

General Church Education



# Spies Sent into Canaan

Numbers 13:1-3, 17-33; 14:1-10

## Lesson 18

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 3: The Lord Is Our Lawgiver

For ages 8-9 years

## Spies Sent into Canaan

### Numbers 13:1-3, 17-33; 14:1-10

### For Parents and Teachers

In this lesson the Israelites get their first report of the promised land from twelve spies that Moses sent out. They brought back news of a beautiful and fruitful land. Huge clusters of grapes and other delicious fruit were carried back by the spies to show the people the abundance of the land. However, ten of the spies gave a negative report about the people who were living there. They told of giants and fortified cities that were well defended. This news made the people afraid to go forward. Two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, urged the people to have confidence in the Lord, that He would give them victory. When the Israelites refused to follow Moses, they were once again rejecting the Lord's leadership. All the adults were punished by having to wander in the wilderness for forty years. Only their children, along with Joshua and Caleb would get to enter Canaan.

This story reminds us that we have the opportunity to enter the land of Canaan at any time if we choose a life of goodness and truth. The people could have gone immediately into the land if they had just listened to Joshua and Caleb, who trusted in the Lord.

### Ideas for Children

- Because the Israelites did not trust the Lord, they were punished.
- Their punishment was to wander in the wilderness for forty years.
- Selfishness and fear can keep us from making right choices.

### From the Writings

Names in the Word mean spiritual things. Since “the land of Canaan” represents the Lord's kingdom, which is heaven and the Church, all places in the land mean such things as form part of the Lord's kingdom, or heaven and the Church.

The children of Israel represented the people who belonged to the spiritual Church who lived in the world before the Lord's Coming, but could not be saved except by the Lord. After they had undergone temptations He raised them to heaven. These matters are what the internal sense of the second book of Moses or Exodus contains. By “living forty years in the wilderness” temptations are meant; and by “being led into the land of Canaan” being raised into heaven is meant. From all this it is evident that ‘when you come into the land’ means when they reach heaven, given to them by the Lord. *Arcana Coelestia* 6516, 9340 and 7932

## Spies Sent into Canaan

### Numbers 13:1-3, 17-33; 14:1-10

#### Words to Understand

**stronghold**—a place that has strong defenses

**fortified**—strengthened against attack as with forts, walls, weapons

**possession**—property that is owned or occupied

**devour**—to eat up greedily or to destroy with force

**inhabitants**—people who live in a specific region

**statute**—a rule or law

**rebel**—to resist authority or controls

#### The Journey Continues

The children of Israel stayed camped at Mount Sinai for almost a year while they built the tabernacle and learned the laws of the Lord. Besides the Ten Commandments, the Lord gave them laws for every part of their lives. The laws would help them move forward to face a new



and unfamiliar life away from Egypt. The Lord not only provided priests to lead their worship but also judges to settle disagreements. The laws are written in the books of Exodus and Leviticus. Our story today comes from Numbers, the book of the Word that follows Leviticus.

Do you know what a census is? It is counting and recording the number of people in a certain area. The Lord told Moses to count the people. This is recorded in the book of Numbers. After the census the Israelites finally left Mount Sinai.

#### Grumbling Begins

Three days after leaving Mount Sinai, the Israelites started complaining about Moses and about the food they had to eat. They wanted to go back to Egypt! The Lord provided them with daily food? He sent quails to their camp at night and in the morning they awoke to find manna

on the ground to eat. The tabernacle with the pillar of cloud and fire stood continually in the middle of the multitude of people reminding them that the Lord was near and protecting and providing for them. But still they grumbled. Let's read about what happened when the Israelites got close to the land of Canaan. **Read Numbers 13:1-3, 17-33; 14:1-10.**



How many spies did the Lord tell them to send out?

(Twelve spies, one from each of the tribes.) How long were the spies gone? (Forty days.) The spies explored the land from the south to the north. They found out what kind of land the Israelites were coming into. They noticed the people and cities there, and what kind of food grew there. To show the bounty of the land, they brought back some large clusters of grapes, pomegranates and figs.

