



# Moses Sends Spies Into the Promised Land

Numbers 13:1–14:23

Third- and fourth-graders are beginning to struggle with fear in a more abstract sense than when they were younger. They're increasingly aware that the world around them is not within their control, and that reality can bring up fears. Whether they fear family disasters, such as the divorce of their parents or failing at new endeavors, fear has become something that goes beyond the typical monster-under-the-bed types of insecurities. Use this lesson to help your kids see that God can replace their fear with bravery in the face of any obstacle.



### ► Bible Point


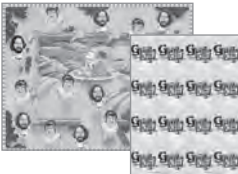
Be brave for God.

### Key Verse

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you."  
(1 Corinthians 15:58).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will be brave for God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Spies in the Land</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Play a game in which the Canaanites find the spies.	<b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Spies in the Land" cards 	Separate the "Spies in the Land" cards.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>But There'll Be Giants!</b> <i>(about 30 min.)</i> Play a fast-paced game as they try to get past the giants.	Bibles, pens, paper, Bible Truth Sleuth, sticky notes <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Giants in the Land" game poster, "Giants in the Land" game cards 	Tear out the Lesson 8 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.  Separate the "Giants in the Land" game cards.

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Stand Firm</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Create outlines of their feet, and learn the Key Verse.	Bibles, construction paper, markers	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	feet drawings from the "Stand Firm" activity.	

**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.





# Moses Sends Spies Into the Promised Land

Numbers 13:1–14:23

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Your Mission, Should You Choose to Accept It...

The spies were sent on an exploratory mission. The purpose was to see what kinds of opposition they'd be facing and if the land could support the Israelites as they conquered it. Moses' instructions were clear: They were to explore the land from the southern end all the way to the northern end.

## Mission Impossible

When the spies first returned, they simply reported what Moses had asked for. They told of the fruitfulness of the land, the powerful people, and the fortified cities (Numbers 13:26-29). But after Caleb spoke his mind, the other spies went beyond what they had been asked to do. They began to lament that there was no way they could defeat the people in the land. They exaggerated the reports of the size and strength of the land's inhabitants. The people responded by once again rebelling against Moses and against God. Once again God threatened to strike down all the people and begin again with Moses. And once again Moses interceded for the faithless Israelites.

## The Faith of a Mustard Seed

Moses pointed out that what the Egyptians had learned about God through their recent experience would be nullified if God allowed the Israelites to die in the desert. Moses wanted everyone, including the Egyptians, to see God's power.

God once again forgave the Israelites. But notice he imposed a harsh punishment: No adults who were alive during the rebellion—except Joshua and Caleb—would be allowed to enter the Promised Land. Joshua and Caleb had faith that God could do what he said he would. Their faith enabled them to

stand up for God, even when it was not the popular thing to do. Although their courage didn't convince anyone else to have faith, they were rewarded.

## The Jesus Connection

Jesus Christ stood up for the world through his atoning sacrifice on the cross. Through our relationship with Christ, we can stand up for what we believe and who Jesus is.

Throughout history and all over the world, people have died because they professed a faith in Jesus Christ. While most of us do not experience persecution to this degree, non-Christians can be resentful of our claims to know the truth. These confrontations put Christians in a difficult situation.

Think about non-Christians you regularly come in contact with. Are you the same person with them that you are in front of this Sunday school group you're teaching? On the lines below, write a prayer that you will stand up for Jesus in your interactions with non-Christians.

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### Spies in the Land Supplies

#### Teacher Pack

“Spies in the Land”  
cards

#### Spies in the Land Easy Prep

Separate the “Spies in  
the Land” cards.

## 1 GETTING STARTED

### Spies in the Land

#### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Say: **Today our lesson is about spies, so we’re going to play a spy game.** Distribute one card to each child. Be sure to tell kids not to show their cards to anyone else.

Say: **Each of you has a card that tells you whether you are a Spy or a Canaanite. Spies, you must find the other Spies by asking each other questions. Once you have found another Spy, run to your safe zone together.** Indicate the corner of the room that is the safe zone. **Canaanites, you must find the Spies. Once you find a Spy, you must capture him or her by touching his or her shoulder and calling out, “Spies are in the land!” Then that Spy must go to the captured corner.** Point out the captured corner. **Once all the Spies are either in their safe zone or in the captured corner, the game is over.**

Have kids play until all Spies are either found or get to the safe zone. If time permits, redistribute the cards and play again.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Spies, explain what it was like to search for one another without getting caught.**
- **Canaanites, explain what it was like to try to find the spies without knowing who they were.**
- **Have you ever had to do something for God that was scary for you? Explain.**

Say: **From the Bible today, we will learn about spies that Moses sent into Canaan to check things out. What the spies saw was scary to them. We’ll learn what they found out and what they did about it, and we’ll learn that we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**





## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# But There'll Be Giants!

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Our Bible passage today is found in Numbers 13:1–14:23. It tells us about when Moses sent 12 spies into the Promised Land to see what was happening there. The spies went in; let's see what they found.**

Make sure kids have Bibles, pens, and paper. Have kids work in pairs to create lists of pros and cons for the Promised Land while they read Numbers 13:25-33. Then have kids compare lists to see which one is longer.

