

Giants and Grasshoppers

Numbers 13:1-3, 17-33; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 387-394



Have you ever gone camping or moved to a new neighborhood? It is always fun to get up and go exploring. God gave the Israelites a chance to explore their new land before they moved in.

When Moses brought the Hebrew people out of Egypt, they marched from Goshen to the edge of the Red Sea. None of them knew the way, but God did. He led the people with a huge pillar of cloud. This cloud sheltered them from the hot sun during the day. At night the cloud gave them light and heat.

As the people neared the Promised Land, God told Moses to choose one leader from each tribe. These men were to spy out the land. "See what the land is like," Moses told the spies. "And bring back some fruit."

After 40 days the men returned. The Israelites came out to welcome the spies and hear their report. Caleb, a tall, strong man from the tribe of Judah, could hardly wait to give his report.

Joshua, a young leader from the tribe of Ephraim, had also brought a good report. Both Caleb and Joshua allowed the others to speak first.

"The land flows with milk and honey, just as God told us," the spies reported. "And we have brought back some fruit." Two men stepped forward with the huge bunch of grapes they carried on a pole between them, but the other spies spoke only about the walled cities and giants they saw in the land.

The people listening began to grumble and complain. Caleb could see that their mood was growing ugly. Suddenly he stepped between Moses and the people. "We can go up at once and take possession of the land," he encouraged. "It is a good land, and we can certainly do it!"



The Message

We encourage one another
to follow the Lord.

Memory Verse

“Let us . . . encourage
one another”

(Hebrews 10:25, NLT).

“How can we?” the 10 discouraged spies complained. “We felt like grasshoppers beside those people. And that is how we seemed to them!”

The people raised their voices and cried all night long. “It would have been better to die in Egypt or even here in the wilderness!” the people wailed. “Why is the Lord taking us into that land? We will be killed in battle, and our wives and children will be captured. Let’s go back to Egypt!”

Moses and Aaron fell with their faces to the ground. Caleb and Joshua were also distressed by Israel’s lack of trust in the Lord. They tore their clothes and held up their hands for silence.

“The land we explored is excellent!” the two faithful spies exclaimed. “Don’t be afraid of the people who live there. With God’s help we will conquer them easily. The Lord is with us; He has left them!”

Caleb looked out over the angry multitude. The other 10 spies mixed with the crowd, spreading discouragement.

Caleb shook his head. It was a good land, a beautiful land, rich and full of food. After all, it had taken two men to carry home one bunch of grapes! Yes, the people of the land were powerful. Their cities were well protected, but the children of Israel had God on their side.

Suddenly the crying and wailing of the people took an uglier turn. “Let’s stone them!” they muttered, pointing to Moses, Aaron, Caleb, and Joshua. “Stone them! Stone them!”

At that moment a dazzling light spread

over the tabernacle, the Lord’s tent. The people backed away, fearful, squinting, shading their eyes with their hands.

Then the Lord spoke. “Because you people are afraid of entering the land, you will not do so. You will wander in the wilderness until all of you who are adults die. As for your children, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you rejected.”

But God promised Caleb and Joshua that they would go into the land because they spoke encouragement. Like Caleb and Joshua, we should encourage one another to follow the Lord.





S A B B A T H

DO If possible, go for a walk. Imagine you are a spy in Canaan. Describe what you see to your family. Read your lesson and Hebrews 10:25 together.

SING Sing together “Do, Lord” (Sing for Joy, no. 91).

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship, read Numbers 13:1-3, 17-20.

DO Try to find a Bible map of the Israelites’ journey to the Promised Land. Trace their journey from Egypt to Sinai to Kadesh-barnea. Also find the Desert of Paran—from where Moses sent the spies.

DO Teach your memory verse to your family. Use the rhythm learned in Sabbath School.

M O N D A Y

SHARE With your family, read Numbers 13:21, 23-28. What good things did the spies find in the land? Describe the people they saw. (The descendants of Anak were giants.) Draw a picture of the spies returning with the grapes (at Kadesh-barnea).

THINK How do you feel when you hear a good report? a bad report? Plan with your family to give someone a good report about heaven, our Promised Land.

SING Say or sing your memory verse for your family.