All twelve men reported a land “flowing with milk and honey.” It was a wonderful, fruitful land. However ten of the spies fearfully reported there were giants, strongholds and walled in the land. Only Joshua and Caleb said that with the Lord on their side they could conquer the new land. This is the same Joshua that went part of the way up Mount Sinai with Moses.

### **The People Are Frightened**

The ten spies frightened the people with their report. As much as the Israelites wanted to get to Canaan and make a new home there, they were very worried about the news of giants and powerful people already living in the land. So once again they cried out against Moses and Aaron. Again they wanted a new leader and return to Egypt! Joshua and Caleb tore their clothes as a sign of sadness at what was happening. They reminded the people that the land of Canaan was an “exceedingly good land.” They urged them to be confident in the Lord, and told them not to fear or to rebel. They were confident that the Lord would give them victory over the giants.

### **Punishment Comes**

It is difficult to believe that the Israelites were still cowardly and afraid, isn't it? Everyone had seen the glory of the Lord, all the miracles that He had done for them, but still they would not listen to or heed His voice. So they were told that they must stay in the wilderness for forty years, until all the faithless people had died, before they could go into the promised land. The whole company would have to wander in the wilderness on the border of the Holy Land until all the grown men and women died. Their children would enter the land. The spies who had brought the evil report died at once by a plague. However, Joshua and Caleb who had encour-

aged the people to trust in the Lord and go forth would also be allowed to enter Canaan.

### Lacking Confidence

This is a picture of what happens to all of us at times. We know what the Lord wants us to do. We have read stories from His Word. Parents and teachers have explained what is right and wrong to us. We even see what is the right thing to do in difficult situations. We know we should obey the Lord.

But then we begin to think about ourselves. We think it would be too hard to do what we know is right; it might seem like hard work or we might think that we are just not able to do what needs to be done. Our thoughts start to trick us in the same way the ten cowardly spies influenced the Israelites. Then our selfish desires and fears begin to take over, like the giants in the story. Evil spirits with us make us want our own way and not make the effort to do as the Lord has commanded.

But this only leads to spending more time “wandering in the wilderness.” The wilderness is a barren, desert place without the comforts of a real home. Our life becomes a desert when we disobey the Lord’s laws. Can you remember what Joshua and Caleb urged the people to do? If we do not become discouraged and keep trying, the Lord will come to our rescue when we are in a desert place. He can overcome any enemy, and we can then make wise and good choices.



### Discussion Ideas

- The Lord followed the Ten Commandments with many other laws and detailed explanations. Talk about a time when it was difficult to understand or follow a rule.
- The giants and walled cities present an opportunity to talk about how we all need to go forward with courage in daily life to overcome our fears and weaknesses.



# Activity Overview | Spies Sent into Canaan

## Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. Any why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Matthew 7:1-3

## Songs

*O Zion, Rise in Glory*

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-o-zion-rise-in-glory/>

*Go Up!*

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-go-up/>

## Projects

Choose one or two activities.

- Activity 1 | Fig, Grape and Pomegranate Placemat
- Activity 2 | Review the Exodus Story
- Picture to color—Joshua and Caleb Return (Numbers 13, 14)
- Picture to color—Giants in the Land (Numbers 13, 14)

## Additional Activity Ideas

- Talk about how you might feel if you were on this journey and came close to the Promised Land, but then found out you must wander in the wilderness for forty more years. Do you think the people regretted their cowardly behavior?
- What words would you use to describe Moses, the leader of the children of Israel?
- Have a snack. Eat or drink foods made from grapes, pomegranates and figs, or eat grapes, pomegranates and figs.

## Activity 1 | Fig, Grape and Pomegranate Placemat

Ten of the spies reported there were giants in the land of Canaan, but Joshua and Caleb returned saying it was a wonderful land flowing with “milk and honey.” They brought back some of the figs, grapes and pomegranates they found there. Create a placemat featuring pictures of figs, grapes and pomegranates to remember the bounty the Lord provides for us.

