

LOWER ELEM Flight Plan

November 2nd



Lesson	Joshua and Caleb
Bible Passage	Numbers 13-14
Story Point	Joshua and Caleb trusted God to give His people the promised land.
Key Passage	Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6
Big Picture Q & A	What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.



Spy the Land

INSTRUCTIONS: Find and circle the 3 bunches of grapes, 12 spies, and 5 goodspies hidden in the Bible story picture.



Illustration: Kenney Rogers
Unit 7 - Session 1
Joshua and Caleb

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:
• Moses sent 12 spies into the promised land to find out if it was good.
• Joshua and Caleb trusted God to give the people the promised land.
• The other spies thought that the people in the land were too powerful to defeat.
• God was angry that the people did not trust Him and made the people wander the wilderness for 40 years.

KEY MESSAGE: Proverbs 3:5-6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
• What does it mean to spy? To sin?
• To think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.

PRIMER/FOCUS/CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:
• Why did he send the spies?
• Why did he send the promised land after all of your year wandering? Why?
• How can we trust God more?

PRIMER ACTIVITY:
• Use flash paper and work with your kids to make pop-it suns. For a meaningful prayer, read either the verses just written and supplied.



DOWNLOAD THE LIVING STORY APP

leader bible study

Before God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt, He promised to bring the Israelites back to the land He had given to Abraham so many years before. (Ex. 3:8) From Egypt, the Israelites crossed the Red Sea and traveled toward Mount Sinai. When they were hungry and thirsty, God provided food and water. (See Ex. 16–17.) Israel spent one year at Mount Sinai, where Moses received God’s law, including the Ten Commandments.

Time and again, the Israelites rebelled against God, Moses interceded, and God pardoned the people. When Israel arrived at the edge of the promised land, God instructed Moses to send scouts into the land. Moses sent out a leader from each tribe. Twelve men, including Joshua and Caleb, traveled through the promised land of Canaan for 40 days. They returned with fruit—grapes, pomegranates, and figs—and gave a report on the land.

The scouts described the land’s abundance, as “flowing with milk and honey.” They gave an account of the people, various tribes who were physically strong and whose cities were fortified. Caleb’s immediate imperative—“Let’s go up now!”—was met with resistance by most of the group. Assessing their own strength against the strength of the inhabitants, they concluded that to move forward would mean certain defeat.

The Israelites complained: “If only we had died in the land of Egypt, or if only we had died in this wilderness!” Joshua and Caleb tried to persuade the people of God’s presence and protection, but the people would not trust God. So God gave them what they thought was better. He sent them into the wilderness to wander for 40 years. They would die there. Only Joshua, Caleb, and the Israelites’ children would enter the promised land.

Help the kids you teach contemplate the punishment Israel faced for their failure to trust God and their rebellion. Point out that, as sinners, we have all disobeyed God. But Jesus trusted God perfectly and took the punishment for our rebellion. When we look to Him for salvation, we have forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.

Vision for Grace Airways
We navigate the scriptures,
training up bold disciples,
on our ongoing journey to Jesus!

Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____
- Where is the gospel in this story?

November Focus: Conquering the Land



Nov 2nd: Joshua and Caleb *Numbers 13-14*

Story point: Joshua and Caleb trusted God to give His people the promised land.



Nov 9th: Moses' Farewell *Deuteronomy 31-34*

Story Point: Moses reminded the people to keep God's covenant.



Nov 16th: Crossing the Jordan *Joshua 1-4*

Story Point: God held back the Jordan River for His people to cross.



Nov 23rd: Taking the Land *Joshua 10-11; 24*

Story Point: God made the sun stand still and gave His people victory.



Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co-Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co-pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- **Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?**
- **How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?**
- **What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?**
- **In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?**

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

Sunday Morning Flight Plan



Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPO and A & Key Passage
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story
(Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

PICK UP:

First Service:
Around 9:45

Second Service:
Around 11:45



10 min Take Off

Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.

Open in Prayer

Hook

Prompt kids to talk about a time they went to a place they had never been before. What was the place like? Was it as they expected?

Big Picture Question

The big picture question we will be thinking about the next few weeks is, ***What does it mean to sin?*** *Now that is a great question. Do any of you think you know the answer? [Allow kids to respond.]*

Those are some good ideas. The answer to our big picture question is, ***To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.*** Let's read this together.

Key Passage

Our key passage comes from the Book of Proverbs, which was written to teach people to make wise choices and live godly lives. In today's Bible story, **Joshua and Caleb trusted God to give His people the promised land**, but the rest of the Israelites did not trust in the Lord. They relied on themselves to decide what was best, and that was a mistake! Over the next few weeks, we'll work together to memorize our key passage.

