

Old Testament

Lesson 22 - The Twelve Spies

Aims

- * To learn that by trusting God, the Israelites believed they could do anything, but because they didn't trust God, they became afraid
- * To learn that God is with us and we have nothing to fear

Materials

Bible story from Numbers 13:1 - 14:35
Visual aids - pictures from the story
Worksheets

Key words

- * spy - a person who secretly watches others and collects information
- * Joshua and Caleb - two Israelite spies who gave good reports

Lesson Outline

1. Introduction
2. Story - The Ten Spies
3. Questions
4. Activities - I SPY, spies in Canaan, act out the story, make binoculars, worksheets
5. Review the aims
6. Prayer

.....

1) Introduction

What makes you afraid? Noises in the dark? Big spiders? Being alone? Sometimes we all get afraid, but when you are with your parents, you feel protected. This is the same with God. He is always with us and takes care of us, so we don't need to be afraid.

God was with the Israelites and He wanted them to trust Him. But many times the Israelites forgot God. In last week's story, they made an idol, a golden calf, because they thought God had left them. In today's story, the Israelites finally reach Canaan, the land God promised them. Once again it is time for the people to trust God.

2) Story - The Ten Spies

God promised to give the Israelites the land of Canaan, so Moses sent twelve men to spy out the land. After 40 days they returned and told what they had seen. Joshua and Caleb brought a good report. They said, "The land flows with milk and honey. The people who live there are powerful.

However, do not be afraid of the people. God will lead us into this land." But the other spies brought a bad report. They said that the people of Canaan were like giants. They made the people of Israel afraid to enter Canaan. Then God became angry, because they did not trust Him. As punishment God said they would stay in the desert for 40 years.

3) Questions

1. How many spies went to Canaan? - *twelve*
2. How long were they there? - *forty days*
3. What did they find there? - *a land flowing with milk and honey*
4. What did they bring back from Canaan? - *delicious fruit (huge grapes)*
5. How many spies gave a bad report? - *ten*
6. What were they afraid of? - *the people were like giants and the cities had very high walls*
7. Who gave a good report? - *Joshua and Caleb*
8. What did they say? - *We should take the land, God will help us*
9. Why was God angry with the people? - *they didn't trust God*
10. How did God punish them? - *they had to stay in the desert for 40 years*

4) Activities

* I SPY -

Teacher describes each item from the story. When someone says "I SPY", they must say what it is. Items include grapes, pomegranates, figs, giants, high walls, spies, grasshoppers.

* Spies in Canaan

Teacher hides pictures from the story around the room. Children pretend to be spies who are sent to the promised land. They have to find as many cards as they can, without others seeing them find them. Report back what you found. Do you have a good report or bad report?

* Act out the story

Teacher narrates the story. Children play the parts of God, Moses, Joshua, Caleb and the ten spies

* Make binoculars

Materials: 2 toilet paper tubes for each child, hole punch, stapler, wool, stickers, markers or crayons. Staple each pair of toilet paper tubes together. Put one hole in each side near the top. Tie a piece of wool on each pair like a necklace so the children can wear them. Let the children decorate their binoculars with stickers and crayons or markers. Pretend to be spies in the promised land

* Worksheets

- Color a picture
- Find the way through the bunch of grapes
- Use the code to find out what the spies said about the people of Canaan.
- Find 10 differences between the pictures

5) Review the lesson aims

- * To learn that by trusting God, the Israelites believed they could do anything, but because they didn't trust God, they became afraid
- * To learn that God is with us and we have nothing to fear