### Materials Needed

*Fruits Templates—Pomegranates, Grapes and Figs*

stiff paper (white or other color) to use as a base for the placemats

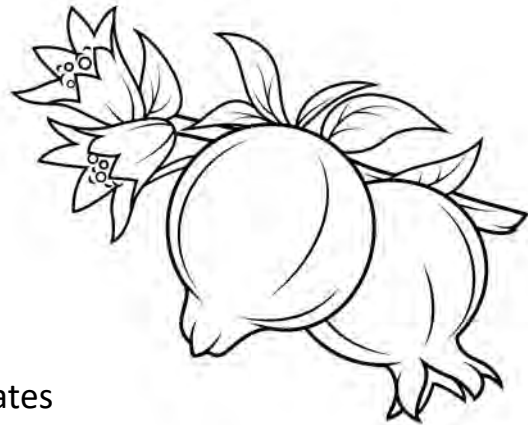
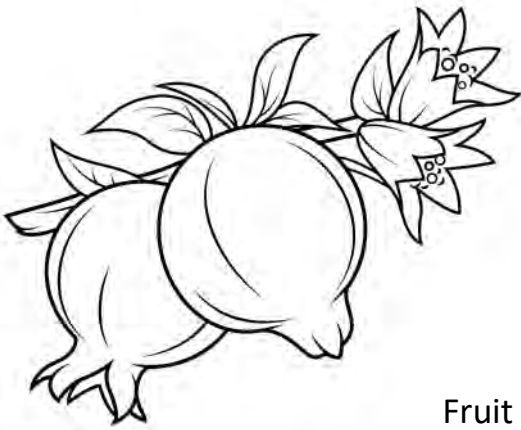
scissors

markers or colored pencils

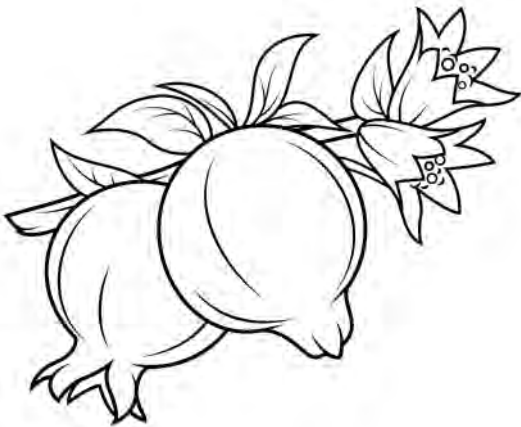
glue

### Directions

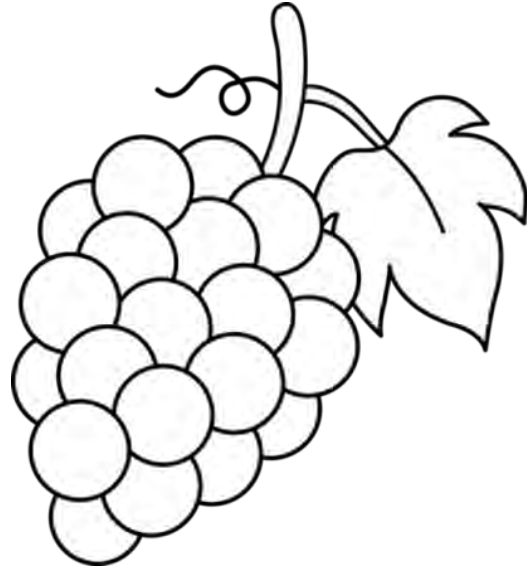
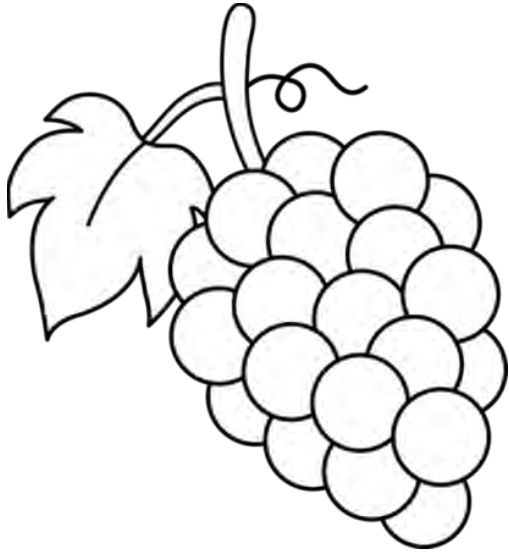
1. Using pictures from the *Fruit Templates*, design a placemat. You do not have to use all types of fruits.
2. Color the fruits.
3. Cut out the fruits and move them about until you are happy with your design.
4. Glue the fruits down.
5. *Option:* Laminate finished placemat to make it more durable.



