



3rd & 4th

Unit 6 - Promised Land

Story 14.B - Twelve Spies (Numbers 13-14)

INTRODUCTIONS - Introduce yourself and consider having students do the same if you have children new to the group. Fill out the top of the Roster and take attendance.

BIBLE TIME - Have kids open their bookmarked Bibles (**Numbers 14**).

Read Numbers 14:1-4

What were the people afraid of? (They were afraid that if they went to Canaan the people there would kill them.)

From last week's lesson, who had been chosen to spy in Canaan and then came back and spread a bad report about Canaan? (Twelve leaders from the tribes of Israel were chosen to spy in the promised land. Ten of them came back and gave a bad report of the people there.)

The men who started the fearful response to God's fulfillment of his promise to give them the land were leaders. What does this tell you about the importance of choosing your words carefully especially if you are a leader? (The men chose to talk about their fear. Fear tends to be contagious, so the people also became afraid. The leaders should have been focused on God and his promise instead of on their own fear.)

Do you think the people's reaction would have been different if the 12 leaders had focused on the bounty of the good land God was giving them instead of the big scary people there? (Most likely the people would have been excited to go if they had heard more about the land and less about the people.)

Who did the people turn against? (They turned against Moses and Aaron.)

What did they want to do? (They wanted to go back to Egypt to be slaves again rather than go where God was sending them.)

How was turning against Moses and wanting to go back to Egypt a way of turning from God? (God spoke personally to Moses and led the people through him. By turning against Moses and going back to Egypt they were rejecting the gifts that God gave them and his future fulfillment of his promises.)

The people had forgotten some very important things about God. What are they? (Encourage discussion.)

Read Numbers 14:5-12

Who stood up and tried to focus the people back on God? (Caleb and Joshua who were two of the twelve spies.)

What did they remind the people of? (They reminded the people that God had promised the land to him and that he would give it to them.)

What did he tell them not to do? (Caleb and Joshua told the Israelites not to disobey God and not to be afraid of the people because God was with them.)

How did the people react to Joshua and Caleb? (They planned to kill them by throwing stones at them.)

God said that the people were refusing to believe in him even though he had done many signs among them. What signs had the Israelites experienced with their own eyes? (Ten plagues, parting of the Red Sea, God lead them through the wilderness in a pillar of smoke and fire, manna and quail to eat every day, an earthquake/ thunder & lightning/ smoke while God spoke the ten commandments, God meeting with Moses in the tent of meeting, etc...)

What did God say he would do to them? (God said that he would destroy them with a plague and make Moses into a great nation instead.)

Read Numbers 14:19-24

After Moses pleaded for God's mercy on his people again, what does God say he will do instead of a plague? (He said that they will never see the promised land. Instead he will not let them enter the promised land.)

Who did God say were the only ones who would get to go to the promised land? Why could he go when the rest couldn't? (He said that Caleb followed God with his whole heart, so he would be allowed to go. *Explain that in a later verse God says that Joshua would also be allowed into the promised land.)

*Extended Discussion:

Why do you think that it was so hard for the people to trust God when he was fulfilling his promise to give them the land of Canaan? (Encourage discussion, but be sure to include the power that fear can have over us when we are focused on our own strength instead of God's.)

The promise that God gave to Abraham had three parts: God would make a great nation out of him by giving him many descendants, God would give his family the land of Canaan, and God would bless all the people on earth through Abraham. Which of these have already happened by this time in the Bible? (God has made his family into a great nation. They haven't received the land yet, because they've rejected God's fulfillment of this part of his promise. The world has not yet been blessed through the Israelites by this point in the Bible.)

What is the ultimate fulfillment of the blessing of all people on earth more than a thousand years later? (Jesus is the descendant of Abraham that the whole earth will be blessed by.)

Most of the people feared and rejected the promised land when it was given by God to them while a few remained faithful and accepted God's fulfillment of the promise. Did this same thing happen when God sent Jesus to bless the world? (Yes! While some people accepted Jesus and the blessing that God prepared for them, many others rejected Jesus then and still today.)

Preview Next Week: This week we learned about how God's people did not believe in God's strength over their fear and were not allowed to enter the promised land. Next week we'll learn about what happened 40 years later when their children were finally allowed to claim the land that God promised them.

CRAFT: TRUST GOD BOOKMARK - Give each child one white 'Trust' bookmark and a colored background. Have them glue the bookmark to the background and then use markers to create a bunch of grapes. Discuss with the kids how the abundance of God's promises are what we should set our sights on, not the things that seem to be in the way.

MEMORY VERSE - Practice the verse together using one of the activities on the Memory Game List.

Unit 6 Memory Verse: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. ~ Psalm 23:1-2

PRAYER

Ask the group if they have any prayer requests before leading the kids in prayer.

COMMUNITY & SNACK TIME

Hand out snacks, and water. This is an intentional time to create a sense of community within the group. Sit at the table with the kids and encourage conversation as they eat. If you have extra time, consider playing one of the [community building games](#) from the list.