6) End with a Prayer





Spies



Grapes



Pomegranates



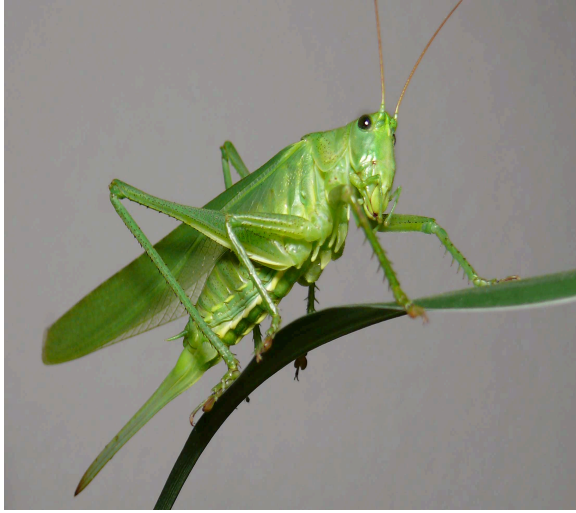
Figs



Giants



High Walls



Grasshoppers

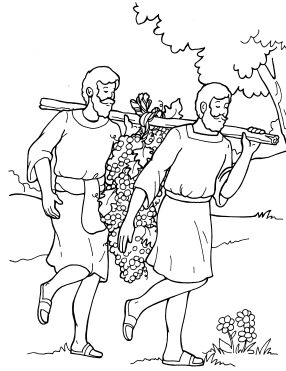


Canaan



Canaan

The Twelve Spies



As the Israelites drew near to Canaan, God spoke to Moses. "Send some men to spy out the land of Canaan. I am giving it to the people of Israel. Send one leader from each of Israel's tribes." So Moses sent twelve spies altogether.

After forty days, the spies returned. They brought back delicious fruit to show the Israelites and had much to tell about the places they had seen. "It's a land flowing with milk and honey" they said. "Just look at the fruit that grows there." The grapes were so big that it took two men to carry a cluster of them on a pole between them. "But the people are very powerful, and their cities have high walls around them and are very large.

Two of the spies, Caleb and Joshua, said "We should go up and take the land. We can certainly do it. We can do anything with God's help."

But the others were not listening to them. They were afraid of what the people might do, instead of what God could do! "We can't overpower those people. They are as big and as strong as giants and we seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes!" The ten spies' bad reports spread around the camp.

During the night, people were scared and frightened. They forgot about all the ways that God had helped them. They complained to Moses. "We should never have left Egypt," they said. "We want another leader instead of you."

Joshua and Caleb urged the people to trust in God and to go into Canaan. But the Israelites grew so angry that they picked up stones to throw at the two spies.

Suddenly, a great light appeared above the tabernacle of God, and the Lord spoke to Moses. "Enough! I have brought these people out of slavery, given them everything they need and performed great miracles, and still they cannot believe in me." God continued, "These people will never enter the land of Canaan. They will wander in the desert for another forty years. I will give the Promised Land to their children, and the two faithful spies, Caleb and Joshua, will lead them."

.....

So, because of their disobedience and lack of faith, the children of Israel were forced to return to the desert for the next forty years. All this time, despite everything they did to anger him, Moses remained their faithful leader. He was a very old man when, finally, the time came for the Israelites to enter the Promised Land.

But God had told Moses that he would not go into Canaan. "Climb to the top of Mount Pisgah," said God. "While you are looking out at the Promised Land, your life will come to an end."

Before Moses left the Israelites, he again told them to obey God's laws. Then he turned to his friend, Joshua. "Be strong and courageous," he' said. "You are to lead the people now."

Then Moses slowly climbed up to the top or the mountain and looked out at the beautiful country of Canaan stretched before him. He had obeyed God and his job was over. There, on the mountainside, the great prophet died.