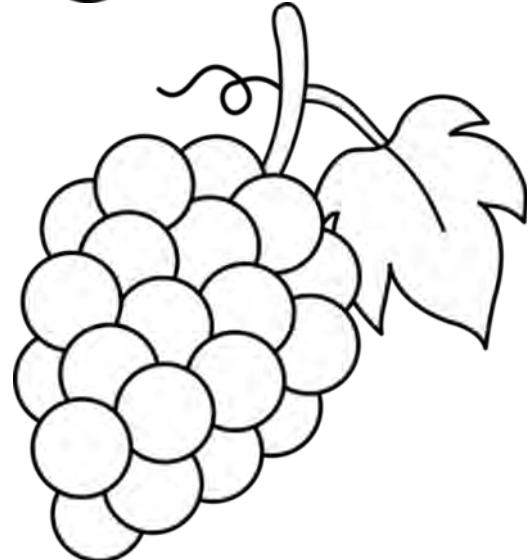
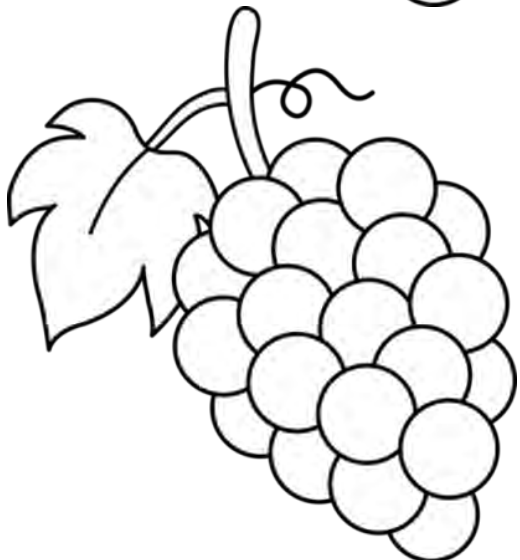
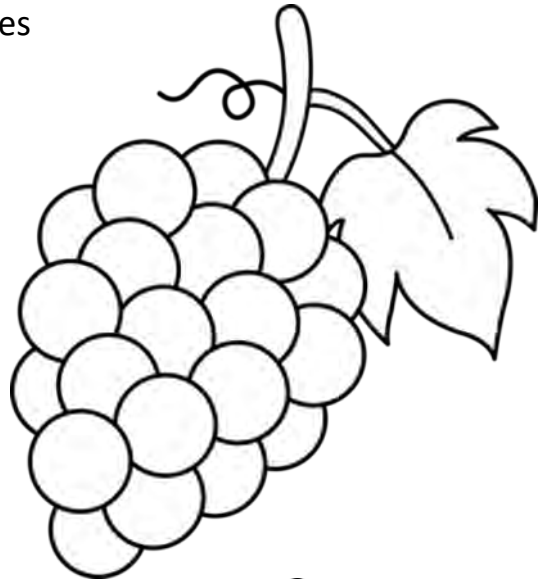
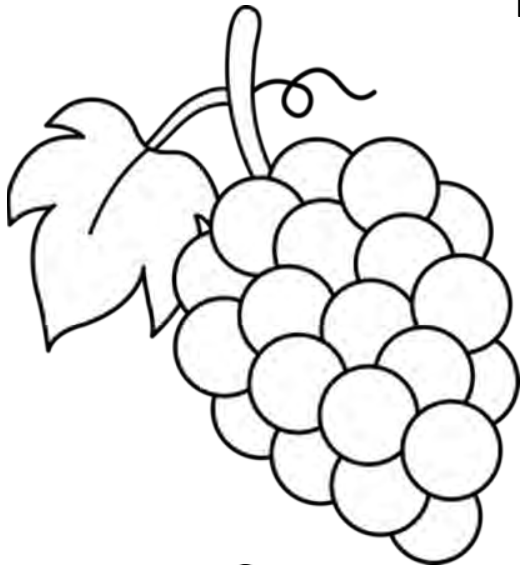
Fruit Templates  
Pomegranates

