

12 Spies Explore Canaan

Lesson 1



Scripture: Numbers 13; 14:5-9













Bible Memory: Joshua 24:15

Focus: ♥ We can believe what God says.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

Deciding what or whom to believe can be challenging. Which commercial about the best toothpaste is true? In which car service company can you put your trust? God wants us to believe in Him and believe what He has said. God says that He created the world. You can believe that—just look around at all He has made. God says that He is love and that He cares about each one of us. You can believe that—God sent His only Son to die for you and me. If God said it, you can believe it!

Lesson 1 at a Glance

<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one of these activities to help children <i>identify things they believe</i>.</p>	<p> Quick Step Do You Believe This?</p> <p> Option Some Things I Believe</p> <p> Bible Memory Introduce the Bible Memory verse.</p>	<p>HeartShaper Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • Some Things I Believe reproducible page • none 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • scissors, glue sticks • Bible
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use all of these activities to help children <i>tell how Joshua and Caleb believed what God said</i>.</p>	<p> Bible Exploration Numbers 13; 14:5-9</p> <p> Bible Review Activity</p> <p> Bible Memory Joshua 24:15</p> <p> Optional Bible Skill Builder</p>	<p>• <i>Resources</i> sheet 1 Bible Story Name Cards, <i>Teaching Picture</i> 1</p> <p>• <i>Resources</i> sheet 2 Race to the Promised Land Game Cards for lesson 1, <i>Resources</i> CD Unit 1 Review Game printable file</p> <p>• <i>Resources</i> sheet 1 Unit 1 Bible Memory Poster</p>	<p>• whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles, yarn, scissors, 2 rulers, masking tape, grapes</p> <p>• masking tape</p> <p>• Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, reusable adhesive</p>
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help children <i>discover some things God has said</i>.</p>	<p> Quick Step What God Has Said—and Done!</p> <p> Option What Has God Said?</p> <p> Option Story from <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i></p>	<p>• <i>Activities</i> pp. 3 and 4</p> <p>• none</p> <p>• <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i> issue 1</p>	<p>• colored pencils, scissors, stapler</p> <p>• whiteboard, dry-erase marker and eraser</p> <p>• Bible</p>
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help children <i>show they believe something God has said</i>.</p>	<p> Quick Step I Believe It!</p> <p> Option Share in Pairs</p> <p>Saying Good-bye</p>	<p>• none</p> <p>• none</p> <p>• <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i> issue 1, <i>Activities</i> p. 2 and stickers</p>	<p>• none</p> <p>• paper, pencils</p> <p>• none</p>

Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1** Use one of these activities to help children **identify things they believe**. Use the Bible Memory activity to introduce the memory verse.

Welcome

- Welcome each child by name.
- Engage early arrivers by offering one or more of the activities described on the Additional Activities for Unit 1 page.

Quick Step Do You Believe This?

Have children gather in a circle. SAY: **When we believe something, we accept that it is true or real. Let's find out some things you believe.** Tell kids they are to show a thumbs-up when they hear something they believe to be true. They can show thumbs-down when they hear something they don't believe. Read each of the following statements and let the children respond. Statements: **It's good to have friends. Trees have leaves. Yellow is the prettiest color. Everyone should have a cat. Playing outside is fun. Rain is wet. Broccoli is good.**

ASK: **Why didn't everyone have the same answer each time?** (People can believe different things.)

What are some other things you believe? Encourage discussion.

SAY: **Sometimes we are told things that we don't believe. But we are going to learn that we can believe what God says.**

Option Some Things I Believe

Have children gather at tables. SAY: **When we believe something, we accept that it is true or real. Let's find out some things you believe.** Distribute copies of the reproducible page. Provide scissors and glue sticks. Read the directions aloud. Have kids cut out the picture-words at the bottom of the page. Then read the sentences and have kids finish each sentence, gluing on the correct picture.

ASK: **What are some other things you believe?** Encourage responses.

What are some things you believe that another person might not believe? (A cat is the best pet. Pizza is the best food.)

SAY: **We may not believe all the same things, but we can believe what God says—always!**

Bible Memory Joshua 24:15

SAY: **Let's pretend that I have two flavors of ice cream for you to eat. Tell me whether you would choose vanilla or chocolate.** Let each child respond. **Now let's pretend that I have two kinds of fruit to eat. Tell me whether you would choose an apple or a banana.** Let children respond.