The Twelve Spies

Colour the picture



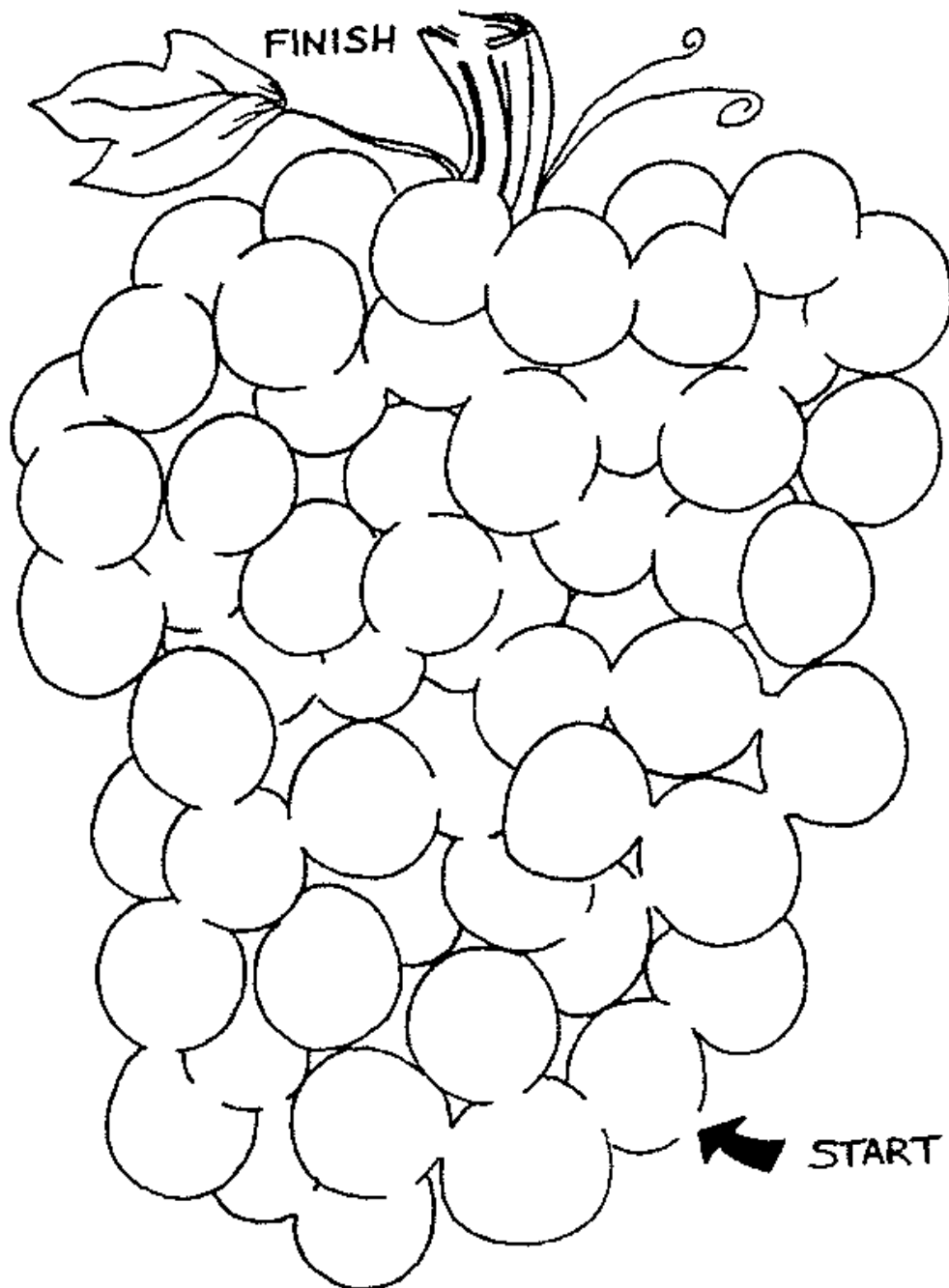
The Twelve Spies

Colour the picture



