

JOSHUA AND CALEB

BIBLE PASSAGE

Numbers 13–14

STORY POINT

Joshua and Caleb trusted God.

BIBLE VERSE

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”
Proverbs 3:5

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.

OIKOS CORE STRATEGY STEP 5: PREPARE

Keep learning to love and obey Jesus.

WELCOME ACTIVITIES

1. COLORING PAGE & ACTIVITY PAGE

Encourage the children to color their paper and do the activity page. For the activity page, say the names of and talk about each type of fruit. Encourage a child to circle fruits she has tasted and draw a box around her favorite. SAY: **God’s people, the Israelites, were almost to the land God promised to give them. God told Moses to send men into the land to see what it was like. The men found great fruit! Listen to our Bible story to discover what else they found there.**

2. EXPLORE 40

Set out the various groups of 40 things on a tray. Help the children to count and explore 40 things. Sort into 4 groups of 10, make designs with 40 things, or write the number 40 with paper and pencils. SAY: **Moses told 12 men to go into the land God promised to give His people to see what the 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. Listen to our Bible story to find out what else they discovered there.**

3. PAINT GRAPE CLUSTERS

Provide toilet paper rolls and green and purple paint. Encourage the children to paint the cluster of grapes by dipping an end of a toilet paper roll into paint than stamping it on their paper. Show the Bible story picture. Talk about the many fruits the men discovered in the land. SAY: **The men brought back heavy bunches of grapes after exploring the land. Joshua and Caleb trusted God to give them the land, but the rest of 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.**

OIKOS CONNECTION

- Gather the children on the designated circle time spot.
- Lead them in singing the Oikos song and doing the hand motions (to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot"):

God gave an Oikos (big "O" over head)
to me and you.
It's all of our friends (right hand out)
and family too. (left hand out)

I can tell my Oikos (cup hands over mouth)
the Good News:
Jesus loves me and (point to self)
He loves you too! (increase in loudness and shout, "loves you too" and point to friends)



Teach:

- **SAY: You can PREPARE for loving your Oikos** (make a big "O" over your head), **your friends** (right hand out) **and family** (left hand out), **by reading your Bible. We read our Bible to learn what God wants us to do. It helps us trust Him.**
- **PRAY: Dear God, Thank You for always keeping your promises. Help us remember to read our Bible so that we can learn more about You and love You more. Help us to share with our Oikos that they can trust You. In Jesus' name,**

amen.

WORSHIP

- Songs: "Great, Great, Great" and "Return".
- SAY: **Let's prepare our hearts for hearing our Bible story and worship God to thank Him because when we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us life with Him forever.**

BIBLE VERSE

- Show the Bible verse on the screen.
- SAY: **Our Bible 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.**
- Guide children in saying the Bible verse and doing the hand motions:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." Proverbs 3:5:

Trust: Cross arms over your chest.
in the LORD: Look up as you point up.

with all your heart: Set one hand over the other over your heart.

and lean not: Cross arms in front of your body. Swipe arms open and closed several times.

on your own understanding: Tap your temples several times.



Trust



in the LORD



with all
your heart



and lean
not



on your own
understanding.

- Play the Bible Verse Music video: "Trust in the Lord".

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

- **SAY: What does it mean to sin? To sin is to go against God and His commands.**
- **God wanted the Israelites to go into the beautiful land He promised them.**
- **They were afraid to go into the land and did not trust God to give it to them.**
- **They sinned when they did not do what God wanted them to do.**

TEACH

Lead the children in singing the Bible Transition Song (sung to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb"):

**Now it's time to hear God's Word
Hear God's Word
Hear God's Word
Now it's time to hear God's Word
So let's look in the Bible**

- Place a bookmark at Numbers 13 in your Bible. Invite a child to open it.
- Reverently display the open 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.**
- Lead children in a prayer to prepare their hearts and minds for hearing God's Word.
- For example: **Dear God, thank you for the Bible. Help us to understand Your Word and help us to treasure it in our hearts. In Jesus name, amen.**
- Show the Bible Story Picture.
- **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. Listen how.**
- Play the Bible story video and read the Bible story (see insert in Bible).
- **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.**



REVIEW

- 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.
- ASK:
 1. How many men went to explore the promised land? (twelve, one leader from each family tribe)
 2. Was the promised land good or bad? (good)
 3. What did the men find in the promised land? (fruit, strong people, big cities)
 4. Did the Israelite people want to go into the promised land? (no)
 5. Who trusted God? (Joshua and Caleb)
 6. What does it mean to sin? To sin is to go against God and His commands.
- Joshua and Caleb trusted God to give them the land, but the others did not.
- Jesus always trusted God. He took the punishment we deserve for our sin.
- When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us life with Him forever.

PRAYER

- Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.
- SAY: **God, we are like the Israelites and do not always trust You. Help us to be like Jesus who always trusted You. Help us to trust in Him so we can be forgiven and have life with You forever. Amen.**

EXPERIENCE

1. PLAY "WHAT COLOR IS THE FRUIT?"

Place a sheet each of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple construction paper around the room. Call out the name of a fruit, and suggest children move to the paper that represents the fruit's color. Continue calling out fruits as boys and girls move. Show the Bible story picture poster after you call grapes.

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 gives us life with Him forever.

2. BUILD A BIG CITY

Tape a long masking tape line on the wall. Challenge preschoolers to build tall buildings by stacking blocks to reach the tape. Prop a yardstick against a wall or secure a long piece of measuring tape to the wall if available.

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.

RECAP and CLOSING

Show the Bible story as a review, then do Welcome activities, or worship songs.