SAY: **Joshua, a leader of God's people, said the people had a choice to make. Read Joshua 24:15. Joshua and his family chose to serve God. We can believe what God says, and we can choose to serve God too.**

Focus

♥ We can believe what God says.

Materials

(optional: objects or pictures of objects to be named)



Showing the actual objects (or pictures of objects) will help kids stay focused and better understand the concept.

Something More!

Get kids up and moving! Name an action for responding to each statement. For example, **if you believe the statement is true, tap your head. If it is not true, touch your toes.**

Materials

copies of Some Things I Believe reproducible page, scissors, glue sticks (optional: markers)



Note

See the teacher contents page for the location of reproducible pages. The Some Things I Believe activity is also provided with the lesson 1 printable files on the *Resources* CD.

Materials

Bible



Transition to Explore His Word

See the *Resources* CD Transition Tips printable file. As children gather, make sure you have all the materials you need.

Focus

♥ We can believe what God says.

Explore His Word (20 minutes)

2 Use all of these activities to help children **tell how Joshua and Caleb believed what God said.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

God wanted His people to know what lay before them, so He told Moses to select one man from each tribe to go and spy out the land. The names of the spies are listed in Numbers 13. Caleb was the son of Jephunneh of the tribe of Judah. This was to be the royal tribe. Hoshea was from the tribe of Ephraim. *Hoshea* means “salvation.” Moses changed the name to Joshua, which means “the Lord saves.” In later lessons we learn that Joshua truly was the instrument of deliverance and salvation for the Israelites.

The 12 men were sent out from the Desert of Paran. They went to Canaan around the month of July. The first grapes ripen in the land of Canaan in July and August. When they returned, 10 of the spies no longer believed God’s promise that He was giving this land to them.

Worship Time

If you want to have a time of worship, see the *Resources* CD Unit 1 Worship Time Ideas printable file.

Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles, *Resources* sheet 1 Bible Story Name Cards, yarn, scissors, 2 rulers (or yardsticks), masking tape, bunch of grapes, *Teaching Picture 1* (optional: dowel rod, artificial leaves, yarn, purple construction paper)



Before Class

Separate the name cards. Cut lengths of yarn to attach to the Moses, Joshua, and Caleb name cards so the cards can be slipped over a child’s head to wear. Attach the Israelites and spies cards to rulers that can be held up by a group. Using masking tape, mark off a line on the classroom floor, indicating a separation between the wilderness and Canaan.

Bible Exploration Numbers 13; 14:5-9

SAY: Today’s Bible story comes from the book of Numbers in the Old Testament. Write “Numbers 13:1” on the board. Turn to the verse in your Bible. Ask a volunteer to read verse 1 and the first part of verse 2.

SAY: You can help me act out today’s Bible story. We will learn how two men, Joshua and Caleb, believed what God said. Assign acting parts and distribute name cards. You will need Moses, Joshua, Caleb, one or more children to represent the 10 spies, and kids to represent the rest of the Israelites. Give action cues as you tell the story. Note: If you have a smaller class, you or an adult helper can fill character roles, as needed.

SAY: When Moses led God’s people out of the country of Egypt, God had promised to give His people a land of their very own. As God’s people, the Israelites, traveled toward their new land, God was with them, and the group of God’s people grew. Now there were more than 600,000 men, plus their families. Moses was leading all these people to a new land called the land of Canaan. Walk and have Moses lead all the others around the room, stopping at the line you have prepared.

Moses and the huge group of God’s people came near the new land. But other people already lived in the land. Place a hand above your eyes and peer over the line. **What were Moses and the people to do?**

God spoke to Moses. God said, “Send 12 men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites.” Did you hear God’s promise? He was going to give the land to His people! Have everyone cheer.

So Moses sent 12 men into the land to look around. Have Joshua, Caleb, and the 10 spies step forward. **The men were to come back with answers to these questions: What did the land look like? Could the people grow their own food? What kind of fruit grew there? Were the people there strong or weak? Were there many people? What were the cities like?**

The 12 men traveled through the land of Canaan for 40 days. Have spies cross the line and sneak around the room, as though exploring the land. Watch quietly; then have the spies return to the group. **When they**

returned home, God’s people crowded around the 12 men. Do so. The people learned that the land was good, producing plenty of food for everyone. The 12 men had brought back a large branch full of grapes. Show grapes. The people could see for themselves what good food grew in the land! Show *Teaching Picture 1*.