The Land of Milk and Honey

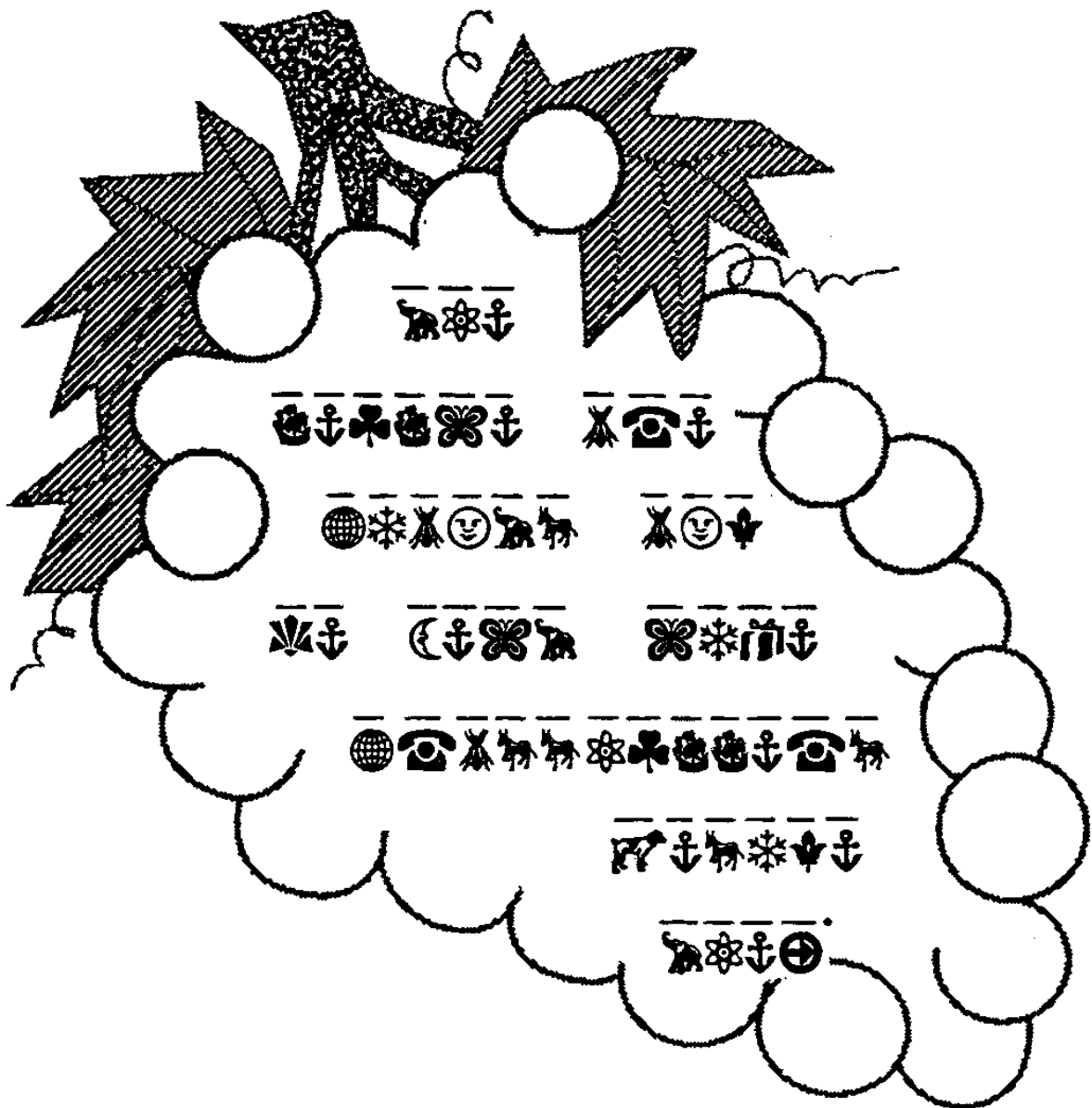
Find the way through the bunch of grapes

