



Moses Sends Spies Into the Promised Land

Numbers 13:1–14:23

Kids this age are beginning to perceive themselves as people capable of bravery. They're able to realize that they can stand up for what they believe, and they're beginning to really value bravery. They may look up to someone who's brave. They'll recognize superheroes and other such prominent people as brave people. Use this lesson to help kids realize that bravery doesn't have to mean huge gestures—they can be brave for God by standing up for what's right.



► Bible Point


Be brave for God.

Key Verse

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).


Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will be brave for God in their lives, even when it's hard.

| LESSON | WHAT KIDS DO | SUPPLIES | EASY PREP |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p> | <p>Please Stand Up, Please Stand Up <i>(about 20 min.)</i></p> <p>Identify situations in which they must be brave.</p> | <p>Bible Buzz, pens, hat</p> <p>Teacher Pack: "What Will <i>You Do?</i>" cards</p>  | <p>Tear out the Lesson 8 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.</p> <p>Separate the "What Will <i>You Do?</i>" cards, and put them in a hat.</p> |
| <p>2</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p> | <p>Extra! Extra! Spies in the Land <i>(about 25 min.)</i></p> <p>Correlate their own fears to those the Israelites had, and explore what it would be like to face those fears.</p> | <p>Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens, paper, markers, scissors, flashlight</p> | |

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





| LESSON | WHAT KIDS DO | SUPPLIES | EASY PREP |
|---|--|-------------------------|-----------|
| 3 Weaving Faith Into Life | Let's Be Stand-Up Guys and Girls! <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Revisit role-plays, and choose ways to stand up for God. | Bible Buzz, pens, paper | |
| 4 Lasting Impressions | Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word. | Bible Buzz | |
| | Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families. | | |

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.





Please Stand Up, Please Stand Up Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens
hat

Teacher Pack

“What Will *You Do?*”
cards

Please Stand Up, Please Stand Up Easy Prep

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

Separate the “What Will
You Do?” cards, and put
them in a hat.

1 GETTING STARTED

Please Stand Up, Please Stand Up

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. When everyone has arrived, have kids form groups of up to four.

Say: Choose one person from your group to select one of the situation cards I’m holding. In your groups, choose a freeze frame to show your card. Don’t worry about how you’d respond. We’ll get to that later. I’ll give you just one minute to prepare, so work quickly. After one minute, I’ll point to each group to indicate your group’s turn to make a freeze frame.

Have willing kids from each group select a card; then give groups a few minutes to prepare. Randomly select groups to present their situations. When all groups have presented, distribute pens and this week’s Bible Buzz pages, and have kids find the “Roll Film” section.

Say: Think about how you could personally respond to the situation your group acted out earlier. In “Roll Film,” there are two parts. In the first, write the first thing that comes to your mind as a response. Then discuss the situation with your group, and record the group’s response in the second part.

Give groups a few minutes to discuss and record responses.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Did your decision change after your group discussed the situation? Why or why not?
- How does what others think affect your decisions?
- What kinds of situations have you been in that are similar to these?
- What do you typically do to make decisions in tough situations?

Say: Many times we plan to be brave and make good decisions but are swayed by the opinions of others. It’s not just us who face that kind of challenge. It also happened to some Israelite spies—some who were brave people and some who weren’t. Let’s explore what happened and find out why it’s important to ► **BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**





2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Extra! Extra! Spies in the Land

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids find the "Spies in the Land" section on their Bible Buzz pages. Form four groups. Assign each group to one of the four parts of the Bible passage on the Bible Buzz pages. Invite groups to collect their supplies.

Allow 10 minutes for groups to follow the instructions on their Bible Buzz pages. Then help groups present their sections in chronological order.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead groups of four in this discussion.

Ask:

- What about this passage showed you a way you can be brave for God in your own life?
- What does it take to stand up and be brave enough to do what's right even when you're the only one?
- What's the most important thing about being brave for God?

Say: **God rewarded Caleb and Joshua for standing up for what God had promised them and the Israelite people. Most of the other spies and the people weren't willing to stand up, and they paid a terrible price—losing their right to enter the new land God promised. We may not be about to enter the Promised Land, but there are plenty of situations in our lives in which we can choose to ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Let's Be Stand-Up Guys and Girls!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids find and read the Key Verse, 1 Corinthians 15:58, on the Bible Buzz pages: "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

Distribute pens and paper, and say: **Think about a time you were like the spies who were afraid. Creatively represent that memory on the top half of the "Courageous**



Extra! Extra! Spies in the Land Supplies

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- Bibles
 - Bible Buzz
 - pens
 - paper
 - markers
 - scissors
 - flashlight

Let's Be Stand-Up Guys and Girls! Supplies

-
- Bible Buzz
 - pens
 - paper





Reflection” section of your Bible Buzz pages. You can use the questions there to help you process and reflect. Draw an abstract drawing, or write a paragraph. You have four minutes. Allow time.

Say: Think of a time you were like the brave spies and did the right thing even if you were the only one doing the right thing. Represent this picture too. Allow four minutes.

Have kids get back into their groups of four from the “Please Stand Up, Please Stand Up” activity. Have groups take a minute to discuss their pictures or paragraphs and the differences between being brave for God and doing what everyone else is doing.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was the main difference in the two situations you represented?
- When have you seen something in your life that shows that the right thing to do isn’t always the popular thing?
- What can you do to help yourself focus on what God wants instead of being focused on what everyone else is doing?

Say: You illustrated the difference between fear and bravery as God sees it. Your examples might help you see the times in your own life that you can be bold and brave for God. When we decide to ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD, that means following him no matter what. The Israelites weren’t all brave, and a small number of people went against everyone else to be brave for God.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

Daily Challenges
Supplies

Bible Buzz

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Let’s think this week about how we can ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD.

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

- Think of a situation you’re likely to face this week that will challenge you to be brave for God. Plan out your reaction ahead of time, and act it out so you know what you’re going to do. When that situation comes, follow your plan and thank God for helping you be brave.
- Tell a friend about your faith in God.
- Think of a situation that scares you. Decide the difference between being brave for God in that situation and reacting in fear. Trust God and let him help you when you face that situation.





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, place, and other ideas.**

Say: **The Israelites had good reason to be scared, but they had even more reasons to be courageous and brave for God. Let’s ► BE BRAVE FOR GOD by following through with our Daily Challenges this week.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about bravery. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families! Available at group.com/digital.

Have kids form a circle and sit on the floor. Ask kids to go around the circle and say one word or a phrase that signifies a way they want to be brave for God. Allow kids a chance to pass if they don’t want to participate. Have kids stand up when they say their word or phrase, and then encourage them to pray for one another about these areas of their lives.