T U E S D A Y

READ Read Numbers 13:30-14:4 during family worship. Is this a story of encouragement or discouragement? Why?

SHARE Play the “Change Negative to Positive” game with your family. Everyone tells or writes words of discouragement you often hear. Then pass it to the next person. They change it to words of encouragement and read it aloud. (“It’s too cold today.” Change to “It is good to have a variety.”) Do you look for the bright side when you hear negative thoughts?

DO Say your memory verse together.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ With your family, read in Numbers 14 what Caleb and Joshua did and said (verses 5-9). What were they trying to do? Did they succeed? (See verse 10.)

DO Whom do you know who might be feeling a little discouraged today? Write or draw an encouraging note to that person. Include your favorite encouraging Bible verse. Pray for that person today.

SING Sing “Smile, Smile, Smile” (Sing for Joy, no. 107).



THURSDAY

DO Together with your family, read about the change of plans for Israel in Numbers 14:21-25, 30, 31, 34, 35.

SHARE How could the story have had a happier ending?

DO Draw a different fruit for each family member. Write an encouraging Bible verse on each and give it to them.

SING Sing "Trust and Obey" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 113).

DO Call a friend and help them learn the memory verse. Ask if they have anything for which you could pray. Then pray together.

FRIDAY

DO Act out your lesson story for your family.

SHARE Talk about some good things God has done for you.

DO Read 1 Timothy 2:2. Make and decorate a special triangular pennant for your pastor out of stiff cloth or paper. Attach it to a wooden dowel. Write the words "Yea, Pastor!" on one side, and "We're praying for you!" on the other. Have everyone in your family sign their names. Give it to your pastor tomorrow. He needs encouragement too!

SING Sing or say your memory verse.

Giants and Grasshoppers

PUZZLE

Directions: This lesson has a message for today. Cross out every other word beginning with the second word.

Let giants us and
encourage grasshoppers
one don't another count.

Hebrews 10:25

When we wandered in the wilderness, God gave us food, water, and ways to stay healthy. Our clothes never wore out!



Escape From Jericho

Joshua 2; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 481-483, 491



Natasha sat under a table that was covered with blankets. She typed on an old typewriter hidden inside a wooden box. The blankets and the box helped soften the sound of the typewriter so it could not be heard outside.

Why was she doing that? She lived in a country in which Christian books were forbidden. But books about Jesus were important to Natasha and other Christians. So Natasha risked her life to type copies of Christian books so others could learn more about Jesus.

One day the police pounded on Natasha's door. They arrested her and took her away. But God kept her safe.

A long time ago the Jericho police wanted to arrest two men who were working for God. This is how it happened.

Forty years went by after the 10 spies brought back their discouraging report. Joshua, the young spy who joined Caleb in bringing a good report about the Promised Land, was now Israel's leader. And he was still



looking for ways to encourage people.

Just as Moses had done years before, Joshua sent out spies. This time two spies went into the Promised Land. "Go, look over the land," Joshua told them, "especially Jericho."

So the men slipped into that mighty city. That night they went to a house built on the city wall. Rahab, the woman who lived there, answered their knock. She knew that they were Israelites, yet she invited them inside.

Now, everyone in Jericho, including Rahab,

The Message

With our church family we listen and learn what is important.

Memory Verse

“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well”

(Matthew 6:33).

knew about the Israelites. Everyone knew that the Lord fought Israel’s battles. And that scared the king of Jericho and his army. But instead of calling the soldiers, Rahab talked to the men. Then she hid the two Israelites on her roof under some stalks of flax.

When the king’s soldiers came knocking, Rahab swung the door wide open. “Bring out the men who have come to spy on us,” they demanded.

“The men left here a short time ago,” she lied. “Go quickly, and you will surely catch them.” The soldiers dashed away looking for the spies. About that same time, the gates of Jericho clanked shut. The city settled down to sleep.

When all was quiet, Rahab crept up onto the roof. “I know that the Lord has given this land to your people,” she told the spies. “We have heard how He dried up the Red Sea for you. Everyone is afraid; our courage has melted. You know I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sign that you will show kindness to my family.”

“We will!” the men promised. “Our lives for your lives. You don’t tell what we are doing, and you will be safe when the Lord gives us the land.”