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

After the Israelites left Egypt, they traveled toward the promised land. They camped at Mount Sinai, where God made a covenant with His people. He gave them laws to guide them in how to live and to help them understand His perfect holiness.

They made it to the edge of the promised land. All they had to do was trust God and take over the land! But as we'll see in our Bible story today, the Israelites would not go into the land. Let's find out what happened.

Transition to Bible Story: (OPTIONAL) Show the Bible Story Video.



15 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Bible Story

Open your Bible to **Numbers 13-14** Read from the Bible or use your storytelling skills to help you tell the story.

No matter what God did to prove His faithfulness, the Israelites always seemed to turn away from Him or believe wrong things about Him. Joshua and Caleb trusted God to give His people the promised land, but none of the other Israelites did. They thought God was leading them to die!

The enemies living in the promised land were powerful, and they had strong cities. That was all true. Even so, God is more powerful, and He has the ability to defeat any enemy. By refusing to enter the promised land, God's people were showing that they believed the lie that God wasn't strong enough or good enough to protect them and fight for them.

It's too easy to read this story and think the 10 scouts who were afraid were foolish. I tell myself that I would have been like Joshua or Caleb. But you know, I distrust God sometimes too. A lot of times, actually. Every time I choose sin instead of obedience, it shows I do not trust that God's commands are good for me. Even though God has never been unfaithful to me, I am unfaithful to Him. I sin even though I should trust Him and obey.

That brings us to our big picture question: What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God or His commands. Sounds like sin is pretty unavoidable, right? That's why the gospel is such good news!



•*God knows that we all sin. Sometimes we sin in ways we don't even totally understand or know about! Although we all deserve punishment for our sin, God sent Jesus to rescue us from sin.*

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

Joshua and Caleb

Numbers 13–14

STORY POINT: JOSHUA AND CALEB TRUSTED GOD TO GIVE HIS PEOPLE THE PROMISED LAND.

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. So Moses sent out one leader from each family tribe. Moses told the leaders to see what the land was like.

Moses urged the scouts to be courageous. So the twelve scouts traveled throughout the land for 40 days. Then they went back to tell Moses, Aaron, and the other Israelites what they saw.

"The land is good," 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 scouts, said, "We must go up and take possession of the land! We can certainly conquer it with God's help!"

But other men disagreed. The people were afraid. The Israelites said, "Let's choose a new leader and go back to Egypt!"

Joshua and Caleb said again, "The land we explored is extremely good land. If the Lord is pleased with us, He will give it to us. God is with us!"

God said the Israelites would wander in the wilderness and would not enter the promised land. Only Joshua, Caleb, and the children of Israel would one day enter the land.

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. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us eternal life.



Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them use the table of contents to find Numbers 13–14. Discuss the location of Numbers as part of the books of the Law, also known as the Torah—the first five books of the Old Testament. Remind them that these books are called the Law because they contain God’s laws for the Israelites to follow. Lead the group to discuss:

1. **How did Moses pick the 12 men to go scout out the land?** (Moses picked a leader from each of the twelve tribes of Israel, Num. 13:4-16)
2. **What did the scouts report about the land?** (It was good, flowing with milk and honey, but defended by strong people with fortified cities; Num. 13:27-29)
3. **Who trusted God?** (Only Joshua and Caleb trusted God to give them the land. The other scouts were afraid; Num. 14:6-9)
4. **Was it sinful for the 10 scouts to feel afraid?** feeling afraid is not sinful. We are humans and sometimes we will face things that scare us. The 10 scouts who were afraid sinned when they refused to enter the land.
5. **Why do you think God allows us to go through difficult or scary circumstances?** Help kids see that when we face hard times we learn to trust Him. Remind the kids that asking for help is wise. We never have to face scary times alone.
6. **How can trusting God help us face our fears?** think about who God is and what He can do. Lead them to see that He has promised His people eternal life through Jesus. When we trust Jesus, we know that no difficult situation lasts forever. We always have hope. We can persevere through hard times by trusting God’s care.

God’s attributes- helping the children understand what God is like, shown to us in the Bible. In today’s story we see that God is:

-Protector -Promise Keeper

Travel Guide:

Use the travel guide for maps, charts, etc... as useful with helping the children learn and understand today’s story.



15 min

Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible
CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

Emotion Role-play

Invite kid volunteers to act out different emotions. Select a kid and whisper a common emotion into that kid's ear, such as happiness, sadness, anger, and so forth. He will then need to act in a way that shows that emotion, and the other kids will guess what emotion he is pretending to feel. When you are running low on time, select a final volunteer and ask her to act out feeling afraid.