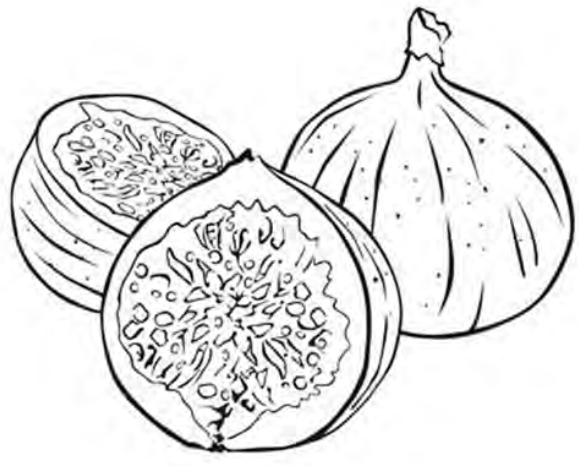




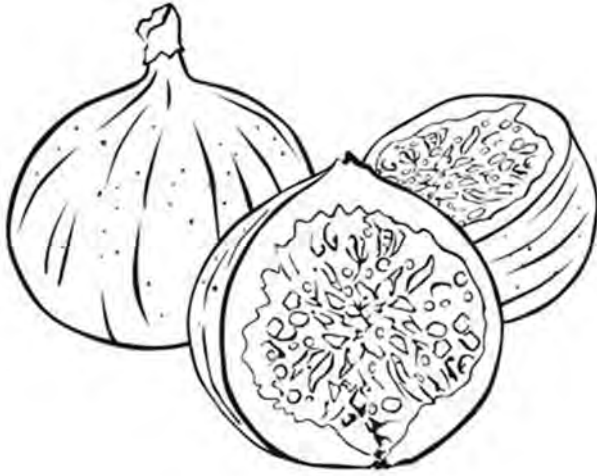
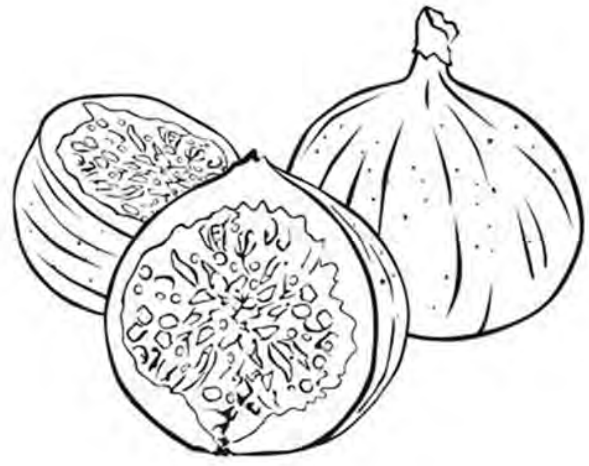
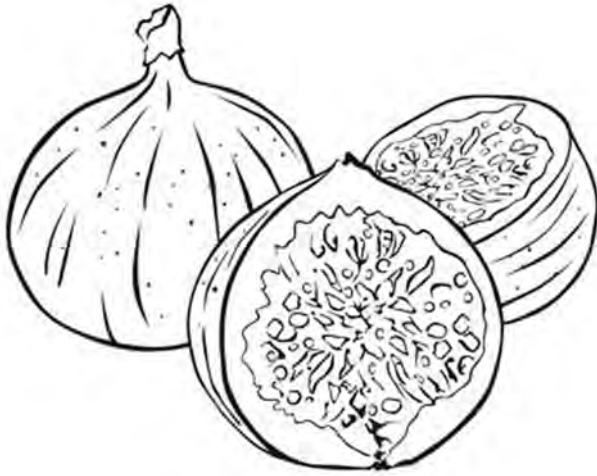


Fruit Templates  
Grapes





Fruit Templates  
Figs



## Activity 2 | Review the Exodus Story

The book of Exodus tells the story of the children of Israel from their captivity in Egypt, to becoming an independent nation. Trace their journey from slavery, through the plagues, their hurried departure, miracles in the wilderness, giving of the Ten Commandments and more.