But God’s people also learned that strong people lived there in large cities with walls around them. The people of the land were very tall—like giants. Ten of the spies said, “The people of the land are too big and strong. We should not attack them.” Have 10 spies shake their heads no.

But wait! God had said He was going to give them the land of Canaan. Had the people forgotten God’s promise? Two of the spies, Caleb and Joshua, *did* believe God! They tore their clothes with grief. Pretend to do so. Joshua said, “The land we saw is very good. If God is pleased with us, He will give us the land. Don’t be afraid of those people. They have no protection, but we have the Lord.”

Of the 12 men who brought back a report of the land, only two men really believed and trusted that God would give the land to His people. Joshua and Caleb knew they could believe what God said.

Bible Review Activity

ASK: **How did Joshua and Caleb show that they believed what God said?**
(They told the people not to be afraid. They said God would give them the land.)

SAY: **Let’s play a game and see what else you remember from the Bible story.** Show the picture and question cards for lesson 1. Shuffle the cards and place them facedown in a stack (or place the cards in a paper bag that kids can reach into to draw cards). Use masking tape to mark off a finish line. Using the instructions provided on the printable file, explain how the game is played. Let the kids play until one team has reached the finish line, or determine which team is closest to the line when it is time to end the game. SAY: **Joshua and Caleb believed what God said. ♥ We can believe what God says too.**

Bible Memory Joshua 24:15

“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve. . . . But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Before class, separate the word cards from the main part of the Bible Memory poster. Display the poster on a wall or bulletin board. Write “Joshua 24:15” on the board. Ask kids to find the table of contents in their Bibles. Help them find and turn to the book of Joshua. Then help them find chapter 24, verse 15. Ask a volunteer to read the verse.

Read the verse from the Bible Memory poster. Pause when you come to an empty space, and ask who knows what word is missing. When a child says the correct word, let him attach the piece to the poster with reusable adhesive. When all the spaces have been filled, lead the kids in saying the Bible verse together. SAY: **Joshua and Caleb first believed what God said. Then Joshua chose to serve the Lord. It works the same with us. First, ♥ we can believe what God says. When we believe, then we will choose to serve the Lord.**


Something More!

For a special effect, purchase a length of dowel rod. Attach artificial leaves to the rod. Cut yarn at varying lengths; tape “grapes” (purple construction paper circles) to yarn. Hang the grapes along the rod.


Give the children real grapes to eat during or after the story.

If children have made spyglasses, they can bring these to Bible Exploration time. See the Additional Activities for Unit 1.


Materials

Resources sheet 2 Race to the Promised Land Game 
Cards for lesson 1, *Resources* CD
Unit 1 Review Game printable file, masking tape (optional: paper lunch bag)

Materials

Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, *Resources* 
sheet 1 Unit 1 Bible Memory Poster, reusable adhesive (or pushpins)

Optional Bible Skill Builder

Display the books of the Old Testament and New Testament posters provided with the *Resources* CD Classroom Tools. Ask children whether the story of the 12 spies exploring Canaan would be found in the Old or New Testament. (Old Testament) Have kids find and point to the book of Numbers on the Old Testament poster. Read together the names of the first 5 books of the Old Testament. 

Focus

♥ We can believe what God says.

Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

3 Use one of these activities to help children **discover some things God has said.**

Materials

Activities pp. 3 and 4, colored pencils (or markers), scissors, stapler (optional: mural paper, markers)



Activities that require words to be spelled out may be difficult for the child with a learning disability, such as dyslexia. Consider having a group of children create a mural that pictures promises God has kept. They could draw a rainbow and ark, baby Jesus, an empty tomb, and so on. Children can draw things that God has done for them too!

Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker and eraser



Suggested Scriptures

Genesis 26:3—"I will be with you."

Exodus 20:2—"I am the LORD your God."

Psalms 29:11—"The LORD gives strength to his people."

John 17:17—"Your word is truth."

Philippians 4:19—"My God will meet all your needs."

1 Peter 5:7—"He cares for you."

1 John 4:16—"God is love."

Materials

Weekly Bible Reader issue 1, Bible



Quick Step What God Has Said—and Done!

