let's sing a song about that.**

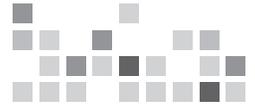
Lead children in singing "Stand Up!" (track 17 on the CD) to the tune of "Old MacDonald." Encourage kids to do the motions in parentheses.

 **Stand up for God no matter what.** (*stomp right foot*)  
**I'll stand up for God.** (*stomp left foot*)  
**Stand up for God no matter what.** (*stomp right foot*)  
**I'll stand up for God.** (*stomp left foot*)  
**I will love my God, obey my God,** (*hug self; then point up*)  
**Love my God, obey my God,** (*hug self; then point up*)  
**Stand up for God no matter what.** (*stomp right foot*)  
**I'll stand up for God.** (*stomp left foot*)  
 (*Repeat.*)



Say: Today we'll hear about how two friends were brave by standing up for God. And we'll learn that we can ► **BE BRAVE FOR GOD**, too.

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**2**

**KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY**

## Silly Shadows

### What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Joshua 1:9, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "For the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). This means that God is always with us no matter what. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the second part of the Key Verse with you: **"God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).**

Set a bright lamp about 5 feet away from a wall, and remove the lampshade. Show the children how to cast their shadows on the wall by standing in front of the lamp.

Say: **Let's see how fast you are. Try to move so fast that your shadow doesn't follow you. You'll need to be sneaky to escape your shadow!**

Give the children a few moments to attempt to run away from their shadows. After a few moments, have the children sit down.

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Explain how easy or hard it was to escape from your shadow.
- How is your shadow like the way God is with you?

Say: **We can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD because we know he's with us everywhere we go. Today we'll hear how he was with some people in the Bible, and we'll hear how they were brave for God.**

### Silly Shadows Supplies

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Bible  
bright lamp





### Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player  
Theo puppet  
shoe

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 3)

### Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Put the shoe on Theo's  
foot.

## 3

## BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Puppy Pointers

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! It's so good to see you at church with us today. How come you're wearing a shoe?

**Theo:** Well, it's a special shoe. It helps me be strong and brave.

**Teacher:** It is? How does it do that?

**Theo:** I'm not actually sure. But I need something to help me be brave.

**Teacher:** Do you know what, Theo? We're learning about being brave today. We're learning that God is always with us, so we can be brave for him.

**Theo:** Really? I'd love to learn more about being brave.

**Teacher:** That's great, Theo. And you're welcome to stay to hear the Bible. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today. *(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo:*

► **BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**)

**Theo:** So maybe I don't need this shoe to be brave.

**Teacher:** That's right! I'm glad you understand now.

**Theo:** I'm going to put my shoe back in my house.

**Teacher:** Thank you, boys and girls, for helping Theo understand what it means to be brave for God. Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Explain whether you want to be brave like Theo does.
- Why does knowing God's with you help you be brave?

Say: **It's good to ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD. When we believe in him and know he's with us, we can always have the courage to do what we know is right. Let's hear about some people in the Bible who were brave for God.**

## Bible Time: Sneaking Into Canaan

### What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Numbers 13–14, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we get to learn how we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**

Say: **The Bible tells us that God promised his people, the Israelites, that he'd give them a wonderful land to live in. One day, God told Moses to have some Israelite leaders sneak into a land called Canaan to see what it would be like to live there.** Give each child a spy mask.

Say: **Twelve leaders of Israel went exploring. Let's hold our spy masks to our eyes and do some looking of our own. Remember that spies don't want other people to see them. They're very quiet and sneaky as they look around and learn about people and places.** Lead the children in pretending to be spies by sneaking around your room or church building. Lead them to the bowl of snacks.

Say: **The Israelite spies found good food in the land of Canaan. They even carried some of the food back with them. Pick up the bowl of snacks. But they found something else, too. They found lots of giant people who were very strong! Most of the explorers were afraid of those giants.**

Lead kids back to the center of your room. Set aside the bowl of snacks, and have kids gather around you.

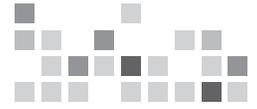
Say: **When the 12 leaders came home, all the Israelites talked with the spies about what they'd found.** Have each child take a turn standing up and naming one thing he or she spied while on your journey. Lead the children in applauding for each spy.

Play "Angry People" (track 6 on the CD). Say: **Ten of the spies said the land wasn't good because they were afraid of the giants. Because of what those men said, the Israelites got angry with Moses again.**

**But two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, remembered that God had promised the Israelites the land of Canaan. Joshua and Caleb were brave for God. They believed God would be with them and help them. They told everyone that the land was good, and they asked everyone to remember all God had done for them.**

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

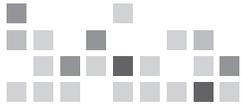


### Bible Time: Sneaking Into Canaan Supplies

Bible  
CD player  
scissors  
bowl of sliced grapes  
and Fig Newtons  
card stock  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Angry People"  
(track 6)  
spy mask pattern

### Bible Time: Sneaking Into Canaan Easy Prep

Hide the bowl of sliced grapes and Fig Newtons for kids to find. Make card stock copies of the spy mask pattern, and cut out the masks so there's 1 mask per child.