### Directions

1. Cut *Review Cards* apart along the lines.
2. Choose one or more ways to use the cards.

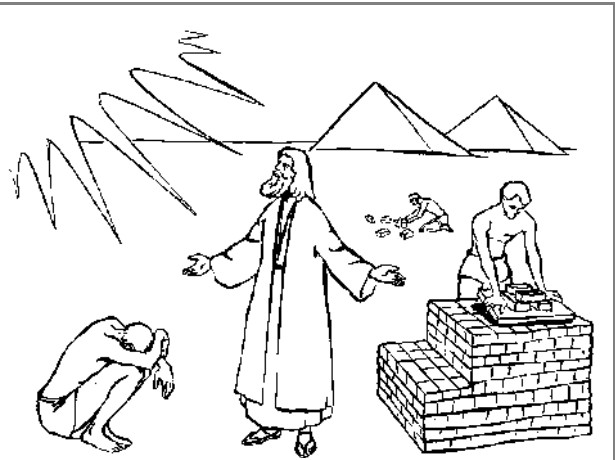
### Ways to Use These Cards

- **Sequence the Story** Put the cards in order and tell the story of Exodus
- **Storyline** Make a pictorial storyline graphing whether events are happy, sad or somewhere in between.
- **Review** Put the cards in a pile. Draw out one card. Briefly tell what the picture on the card is about.
- **Favorite Story** Lay out the cards in front of you. Pick a favorite story to illustrate and tell in your own words.
- **Identify the story** Cut off the captions at the bottom of the cards. Try to identify the stories with no captions to help you!

The Exodus—Stories from Exodus, Numbers, and Leviticus



The Children of Israel Leave Egypt



Slaves Making Bricks for the Egyptians



The Israelites Gather Manna



Pharaoh Refuses to Let the Children of Israel Go



The Rod Changes into a Serpent



The Miracle of the Burning Bush

The Exodus—Stories from Exodus, Numbers, and Leviticus



The Plague of Frogs



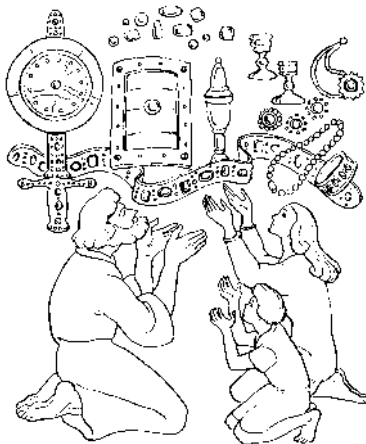
The Egyptians Give Them Silver and Gold



The Bitter Water of Marah Made Sweet



The Plague of Darkness



Bringing Gifts for the Tabernacle

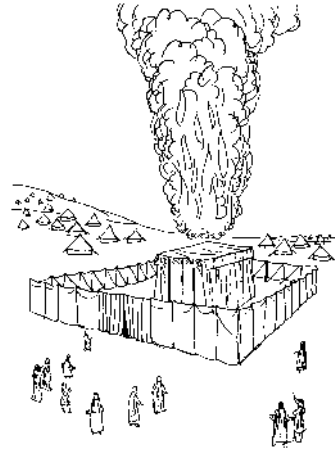


The Miracle at the Red Sea

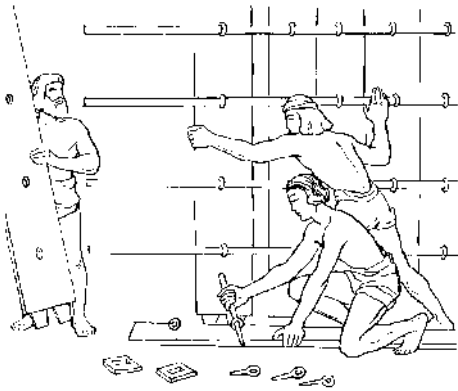
## The Exodus—Stories from Exodus, Numbers, and Leviticus



Moses in the Bulrushes



The Lord's Glory Fills the Tabernacle



Building the Tabernacle



The Ten Commandments Are Given



Holding Up the Hands of Moses



Worshipping the Golden Calf



The Exodus—Stories from Exodus, Numbers, and Leviticus