So Rahab took a red rope to let the spies down from her window. “After we have gone, tie this rope in your window,” the spies told her. “When we take the city, we will save you and the family members inside the house with you. But the rope must be in the window.”

Rahab watched as the men climbed down the rope and disappeared into the darkness. She carefully tied the cord to the window.

Deep in her heart she knew that she had discovered something very important. The God of Israel was the true God. He would be her God from that day on.





S A B B A T H

DO If possible, go for a walk with your family and read your lesson story together. Imagine that the Jericho police are searching for you. Where would you hide? Pray for people who have to hide because they are Christians.

READ Read Matthew 6:33 together. Tell what you think this verse means.

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship, read Joshua 2:1-11 together. What do you think Rahab discovered that was really important?

DO Make a memory verse mobile. You will need red yarn and a coat hanger. Cut 20 shapes out of paper (like the blocks in the wall of Jericho). Write one memory verse word on each. Write the Bible reference on one. Put a picture of Jesus on another. Cut the yarn into 20 different lengths. Attach one piece to each cutout. Then attach the yarn to the coat hanger. Hang it where you can see it every day.

SING Sing "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" (Sing for Joy, no. 119). Pray that God will help you follow Him.

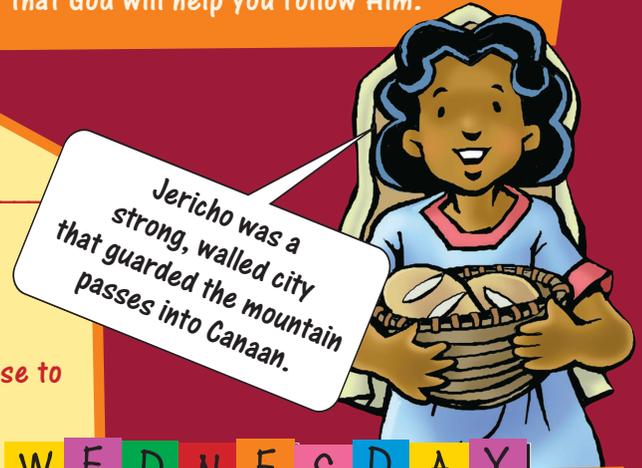
M O N D A Y

READ Read Joshua 2:12-24 with your family. What new thing did you learn from the Bible story? Write it here. _____

DRAW Draw a picture of Rahab and the spies.

DO Use your memory verse mobile to teach your memory verse to your family.

SING Sing "Give Your Heart to Jesus" (Sing for Joy, no. 118).



W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE With your family, talk about Rahab. How do we know that she believed that God was most important? Read Joshua 2:9 together.

DO When you earn money, how do you put God first? Mark your answers:

_____ You give one tenth for tithe to God.

_____ You give an offering.

_____ You ask God to help you use money wisely.

_____ You save the money.

DO Use 10 coins that are alike. Take out the tithe. Decide what you will give for an offering.

DO Thank God for blessings He gives you.

T U E S D A Y

DO During worship, ask an adult to tell about their life before and after they chose to serve God. Ask: "How did God's church help you learn about Him? What is the most important thing in your life?" Read Jeremiah 29:13 together.

THINK How can you put God first in the morning? during the day? at bedtime? Pray that God will help you put Him first all the time.

SING Sing "Seek Ye First" (Sing for Joy, no. 67).



T H U R S D A Y

READ For worship, read Matthew 1:5 together. Whose grandmother was Rahab? Whose great-grandmother? Look at all the names of the family list in Matthew 1. Whose is the last name? How far back can you trace your family?

SING Sing your memory verse together.

DO Look through the books and toys in your room. Could a person tell that God was most important to you? What changes might you want to make?

F R I D A Y

MAKE During family worship, make the walls of Jericho, Rahab, and the spies out of materials you can find at home. Tell the story. Put some "straw" on the roof of Rahab's house and hide the spies. Then help them escape.

READ Ask your family: How will you put God first in your life each day? What choices will you make? Read Psalm 122:1 together.

SHARE Show your memory verse mobile and say the verse together.

SING Sing "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" (Sing for Joy, no. 90). Then thank God for His Sabbath day.

Escape From Jericho

PUZZLE

Directions: Find out what we should seek first. Put the letter matching the symbol on the line.



D E G H I K M N O R S T U