

The BIBLE Story

Joshua and Caleb

Numbers 13–14

God's people had traveled out of Egypt and were almost to the promised land. God told Moses to send men to scout out the land of Canaan (KAY nuhn). This is the land God was giving to the Israelites.

So Moses sent out one leader from each family tribe.

Moses told the leaders to see what the land was like, and whether the people living

there were strong or weak, few or

many. Moses had many questions:

Is the land good or bad? Are the cities they live in camps or forts?

Is the land good for farming?

Are there any trees?

Moses urged the scouts to be courageous. So the twelve scouts traveled throughout the land for 40 days. They cut down a cluster of grapes that was so big it took two men to carry it on a pole. **Then they went back to tell Moses, Aaron, and the other Israelites what they**

saw.

“The land is good. It is flowing with milk and honey,” they said. “But the people who live there are strong, and the cities they live in are large and well protected.”

Then Caleb, one of the men sent to scout out the land, said, **“We must go up and take possession of the land! We can certainly conquer it with God's help!”**



But other men disagreed. “We can’t go up against the people! They are stronger than we are. We looked like grasshoppers compared to them!”

The people were afraid, and they cried all night. They thought Moses and Aaron had brought them to Canaan to die. **The Israelites said, “Let’s choose a new leader and go back to Egypt!”**

Joshua and Caleb tore their clothes and said again, “The land we explored is extremely good land. If the Lord is pleased with us, He will give it to us. Don’t be afraid of the people living in the land; God is with us!”

The Lord spoke to Moses: “How long will these people not trust Me?” God threatened to destroy all the people, but Moses urged God to forgive them. Moses reminded God that He is patient, loving, and forgiving.

Since Caleb and Joshua had followed God completely, God decided to let them enter the promised land. God said that the Israelites who did not trust Him would wander in the wilderness 40 years, and they would not enter the promised land. All of the spies who went to scout out the land died before entering, except for Joshua and Caleb.

Christ Connection: The Israelites rebelled against God because they did not trust Him. Jesus trusted God perfectly. He took the punishment we deserve for our sin, or rebellion against God. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us eternal life.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use props:** Display milk, honey, a cluster of grapes, and other fruit. Gesture to the props when the spies describe the land.
- **Dress the part:** Wear Bible times clothing and tell the story as an Israelite remembering the event. Act afraid when you hear of the giants, seem doubtful when Joshua and Caleb say to trust God.