



UNIT 6 | SESSION 1

# THE PEOPLE DIDN'T GO INTO THE LAND

NUMBERS 13-14

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God forgives our sin when we trust in Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** We praise God; He does wonderful things. Exodus 15:11

## BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Moses chose 12 men to look at the promised land.
- Joshua and Caleb trusted God.
- God wants us to trust in Jesus.

## BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

God's people were near the promised land. God told Moses to send some people into the land. So Moses chose 12 men to go and look at the land. The men walked around. They saw the people and gathered fruit. Then they went back to their friends and family and told them that the land is nice, but the people are strong. Joshua and Caleb were not afraid. They trusted God. But God's people were afraid. They did not trust God and did not want to go into the land. So God sent them into the wilderness. Only Joshua, Caleb, and the people's children would go into the promised land one day.



## BABIES ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for the babies. Open a Bible to Numbers 13. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

#### 1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.”

“We can trust God, yes, we can. Yes, we can trust God always.

He is always there for us, He makes sure we have enough,

We can trust God, yes, we can. Yes, He knows what best for me.”

**SAY** “ We can trust in God. Joshua and Caleb were not afraid. They trusted God. God always takes care of us. ”

#### 2 BABY HANDPRINTS

Sit babies in highchairs or at a table where they can sit up. Trace each baby’s hand on white construction paper. Encourage leaders to press the baby’s hand in colorful washable paint and then press it on the paper. Keep paper towels and wipes handy to ensure fast and easy cleanup. Print the third gospel gem on each baby’s art.

**SAY** “ We can trust God. God always takes care of us. We do not have to be afraid because God is always with us. ”

#### 3 CREATIVE CRAWL

Place the babies on the floor on one side of the room and a Bible on the other. Encourage babies to crawl to the Bible, starting on one side of the room and finishing on the other. Make sure babies stay a safe distance away from others so they do not bump into others as they crawl.

**SAY** “ The Bible is God’s Word. We trust in the Bible because it is true. Joshua and Caleb trusted God. God wants us to trust in Jesus. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



## TODDLER ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

#### 1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Numbers 13. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

#### 2 MAKE FRUIT PRINTS



Give each child a piece of construction paper, a paper plate with washable paint, fruit halves (oranges, lemons, grapefruit, or apples), and a smock or bib. Allow toddlers to choose a piece of fruit, dip it into the paint, and press it onto the construction paper. Let them switch fruit and paint until their papers are filled. Print I Will Trust God on the paper.

**SAY** “ We want to be like Joshua and Caleb. They saw the fruit in the promised land and trusted in God and His promises. Even when we are afraid, God wants us to trust in Him. ”

#### 3 PROMISED LAND PARTY

Provide musical instruments (or stomp and clap). March in a circle with the toddlers while saying a celebration chant for the promised land: “When I am afraid,” (toddlers repeat) “I can trust God and be brave” (toddlers repeat). Continue marching and reviewing the Bible story.

**SAY** “ Joshua and Caleb were not afraid. They trusted God. God’s people were afraid. They did not trust God and did not want to go into the promised land. God wants us to trust in Jesus too. ”

#### 4 THE TWELVE SPIES

Use 12 wooden figures to help play out the story. Retell the story using the figures. Encourage the children to take turns playing the part of the 12 men that Moses chose to go to look at the promised land.

**SAY** “ Moses chose 12 men to go look at the promised land. Some of the men were afraid and did not trust God. Joshua and Caleb were not afraid. They trusted God. ”

#### 5 KEY PASSAGE PHRASE ROUND

Form two groups. Tell one group to say, “We praise God,” and the other to answer, “He does wonderful things.” Then everyone says, “Exodus 15:11.” Practice as a group, then allow toddlers to say the key passage phrase, repeating to see which group is louder, softer, sillier, and faster. Switch phrases so toddlers say the entire key passage phrase.

**SAY** “ Our key passage phrase says, ‘We praise God; He does wonderful things.’ God sent Jesus because He loves us. Praise God today that He does wonderful things because He loves us. ”

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### 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: STICK FIGURE FUN

Provide craft sticks, crayons or markers, and glue sticks. Invite toddlers to draw on, color, or decorate their sticks to use as you tell the Bible story. Talk about the Bible story as the toddlers decorate.

**SAY** “ Out of the 12 people Moses chose, some were afraid but two were not. The two people who were not afraid and trusted God were Joshua and Caleb. God wants us to trust in Jesus. ”

### 2 SING A HYMN

Use ribbons or banners, sway back and forth, or clap as you sing “Trust & Obey.”

“Trust and obey  
For there’s no other way  
To be happy in Jesus  
Than to trust and obey.”

### 3 LETTER FUN

Print the letter T on a piece of paper for toddlers to decorate or trace. Give the children cotton balls, pieces of tissue paper, glue sticks, and other craft items to decorate their letters. Print God forgives our sin when we trust in Jesus. Tell the Bible story.

**SAY** “ Trust begins with the letter T. We can trust God. God will always take care of us. When we see the letter T, we can remember to trust God. ”

### 4 WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

Instruct the children to stand in front of their chairs. Tell the children to stay standing if they are not afraid of the item you call out, or sit down if they are afraid. Call out items such as bugs, sandwiches, flying, stickers, or falling. Continue as time permits. End by saying, “I can trust God” together as a group.

**SAY** “ Some of the people that Moses chose were afraid to go into the promised land. Even though we are afraid, we can trust God. God will always take care of us. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.