

TWO BELIEVING MEN

Bible Basis: Numbers 13:1–3, 17–33; 14:1–11, 22, 34–38

Bible Verse: “[Joshua and Caleb] said, ‘If the LORD is pleased with us, he’ll lead us into that land ... He’ll give it to us.’” Numbers 14:8, NIV

Bible Point: Joshua and Caleb believed in God’s promise. I can believe in God’s promises, too.

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 6: “Two Believing Men”

STEP 1: COME TOGETHER

Say, “We are going to play a game called ‘I Spy.’ I will describe something I see in this classroom, and you tell me what it is.” Start your clue with “I spy something ...” (big, tall, orange, round, etc.), and give clues about something in the room until a child guesses the correct answer. Let a few other leaders do an “I Spy” also.

Say, “Today we are going to read a story about two real live spies! Their names were Caleb and Joshua. A spy is a person who secretly watches something to get information.”

STEP 2: HEAR THE STORY

First, read aloud Chapter 6, “Two Believing Men,” from *The Story for Little Ones*.

Follow the directions to present the following Bible story.

God promised his people a wonderful land—a land with plenty of food and everything they needed to live. He brought them through the desert to the edge of this land.

“Go, go,” God said. “Go into this land that will have everything you need.”

“Hurray!” shouted God’s people. *(Have children jump up and down and cheer.)*

“But first, let’s send in spies to see the land,” God’s people said.

“Go, go,” God’s people said to 12 men, who were the spies. Two of these spies were Caleb and Joshua. *(Have children put their pointer finger in front of their mouths and say, “Shhh.”)*

The spies went into the land God promised his people. They went in secret, and they hid from the people in the land. They were quiet and saw many things without anyone knowing. *(Have children say, “Shhh.”)* They came back and told God’s people what they saw. The spies said, “The land has a lot of food!”

"Hurray!" shouted God's people. *(Have children jump up and down and cheer.)*

The spies said, **"The land is great!"**

"Hurray!" shouted God's people. *(Have children jump up and down and cheer.)*

"Let's go! Let's go!" said Caleb and Joshua. **"Let's take the land like God told us to!"**

"Hurray!" shouted God's people. *(Have children jump up and down and cheer.)*

"I don't know," said the other spies. **"The land is filled with giants."**

"Oh no!" shouted God's people. *(Have children yell, "Oh no!")*

"They are stronger than we are," said the other spies.

"Oh no!" shouted God's people. *(Have children yell, "Oh no!")*

"They will destroy us!" said the other spies.

"Oh no!" shouted God's people. *(Have children yell, "Oh no!")*

God's people were scared. They did not want to do what God told them to do. They were scared of the big, strong people in the land.

"It is a good land," Joshua, one of the spies, said.

"God will lead us," Caleb said.

"He will give the land to us," Joshua said.

"Don't be afraid," Caleb said.

But God's people did not listen to Joshua and Caleb. They did not listen to God. They did not go into the land that God had promised them. They remained in the desert all of their lives. Even Moses did not go into the land God promised. *(Have children rub their eyes like they are crying.)* Caleb and Joshua went into the Promised Land when they were much older, because Caleb and Joshua believed in God's promise. *(Have children clap and cheer and say, "Yeah, Caleb and Joshua!")*

After the Bible story, ask:

- **What was good about the land God had promised?** *(It was big, and there was good food.)*
- **What was scary about the land God had promised?** *(A lot of big people lived there.)*
- **Who believed God's promise that they could go into the land?** *(Caleb and Joshua)*
- **Who was too scared to go into the land?** *(everyone else)*
- **So, in the end, who were the only two to enter the land God had promised?** *(Caleb and Joshua)*

Caleb and Joshua believed in God's promise to them. God keeps his promises to us, too! We can believe God.

Pray with the children that God will help all of you to be confident in his promises.

STEP 3: EXPLORE MORE

Choose from these activity options to help children explore the lesson further.

OPTION 1: We Are Spies

Say, "What do you think it would be like to be a spy? *(various answers)* You would need to be very quiet and act in secret! Let's be spies right now! Very quietly tiptoe around the room. Look at lots of things in our room. Notice things that are big and small. Then we will come back together and talk about what we saw on our spying trip!"

Let the children spy around the room for a few minutes. Encourage them to tiptoe, be quiet, and not talk. Then come back together and have them tell the group a few things they noticed around the room.

Say, "When Caleb and Joshua spied on the land God promised them, they saw some scary things! But they still believed God's promise that the land would be theirs. You can believe God's promises, too!"

OPTION 2: Land of Milk and Honey

Stuff you need: paper plates, crayons, stickers of various food items, or food items cut out of a magazine or coupon insert and glue sticks.

Say, "When God's people traveled in the desert, they had only two things to eat: manna and quail. They were probably tired of those things! In the land God promised them, there were lots of good foods! What are some of your favorite foods? *(various answers)* Today we are going to make plates with pictures of our favorite foods! Choose the stickers or cutouts of your favorite foods and stick them onto your plate!"

As the children work, ask them their favorite foods. Teachers can use crayons to either write the name or draw the item on the children's plates.

OPTION 3: Promise Puzzle

Stuff you need: Promise Puzzle Activity Sheet, crayons, round-tip scissors, permanent marker, plastic zippered bags

Give an activity sheet to each child. Say, "God kept his promise to Joshua and Caleb and his people. God keeps his promises to you, too! God promised that the new land would have good food for the people to eat, like the fruit on this activity sheet. We are going to color the fruit

then cut the sheet into a puzzle with four pieces, and you can take it home and put it together again and again.”

Help children color and cut the puzzle. Scissors can be challenging for this age group, but they enjoy trying to use them! Put names on plastic zippered bags with permanent marker, and when the pieces are cut out, put them into the bags for the children to take home.

OPTION 4: THANK YOU, GOD, FOR EVERYTHING!

Stuff you need: Thank You, God, for Everything Activity Sheet, stickers, pictures cut from magazines, glue sticks, crayons

Give each child an activity sheet and a variety of stickers and pictures. Read the directions together and do an example of the activity on the board or chart paper. For very small children, provide a variety of stickers and pictures cut from magazines (and glue sticks). They can stick these in the squares.

OPTION 5: SPY GEAR

Stuff you need: cardboard tubes (from paper towels, toilet paper, wrapping paper, etc.), tape, markers, crayons or paint

Say, “**Joshua and Caleb were spies. Today we are going to make spy gear for you to take home.**”

1. Give each student a long cardboard tube if you’re making a telescope or two small tubes if you’re making binoculars.
2. Let children decorate their tubes how they wish.
3. If you are making binoculars, tape the two tubes together, side by side.

STEP 4: GOING HOME

Before sending children home, give each a copy of *The Story Preschool Trading Card 6*.

Say, “**The front of this card will remind you that Joshua and Caleb were confident in God’s promises. Show your parents the back and tell them that you can be confident in God’s promises, too.**” Have them practice saying this before they leave.

As you are waiting for parents to pick up their children, use *The Story for Little Ones* or *The Story Preschool Trading Cards* to review past stories and Bible points.

Make sure each child takes home a copy of the Trading Card, Activity Sheet(s)/Crafts, and the Parents’ Page.