

Small Group Leader Guide



THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Joshua and the Spies

Numbers 13-14

Bottom Line

God can give you courage when others are afraid.

Memory Verse

**"When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you."
Psalm 56:3**

Today's Suggested Schedule

Greeting & Prayer (5 minutes)

The leader greets the children and asks how they are doing. After a brief time of sharing, the group participates in a short prayer activity to prepare their hearts for the lesson.

Small Group Activity (20 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Eye Spies Recap
2. Courage Under Pressure

Pray & Dismiss (5 minutes)

After small group time, the leader closes in prayer. Then the children are dismissed.

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Memory Verse for Kids
- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)



Inclusive Pro Tips

This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive pro-tips. Check out the Special Needs Resource Kit for more ideas for adapting each segment.

SOCIAL

Opening Activity



What You Need

- ☐ A Spinning Wheel
- ☐ Prayer Chart

①

What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive -> Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Recall a time when God gave you the courage to do something you didn't think you were ready for. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to live inside of you and help you take the next step! Ask God to help the kids trust Him when they feel nervous or unsure. Whether it's a big change or something small, pray that kids would know God is with them even when they don't feel ready.

- Choose a child to spin the wheel.
- Each color matches a prayer prompt on the chart.
- After spinning, the child finds the matching prompt, reads it, and prays.
- Let a few more children take turns spinning the wheel and praying.

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What You Say

"Prayer is how we talk with God, our loving Father. The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing—talking to Him anytime, anywhere. Whatever you do, begin with prayer. When you do, you can trust that God is in control and working in every situation."

Transition -> Lead your group to the small group activity

ACTIVITY ONE

Eye Spies Recap

Bible Story Review



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Story Review" Activity Page
- ☐ Index Cards
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Timer

Inclusive Pro Tips



Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.

Repeat the question multiple times and give all kids time to process and think about the answer.

① What You Do

1. Divide the kids into teams of 3-4.
2. Give each team two index cards and a marker.
3. Instruct them to write large letters on the index cards:
 - Card 1: "A" on one side, "B" on the other
 - Card 2: "C" on one side, "D" on the other

Play Together:

1. Say, "Here's how we'll play: I'll read a question about the Bible Story with four possible answers (A,B,C or D). Each team will have 15 seconds to quickly discuss and choose an answer together. When the time is up, your team is to hold up the card with the letter of your chosen answer!"
2. One by one, read the questions and choices out loud from the "Story Review" Activity Page.
3. Set the timer of 15 seconds, and start it you've read all of the multiple-choice answers.
4. Award points for correct answers and celebrate teamwork!

② What You Say

"Can you imagine being sent on a secret mission? That's what happened when 12 spies went to explore the land God had promised His people. It was exciting, and also a little scary. For 40 days, they saw two big things—the land was amazing with lots of food, but the people and their cities were BIG and strong!"

"Most of the spies came back and said, 'Nope. No way! The people are too big!' BUT Joshua and Caleb trusted that God was with them and that He was bigger and stronger than any people they faced. They focused on God, and their view of Him got bigger and bigger, while their fears got smaller and smaller. And that helped them have courage even when everyone else was afraid."

"God was with Joshua and Caleb, and He is also with you. When you choose to follow Jesus, He gives you a helper, the Holy Spirit, who lives in you. So you are never alone, and you don't have to work up courage on your own."

"This week, you might end up around people who are nervous, or scared to do the right thing. But you don't have to be! Focus and focus on God, ask the Holy Spirit to help you, and to give you the courage to face the difficult things you're facing. Remember, **[BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage when others are afraid.**"

ACTIVITY TWO

Courage Under Pressure

Application Activity

MADE TO
↓
Explore

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Beach balls
- ☐ Pin
- ☐ Masking Tape



Inclusive Pro Tips

Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.

Let the kids know ahead of time that the beach ball will be popped, so no one is startled or overwhelmed by the sound.

Allow kids to observe from a comfortable distance.

① What You Do

Before you begin, inflate a beach ball and secure it closed. Gather the group together and show the kids the pin.

Talk Together:

Ask: "What do you think will happen if I poke this beach ball?" (INVITE RESPONSES.)

Explore Together:

Stick the pin into the beach ball.

Talk Together:

Say, "Wow, that's what it can feel like when fear gets the best of us. We lose courage and feel 'deflated' like this beach ball. Let's see what happens next."

Explore Together:

1. Blow up another beach ball and secure it closed.
2. Read the scenarios below one at a time, and call on kids to respond to them.
3. For each kid who shares an idea, encourage them to press a small strip of masking tape firmly onto the same spot of the beach ball.
→ The end result will be that the beach ball has several pieces of tape on the same spot.)
4. After all the scenarios, poke the beach ball through the taped spot with the pin. This time it should not pop!
5. End by explaining how, when we ask God for courage, He gives us strength to face difficult things--just like the tape gave the beach ball strength.