Ask:

- What was it like to pretend to be spies?
- Tell about a time you were brave like Joshua and Caleb.
- What are some ways you can be brave for God?

Say: **God is more powerful than giants or giant problems. God was happy that Caleb and Joshua were brave for him. You can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD, too.**

## 4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

### CENTER 1:

## Grapes and Giants

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 8 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Today we heard how Joshua and Caleb were brave for God when they spied on Canaan. They spied huge grapes and other great things, too. Let's be spies with our My Bible Hugs pages and look for the hidden grapes.**

Tell children there are five bunches of grapes hidden in the scene of Canaan for them to find. Show children how to use highlighters to color or circle the pictures they find.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How was looking for the grapes like or unlike the spies we read about in the Bible?
- Why do you think spies are very brave?
- Why do you want to be very brave?

Say: **Some of the Israelites didn't think about anything but the giants they saw in Canaan. But Joshua and Caleb knew Canaan would be a good place to live, and they believed in God's promises. They were brave for God, and you can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD, too.**

### Center 1: Grapes and Giants Supplies

My Bible Hugs  
highlighters

### Center 1: Grapes and Giants Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 8  
pages from each My  
Bible Hugs student  
book, and write  
children's names on  
them.

**CENTER 2:**

## Canaan Snack

### What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **On our spy journey, we found some great snacks just like Joshua and Caleb found great big grapes. Now we get to eat the snack we found.**

Lead the children in prayer, and then let them enjoy the snack. As they eat, encourage them to discuss ways they can be brave.

### Talk With Kids

Say: **We can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD like Joshua and Caleb were. They knew God was with them and he'd take care of them, and we know he'll take care of us, too.**

**CENTER 3:**

## We Spy

### What You'll Do

Say: **Today we learned we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD because we know he's always with us. Just as two Israelite spies did, we can be brave. Let's decorate our own spy masks and play a game to help us remember to be brave.**

As children work, help them attach yarn to their masks and tie them to fit. You can either poke holes in the masks and thread yarn through the holes, or tie large knots on the ends of each piece of yarn and staple the knots to the masks.

Set out the bendable man, and have children put on their spy masks. Then help the children get into pairs. Help one pair of children hide the bendable man while the other children hide their eyes. When the character is hidden, have the "spies" quietly sneak around the room and look for the bendable man. The pair that finds the bendable man first can hide it next.

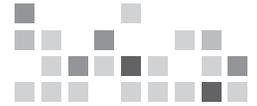
### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like being a spy in this game?**
- **What's great about being brave for God?**

Say: **Some of the spies saw the beautiful land God gave them, but they weren't brave for God because they didn't believe God could help them. But we know that God can help us, and he will! We can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD because we know he'll be with us wherever we go.**



### Center 2: Canaan Snack Supplies

bowl of sliced grapes and Fig Newtons from the "Sneaking Into Canaan" activity  
antibacterial gel (optional)

### ! ALLERGY ALERT

### Center 3: We Spy Supplies

crayons  
two 12-inch pieces of yarn for each child  
spy masks from the Bible Time activity

**Teacher Pack**  
bendable man



#### Center 4: Grape Expectations Supplies

paper plates  
markers  
glue sticks  
blue drink-mix powder

#### Center 4: Grape Expectations Easy Prep

Write "Thanks for standing up for God" across the top of a paper plate, 1 per child.

#### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs

### CENTER 4:

## Grape Expectations

### What You'll Do

Say: **Joshua and Caleb were brave because they stood up for God. They knew he wanted them to move to Canaan. And even though they knew there were scary people in Canaan, they also knew God was with them and would protect them.** Invite the children to talk about some people they know who are brave by standing up for God.

Give each child one of the paper plates and a glue stick. Then say: **Let's make a craft to give to the people we know who are brave for God because they stand up for him.**

Show children how to blot the glue on the paper plate to make several circles of glue. Help children sprinkle blue drink-mix powder on the glue and then shake the excess powder off their plates.

Say: **Caleb and Joshua were brave for God. When they looked at the land, they saw the good food, like grapes, that God wanted to give his people.** Point out to kids how they now have grapes on their plates.

### Talk With Kids

Say: **We can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD. Joshua and Caleb tried to get people to be brave and stand up for God, too!**

## 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

### Talk With Kids

Say: **Today we learned that we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD. I would like each of you to choose a way to be brave for God this week.**



Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **Draw a picture of a time you were brave for God.**
- ■ **Sing “Ring Around the Rosie” with friends. Instead of falling down at the end of the song, stomp your feet and say, “We are brave for God!” As you stand straight and tall, tell your friends that they can stand up for God, too.**

Say: **If you want to draw a picture, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to sing a song, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

## Action Prayer

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a tight circle and put their right hands in the circle like a sports team does before they cheer. Lead the children in squatting down low to the ground. Explain that you’ll say a prayer and then count to three. Then everyone will jump up and shout, “I’ll be brave for God!”

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for being with us wherever we go. We know you’ll help us be brave for you. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Say: **One, two, three!  
I’ll be brave for God!**

## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).



