

Oak Arbor New Church Sunday School: Lessons for Preschool – Kindergarten

Lesson 1.08: TWELVE SPIES SENT INTO CANAAN — Num. 13 and 14:1-25

TEACHER PREPARATION

Read over Numbers 13 and 14:1-25.

WORSHIP CIRCLE

STORY AND DISCUSSION

Have you ever heard of the Children of Israel? They were a big group of people that the Lord was taking care of long ago. For a long time they had to work very hard as slaves in the land of Egypt, until the Lord sent Moses to save them and lead them out of Egypt.

For a long time Moses and the children of Israel traveled through the wilderness. The Lord showed them the way to go. He was leading them to a new land called Canaan. The Lord promised that He would give the land of Canaan to the children of Israel.

Finally the day came when Moses and the children of Israel arrived right at the edge of the land of Canaan! The Lord told Moses to send twelve men into the land to do a special job — these men were told to be *spies*, and to go in and *spy* out the land of Canaan.

Do you know what a *spy* is? It is someone who secretly tries to find out something. These twelve spies were supposed to sneak secretly into Canaan and find out what it was like in that land. Moses wanted them to find out:

- 1) Were the people in that land strong, or weak?
- 2) Were there many people, or just a few?
- 3) Was the land good for growing food, or bad?
- 4) Were the cities small, or big and strong?
- 5) Was the land rich, or poor?
- 6) Were there any forests in the land?

Moses told them to bring back some fruit from the land, so they could see what kind of food grew there. So the twelve spies went into the land of Canaan. They came to a valley and found big clusters of grapes. They cut down one cluster to take back with them. It was so big they had to tie it to a pole and have two men carry it! Can you imagine a bunch of grapes that big? They also gathered some pomegranates and figs.

After spying out the land for forty days, the spies went back to Moses and the rest of the children of Israel. They showed them the fruit and said, “Yes! This is a good land, with lots of wonderful food growing in it.”

But the spies did not all say the same thing. Ten of the spies said “Yes, the land is beautiful, but we can’t fight against the people that are there –They are strong, and they live in big cities, and some of the people are *giants!* They are so big that we look like grasshoppers next to them!”

Now, when the rest of the children of Israel heard this, they were afraid, and they did not want to go into the land of Canaan. But there were two other spies, named Joshua and Caleb. Joshua and Caleb were good men, who really believed in the Lord. They said to the people: “The Lord is stronger than those people and giants in Canaan! The Lord has promised that we can have the land of Canaan, so if we believe in Him, and do what He says, He can help us win against those giants!”

The rest of the children of Israel did not want to listen to Joshua and Caleb, because they did not believe that the Lord could help them. In fact, they were angry, and wanted to throw stones at them! But the Lord protected Joshua and Caleb. The Lord appeared in His glory, and He told the rest of the children of Israel that, since they did not believe in His power, they could not go into the land of Canaan. But Joshua and Caleb would, because they believed in the Lord.

You see, the Lord always wants to help people, but He can only do that if the people let Him help them, and believe in Him and do what He says.

The children of Israel that didn’t believe in the Lord’s power wandered in the wilderness for many years, until they grew old and died. But their children grew up, and the Lord would help them to win against their enemies and live in the land of Canaan with Joshua and Caleb.

PROJECT

Ahead of time:

- 1) Photocopy for each child a picture of the two men carrying the pole with the cluster of grapes.
- 2) Cut some leaves out of green construction paper for each child.

Doing the Project:

- 1) Explain to the children that they’ll be making a picture of the big cluster of grapes that the spies carried out of Canaan, tied to a pole.
- 2) Give to each child a copy of the picture. Have them glue a craft stick to the space where the pole should be.
- 3) Now the teacher should go around and spread some glue in the space where the grapes should be. Then the children can glue the construction paper leaves and some small beads or pom-poms to make the cluster of grapes.
- 4) After this they may color the picture.

The Spies Bring Back Fruits From The Land of Canaan.