Scenarios:

1. You are starting at a new school and don't know anyone. Do you ask God for courage to introduce yourself to new people, or do you stay afraid and keep to yourself?
2. Most kids at lunch are laughing at someone behind their backs. Do you ask God for courage and stand up for them, even when others aren't?
3. Everyone in your Small Group, including you, feels nervous about praying out loud. Do you ask God for courage to go first, or do you stay quiet?
4. Your team doesn't want to include the new kid at practice because they're different. Do you ask God for courage and invite them to join you, even if your teammates say no?

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ACTIVITY TWO

Courage Under Pressure

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Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Beach Balls
- ☐ Pin
- ☐ Masking Tape



②

What You Say

"Have you ever felt nervous or afraid? Like you just want to deflate and hide? (INVITE RESPONSES.) Fear can sneak in during lots of moments, like when you're the only one choosing what's right, when you need to speak up, or when you're trying something new.

"Did the second beach ball pop when we added tape? (INVITE RESPONSES.) Nope! That's because the tape gave it strength. And when we follow Jesus, God gives us the strength to face anything! God is the biggest! He is the strongest, the mightiest, the most powerful—and He lives inside of us! And when we know the strongest is with us, that can give us courage to face whatever difficult thing has come our way. Others may be afraid, and that's okay! God can give us the courage to do what is right when others are afraid.

"This is why I'm so glad God sends the Holy Spirit to help us! Not only does He make us stronger, like the tape on the beach ball, He can guide us in how to be more like Jesus in every situation. So He can help us see what to do AND give us the courage to do it.

"Maybe there's a new kid at school or a teammate who feels left out, and no one is making an attempt to help. How might the Holy Spirit lead you to take a brave step and help them feel welcomed? (INVITE RESPONSES.) And what about when you see someone being treated unfairly and no one else is willing to do what's right? What could you do to help? (INVITE RESPONSES.) That's right!

"The Holy Spirit can help you know what to do AND give you the courage to do it! You're never alone when you follow Jesus. The same God who helped Joshua and Caleb is with YOU! You can always trust that [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage when others are afraid."

Inclusive Pro Tips



Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.

Let the kids know ahead of time that the beach ball will be popped, so no one is startled or overwhelmed by the sound.

Allow kids to observe from a comfortable distance.

1. How many spies were sent to check out the land of Canaan? A. 5 B. 8 C. 10 D. 12 (Answer: Numbers 13:1-2)
2. Where did God send His people after freeing them from Egypt?
A. the wilderness (Answer: Exodus 15:22)
B. The mountains
C. A castle
D. A big city
3. What did God provide for His people to eat in the wilderness? A. Pizza B. manna and quail (answer: Exodus 16) C. Rice D. Fish
4. Who were the spies who trusted God and believed they could take the land?
A. Joshua and Caleb (answer: Numbers 14:6-9)
B. Moses and Aaron
C. David and Jonathan
D. Peter and Paul
5. What did the spies find in Canaan that was so big two men had to carry it between them on a pole?
A. A cow
B. A giant watermelon
C. A bunch of grapes (Answer: Numbers 13:23)
D. A basket of fish
6. What was God's people's reaction when they heard about the powerful people (some of whom really were giants) in Canaan?
A. They celebrated
B. They trusted God and moved forward
C. They were afraid and wanted a new leader. (Answer: Numbers 14:1-4)
D. They built a city in the wilderness
7. What did God tell Moses to do on Mount Sinai?
A. Build an ark.
B. Write down the Ten Commandments. (Answer: Exodus 31:18)
C. Fight the giants.
D. Find water.
8. What was the special tent called where God's presence lived among His people?
A. The Ark of the Covenant
B. The Synagogue
C. The Tabernacle (Answer: Exodus 25:8-9)
D. The Temple
9. How long did the spies explore Canaan?
A. 7 days
B. 20 days
C. 40 days (Answer: Numbers 13:25)
D. 100 days
10. How many of the twelve spies were allowed to enter the Promised Land?
A. 12
B. 2 (Answer: Numbers 14:29-30)
C. 40
D. 100
11. Why did God's people have to wander in the wilderness for 40 years?
A. They got lost
B. They didn't trust God and obey Him. (Answer: Numbers 14:33-34)
C. Moses forgot the directions
D. They wanted to explore more
12. What is the key lesson from this story?
A. Always listen to the tallest person
B. Trust in God and in His presence, even when things seem scary (Answer)
C. If you see a giant, run away
D. Never eat grapes in Canaan