



THE GOSPEL PROJECT SR. UNIT 7.1 Joshua & Caleb

Date: Sunday November 9, 2025 **Teachers:** Michael S (lead), Dana H (co-lead)

Bible Passage: Numbers 13:1–14:38 **Key Passage:** Joshua 1:9

Props: bring from home: **none **at centre:** index cards, sticky notes, tape

REVIEW RULES:

One Mouth speaking at a time (Teacher points to mouths/kids point to their mouths)

Two Hands kept to myself (kids wiggle hands and keep them to themselves)

Two Feet kept to myself (kids cross legs)

Speak Kind words like our God three in ONE!

MINI CATECHISM: B- Bread of Life

Susan

INTRO VIDEO: THE TIMELINE

Mike

We have just covered the story of the Israelites 40 years in the wilderness and all of the ways God provided a way for them to be His people and for God to be their God, for GOD TO BE WITH THEM! Let's review where we've been and where we are going.

THE BIBLE STORY: Joshua and Caleb

DISCUSSION VIDEO:

Whom can we trust? We can trust God to take care of us. Since God always does what is good, He always keeps His promises, and He will always take care of us.

KEY PASSAGE VERSE: (write the verse on a whiteboard before class,)

Brittany

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 (circle all of the commandments, and ask why they were commanded these things? They were commanded to be strong and not be afraid *because* God was with them) Practise it aloud a few times

DISMISS JR. KIDS -GR. 1

BIBLE STORY REVIEW: materials:

Mike

Moses sent spies into the land to see what it was like. Ten of the spies were afraid. They gave a bad report to the Israelites. So the Israelites did not trust God to give them the promised land. Only Joshua, Caleb, and the children would be able to enter the promised land.

God had shown himself faithful in so many ways, and yet because of the things they saw that scared them they allowed their fear to overshadow the promises of God.

God planned for Joshua to lead the next generation of Israelites into the promised land. Joshua was not perfect, but His faithfulness reminds us of Jesus, who is perfect. Jesus obeyed the Father and trusted His plan to save people from their evil, sin and death in this world.

Ask the following review questions:

How many spies were sent to check out the promised land? (12, one leader from each of the tribes; Num. 13:1-2)

What fruit did the spies bring back? (grapes, pomegranates, and figs; Num. 13:23)

Who trusted God to give them the promised land? (Caleb and Joshua; Num. 13:30; 14:6)

How did God punish the Israelites when they did not trust Him? (God sent them into the wilderness for 40 years, Num. 14:21-25)

ACTIVITY: “Whom can you trust?” materials:

Dana

Give each kid two or three sticky notes. Prompt them to write on each sticky note people they can trust (parent or teacher, for example—not specific names). Kids may also list qualities that make someone trustworthy.

Instruct kids to post their sticky notes on a focal wall. Lead them to study the people on the notes.

Talk about what makes a person trustworthy. Discuss the difficulty of trusting someone who has let you down and the ease of trusting someone who is consistently faithful.

Today’s Bible story is about a time when the Israelites struggled to trust God. God had always been faithful to the Israelites, but they doubted that He would take care of them. Not trusting God has been our disposition since the garden! We don’t trust that God is good and cares for us.

ACTIVITY: “Spy a word” materials: (index cards, write words before class)

Mike

Before the session, write several key words from the Bible story on separate index cards or pieces of masking tape. Position the key words on or near various classroom objects. Invite kids to play a game of “I Spy.” Begin by describing a key word object. For example, “I spy something green.” Call on kids one at a time to guess. If a kid guesses the object, he should read the card aloud and then describe how the key word fits into the Bible story.

Consider using these key words:

- Canaan (the name of the promised land)
- Moses (Moses sent spies into the land of Canaan.)
- Caleb (Caleb was a spy who trusted God.)
- grapes (The spies carried a cluster of grapes from the promised land.)
- afraid (The Israelites were afraid because the Israelites did not trust God to give them the promised land.)
- grasshoppers (The spies felt like grasshoppers compared to the people living in Canaan.)
- 40 years (God punished the people by making them wander in the wilderness for 40 years.)

We saw in the Bible story that Caleb and Joshua were not like the other spies. They trusted God’s promises, because of their trust in God, they saw things that the other spies did not see. They saw the good of the land and not the thing to be afraid of. Joshua points to Jesus and Jesus trusted God’s plan for Him, even when it was scary Jesus knew the good would come out of him trusting God and giving his life.

ACTIVITY: “Trust walk” materials: (masking tape in room, blindfold in room)

Dana

Tape a zigzag path on the floor with masking tape. Get 2 volunteers One child should wear the blindfold while the other child leads his partner along the path. After a few minutes, kids will switch roles and play again. If kids do not want to use a blindfold, they can keep their eyes closed instead.

It can be scary to walk when you can’t see! You had to trust your partner to keep you on the path. In our story, God wanted to bring His people into the promised land, but some of the people saw things that scared them, and they didn’t trust what God promised- what they couldn’t see.

ACTIVITY SHEET together in group

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: “Build a story” materials: (printable “the Big Move)

Mike

Use the printable “The Big Move” to guide kids to select certain parts of speech. List their choices on the page.

Read the story aloud, filling in the blanks with the words kids provided. Does this story sound familiar at all? This story is silly, but can you retell the story of what happened in the Bible story today?