Ask:

- **Have you ever been in a situation in which you felt like you couldn't win? Explain.**
- **How is your situation like or unlike the situation the Israelites were in?**

Say: **The Israelites faced a difficult situation. They knew this beautiful land was what God had promised them, but now they faced giants. They needed to be brave for God and take possession of the land he had promised them, but their fear was keeping them from doing it.**

Ask:

- **What do you think the best choice was for the Israelites?**
- **What kinds of things keep you from standing up for God?**
- **What does it mean to be brave for God?**

Set out the game poster, the game cards, and a supply of sticky notes, and have kids gather around the poster in a circle. Say: **Today we'll play a game to try to get past the giants and into the Promised Land. Our goal in this game is to get to the milk and honey. But there are giants stopping us. You'll take turns choosing one of the "Giants in the Land" cards.**

**If you choose a "We can! God is with us!" card, take a sticky note and put it over a giant on the game poster. If you get a "Grumble" card, you must remove the last sticky note that was put over a giant. If you choose a card that says "We can't," you'll tell about a time you or someone you know did something for God even when it was hard or scary. Then you may put a sticky note over the next giant.**

Choose the person whose birthday is closest to today to draw a card first. Then in clockwise order, have kids take turns each drawing a card. Remind them of the rules as needed. Play until all the cards have been drawn. Even if kids are able to cover a giant when they draw a "We can't" card, they won't be able to get to the milk and honey because of the "Grumble" cards.



### But There'll Be Giants! Supplies

Bibles  
pens  
paper  
Bible Truth Sleuth  
sticky notes

#### Teacher Pack

"Giants in the Land"  
game poster  
"Giants in the Land"  
game cards

### But There'll Be Giants! Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 8 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

Separate the "Giants in the Land" game cards.





Say: **When the Israelites found out there were giants in the land that God had promised them, they were afraid. The Israelites didn't believe Caleb and Joshua when they said God would help them defeat the giants. Let's read about how the Israelites reacted when they were told what was in the land.**

Have a willing child read aloud Numbers 14:1-4. Distribute this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the "What Are Your Giants?" activity. After kids have completed the activity, have them form pairs and share their "giants" with their partners. Then have them pray together, asking God to help them be brave for him even when they face their giants.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- In our game, did you think we'd be able to get into the Promised Land to get the milk and honey? Why or why not?
- What do you do when you face a hard or scary situation?
- What can you do to keep your hope in God when you face difficult situations?

Say: **Our game was like real life because it showed us that walking with God doesn't mean we won't face challenges. God promises us that we won't be alone when we face hard times. No matter what we face, we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD. Because of the Israelites' grumbling, God didn't allow their generation to go into the Promised Land.**

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

### Stand Firm

#### Stand Firm Supplies

Bibles  
construction paper  
markers

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Make sure each child has a Bible, and have kids turn to this week's Key Verse, 1 Corinthians 15:58.

Say: **Let's take a look at our Key Verse for today and see what it says about standing up for God.** Read 1 Corinthians 15:58 together with all of the kids: **"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you" (1 Corinthians 15:58).**

Ask:

- What do you think it means to stand firm? How is it related to bravery?
- What kinds of things might keep you from doing what God wants you to do?

Say: **Being brave for God means following him no matter what. We're going to create something to remind us to give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord and to bravely stand firm.** Give each child a piece of construction paper large enough for him or her to stand on, and have kids work with a partner for this activity.





Say: **Take turns standing on your piece of paper as your partner draws an outline of your feet.** When kids have finished drawing outlines of each other's feet, have them write out the Key Verse on their paper feet in the following manner. At the top of the paper have them write, "Therefore, my dear brothers," and have them write the words "stand" and "firm" inside the feet. Then have them write the rest of the verse at the bottom of their paper.

Give kids a little time to decorate their feet.

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- In what way does standing on the words from our Key Verse symbolize standing firm in tough situations?
- Tell about a time you were tempted to do something wrong but you stood firm and were brave for God.
- What's different about the times you've stood firm for God and the times you've struggled?
- How can our Key Verse help you the next time you face something difficult?

Say: **The Israelites were afraid, and most of them weren't very brave. But we can stand firm like Joshua and Caleb did and trust God always. When you take these feet home, you can use them to remind you about how to stand firm and ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD. If you keep God's Word in your heart, you can stand firm on that anytime you're tested.**

## **4** LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do

Say: **Consider this week how you can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **When a friend tells you about something difficult going on in his or her life, be brave for God and ask if you can pray with your friend about that situation.**
- **One morning when you're getting ready for your day, stand on the feet you made today. Pray that God will help you stand firm for him and bravely do what's right.**
- **Invite a friend to church with you. Pray about which friend God would like you to invite, and then be brave by asking that person to join you at church.**



Daily Challenges  
Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth





### Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....  
feet drawings from the  
“Stand Firm” activity

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What’s a practical way you’re going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **As we saw in the Israelites’ situation, it’s sometimes hard to ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD. But he promises to always be with us. We can trust God and be brave for him by standing up and doing what’s right.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about being brave for God. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

Have kids place their feet drawings in a circle on the ground and stand on them. Ask kids to pray about situations they know they’ll face this week in which they’ll need to be brave for God.