- Our feelings are real, but that doesn't mean they are always reliable. It's normal to feel sadness, anger or fear. However, we must be careful about letting our emotions tell us what to do. In our story today, we heard about men who felt afraid and how they acted because of their fear.

Explorer's Expo

Show various items such as a map, a flashlight, a length of rope, a carabiner, a water canteen, or other items an explorer might use if she were journeying into a new land. Let the kids handle or play with the items. Ask them to demonstrate or discuss ways the different items might be helpful while exploring.

- In our story, we learned about a group of men Moses sent into the promised land to explore. We heard about what they saw and how they felt about it. What did they do with the new information and their feelings.

Grape Clusters

Provide circles of purple construction paper or purple sticky notes. Invite the kids to write on multiple circles things they need God's help with. Remind them that it can be anything from a test or quiz at school to a frustrating situation at home to a game or competition with their sports team. Help the kids tape their "grapes" to a green chenille stem to look like a vine. Invite the kids to take their cluster home and pluck off a grape each day to pray about the thing they wrote down.

- Joshua and Caleb trusted God to give His people the promised land. Trusting God is important. Only He has the power to help us through any situation. When we don't trust God, we sin. What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God or His commands. God sent Jesus to pay the price of our sins, and when we trust in Him, God forgives our sin and promises us eternal life with Him.

Explore 40

Gather various items such as pom-poms, coffee stir sticks, blocks, rocks, buttons, straws, and so forth. Count and explore 40 things. Sort into 4 groups of 10, make designs with 40 things, or write the number 40 with paper and pencils.

- Moses told 12 men to go into the land God promised to give His people to see what the it was like. So the men went and looked at the land. They traveled around the land for 40 days. They discovered the land was just as nice as God said it was. What else did they discover there?

Create a grasshopper verse holder

Guide children to color wooden spring-type clothespins with green markers. Cut green chenille stems into 6-inch segments. Thread chenille stems mid-way through the springs and bend to form grasshopper's back legs. Add additional legs if desired. Draw eyes, or attach googly eyes with double-sided tape or glue. Print the key passage on index cards or green paper cut into leaf shapes. Older children may choose to copy the verse. Read the verse, and clip the card into the grasshopper's mouth.

- When the Israelites thought about going up against the people living in the land, they were afraid. They said they looked like grasshoppers compared to them. They chose to disobey God and not move into the land. What does it mean to sin? To sin is to go against God and His commands. Jesus took the punishment we deserve for our sin. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us life with Him forever.

Key Passage Activity

Work with the kids in your group to develop hand motions that can help them remember the key passage. Consider researching some simple sign language signs to use or adapt into your group's motions. Then, say the verses multiple times using the hand motions.



5 min Pilot's log

Where we prepare to depart.

Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their *Travel Guide*.**

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.

Key Passage Review Extra Ideas:

Invite kids to sit around tables. Give each kid a pencil. Show the key passage poster and lead them to read it aloud.

Give a piece of paper to one kid at each table. Instruct him to write down the first word of the key passage and pass the paper to the person on his right. That person will write down the second word, pass the paper to her right, and so on. Kids will pass the paper around the table, writing one word at a time until they finish the key passage. When kids finish, invite groups one at a time to say the key passage together.

Display the key passage poster. Lead the kids to read it aloud. Then challenge them to read it in various ways: whispering, shouting, quickly, slowly, and so on.

Form two groups of kids. Call on the first group to say the key passage together. Then call on the second group to say it.

Prompt the first group to say the passage a few phrases at a time, pausing for the second group to echo. When kids finish saying the key passage, lead the second group to begin and the first group to echo.

Instruct kids to sit or stand in a circle. Choose one kid to begin by saying the first word of the key passage. Guide kids to say the key passage, one word at a time, moving around the circle.

Allow kids to look at the key passage poster if they need help remembering the words. Continue around the circle a few times. Consider shouting, "Switch!" and letting kids move to another place in the circle before playing again. *Or toss the ball to different kids rather than go in order.*

Before the session, write out the key passage on a chalkboard or dry erase board in eight separate phrases. Display the phrases where kids can see them. Give each kid a marker and eight craft sticks. Instruct kids to copy from the board, writing each phrase on a separate stick. Then instruct kids to mix up their sticks and then quickly rearrange the phrases in the correct order. Kids may work individually or in pairs. Provide rubber bands for kids to bundle their sticks and keep them as a method of practicing the key passage during the week.

Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

Painted Rocks—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space—a neighbor's house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

Pointing to a Map—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don't know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus' light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

Looking out the Window—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (Pre-K & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

You're
ready
for
Sunday!