SAY: When we read what God has said and see what He has done, it helps us understand that ♥ we can believe what God says. Let's discover some things God has said—and done! Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Read the directions aloud. Give help as needed in completing the sentences on both sides of the page. In the blank box, encourage children to draw a way God has provided for them. Show how to cut out and assemble the pages. Talk about each promise God has made. Use the pictures to recall familiar Bible stories and tell how God has kept each promise.

ASK: What are some promises God has kept? (He will never again destroy the earth with a flood. He sent Jesus to be our Savior. He always loves and cares for us.)

SAY: Every promise God makes, He keeps. ♥ We can believe what God says. And God says that He cares for us!

Option What Has God Said?

SAY: God told Moses that He would be with His people. Let's play a game and discover some other things God has said and things we can believe about God. Play a game similar to Hangman. Write on the board one of the suggested Scripture references. Then write blanks for each letter and word in the verse. Let the kids take turns guessing letters of the alphabet. When they guess a letter in the verse, write that letter on the appropriate blanks. If kids guess a letter that is not in the verse, write the letter on the side to remind them of letters already called. When a child thinks he knows what the verse says, he should raise his hand and wait before saying the verse.

SAY: These are good verses to remember from God's Word. ♥ We can believe what God says.

Option Story from Weekly Bible Reader

SAY: Joshua and Caleb believed what God said. Let's discover something we can believe about God. Read the rebus story "A Scary Sleepover." Pause whenever you come to a picture, and let kids call out the pictured word.

ASK: What did Kayla remember that God has said? (He is greater than anything in the world.)

SAY: The Bible verse Kayla remembered can be found in 1 John 4:4. Read the verse aloud from a Bible. Everything written in the Bible is true because the Bible is God's Word. ♥ We can believe what God says, because God always tells the truth.

Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4** Use one of these activities to help children **show they believe something God has said.**

Focus

♥ We can believe what God says.

Quick Step I Believe It!

SAY: **Let's remember some things God has said. We'll tell what we will do because ♥ we believe what God says is true.** Have the children stand in a circle. When the circle is formed, everyone should step back one step. Tell the kids that you will tell something God says and then start a sentence. If they believe what God says and can think of a way to finish the sentence, they can step forward one step. Call on each child who steps into the circle and let him finish the sentence.

Sentence starters:

God says He cares for me. I believe it, and I will . . . (let children respond)

God says He will be with me. I believe it, and I will . . . (let children respond)

God says He loves me. I believe it, and I will . . . (let children respond)

Close with a time of prayer. Ask for volunteers to pray and thank God for caring for us, promising to be with us, and loving us.

Option Share in Pairs



SAY: **We've discovered some things God has said, and we've learned that ♥ we can believe what God says. One way to show that we believe what God says is true is by sharing what we believe with others. Let's do that now.** Give each child a sheet of paper and a pencil. Tell the children they are to write on their papers one promise of God that they believe, or they can draw a picture that represents something they believe about God. (Examples: rainbow, cross, etc.)

When the children have had time to write or draw what they believe, have them find partners. They should exchange papers and tell each other what they believe about God.

If time allows, children can make cards that they can give to their parents or church members, reminding others that God always keeps His promises. Close with a time of prayer, thanking God that His Word is true. Ask God to help you and the children remember and believe His Word every day.

Saying Good-bye

- Distribute issue 1 of *Weekly Bible Reader*. Hand out the *Activities* page 2 Unit 1 Bible Memory Poster and stickers. Stickers are in the middle of *Early Elementary Activities*. Encourage kids to complete their posters at home.
- Make sure children have projects and activity sheets they have done.
- If you have time before parents arrive, use some of the activities on the Additional Activities for Unit 1 page.

Materials

none



Teaching Tip

Be prepared to finish each sentence yourself. This will help the children understand what they are to do. (Example: God says He cares for me. I believe it, and I will **not worry about having enough food to eat.**)

Materials

paper, pencils (or markers)
(optional: *Resources* CD track 1, CD player)



Something More!

Divide the class into two groups, having the same number of children in each group. Have each group form a circle, one inside the other. Play music and have the two groups move in opposite directions. When the music stops, each child will partner with the person he is nearest to in the opposite circle.

Weekly Bible Reader

Give each student a *Weekly Bible Reader* to take home.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to www.heartshaper.com.