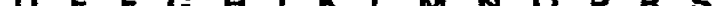


Bunches of Grapes

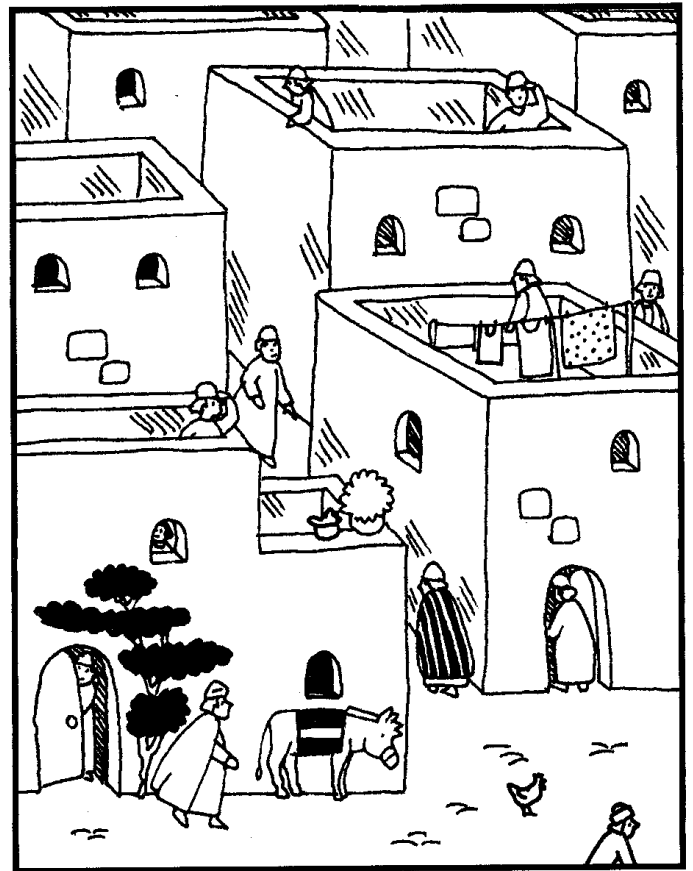
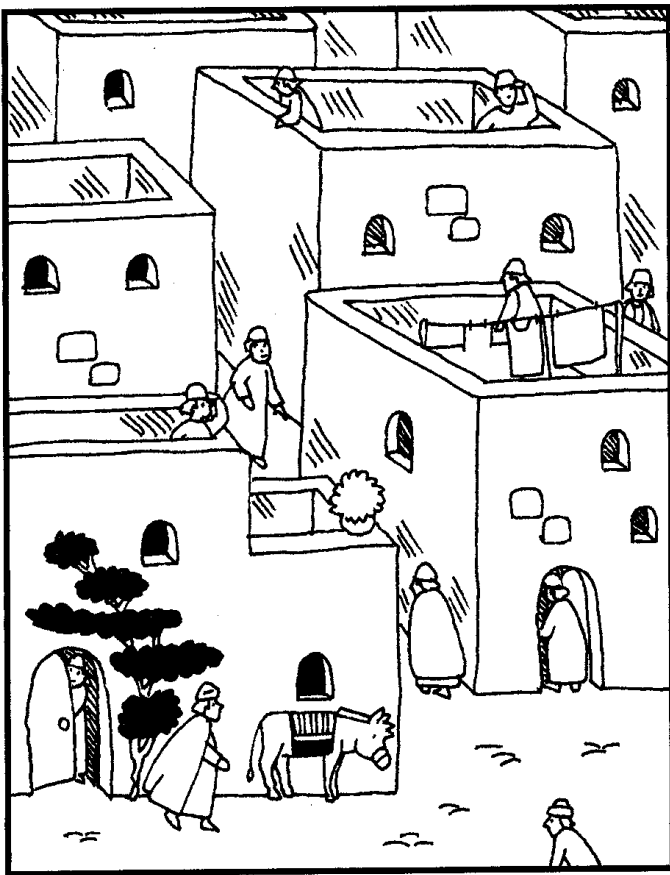
Moses sent twelve men to spy on the land of Canaan. They were to find out what kind of land it was, what fruit and other crops grew in it and what kind of people were living there. The spies found bunches of grapes so big that two men had to carry it on a pole between them.

Use the code to find out what the spies said about the people of Canaan.




 A B D E F G H I K L M N O P R S T W

Spies in Canaan



When the Israelites wandered towards the promised land Moses sent out in advance spies to explore the country.

Can you find at least 10 differences between these two pictures of the spies visiting Canaan?