

Upper Elementary

Caleb

All scripture quotations are taken from the World English Bible, 2020.

Checklist

☐crayons

☐name tags

☐red streamers

HELLO

MY NAME IS:

*Spy #11
Caleb*

HELLO

MY NAME IS:

*Spy #12
Joshua*

HELLO

MY NAME IS:




10 Spies

HELLO


MY NAME IS:

Israelites

Topic:	Caleb
Setup:	Create a laser maze in the room ahead of time. Tape streamers to the walls in zig-zags
Intro:	Have children take turns crawling through the maze. They must not break any streamers or they are "zapped" by a laser.
Numbers 13:1-4a	Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying, "Send men, that they may spy out the land of Canaan, which I give to the children of Israel. Of every tribe of their fathers, you shall send a man, every one a prince among them." Moses sent them from the wilderness of Paran according to the commandment of Yahweh. All of them were men who were heads of the children of Israel.
	After some time in the desert, the Israelites finally arrived at the promised land. Moses sent twelve spies into it to explore it before they were going to conquer it, like God had commanded them.
*Note to Teacher:	Students may have concerns about why God would send the Israelites into Canaan to take over someone else's land. God was not just giving the land to the Israelites as a gift. He was also using the Israelites as a means of punishing the Canaanites. Both non-religiously affiliated historical writings and archaeological evidence back up the Bible's accounts (Deut. 18:9-13) that the people of Canaan frequently sacrificed children and babies to their idols. By having the Israelites defeat the Canaanites, God was saving the lives of countless children. God's plan punished the people who killed innocent children. Centuries later, God would give Israel to a pagan nation, Babylon, to punish the Israelites for killing children, and mistreating the poor and immigrants (Jeremiah 7).






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Numbers 13:1-4a

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spy (noun)

1. A person who secretly collects and reports information on a person or group considered their enemy or competitor.



<p>Numbers 13:25-29</p>	<p>They returned from spying out the land at the end of forty days. They went and came to Moses, to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, to the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word to them and to all the congregation. They showed them the fruit of the land. They told him, and said, "We came to the land where you sent us. Surely it flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. Moreover, we saw the children of Anak there. Amalek dwells in the land of the South. The Hittite, the Jebusite, and the Amorite dwell in the hill country. The Canaanite dwells by the sea, and along the side of the Jordan."</p>
	<p>Make a pro & con list. Pros: Giant fruit, Land rich with milk and honey. Cons: People are strong, Cities are large and walled. What should be the tie-breaker? (God was on their side)</p>



Numbers 13:25-29

2

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Pros

Cons

Giant _____

Land rich with _____

and _____

People are _____

Cities are _____

and _____

Tie-Breaker:

_____ was on their side.

Numbers 13:30-33	<p>Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, "Let's go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it!" But the men who went up with him said, "We aren't able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we." They brought up an evil report of the land which they had spied out to the children of Israel, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that eats up its inhabitants; and all the people who we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw the Nephilim, the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim. We were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight."</p>
	<p>The Israelites were not tall people. Many of the people in that land could have been as much as two feet taller. This could be scary. Imagine being about two feet shorter than everyone in your class. It might make you feel nervous when you first meet everyone. The Israelites would have to conquer these tall, strong people who were very talented at fighting. They forgot about all that God had done so far and were too scared. They compared the people to themselves instead of comparing them to God. Only Caleb and Joshua were brave and tried to encourage the people.</p>



Numbers 13:30-33

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When I am scared of something, I should compare my problem to:



Myself



The average height of ancient Israelites is believed to be about five feet. Some of the Canaanites could have been one to two feet taller!



Numbers 14:1-4

All the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. All the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, "We wish that we had died in the land of Egypt, or that we had died in this wilderness! Why does Yahweh bring us to this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will be captured or killed! Wouldn't it be better for us to return into Egypt?" They said to one another, "Let's choose a leader, and let's return into Egypt."

What was the reaction to hearing the report? (Why did God lead us out of Egypt?) What did this show about their belief in God? (they didn't trust Him to protect them, they thought He just led them out there to let bad things happen to them?) What did they try to do? (rebel-choose another leader and go against Gods' plans)

Numbers 14:5-9

Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel. Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were of those who spied out the land, tore their clothes. They spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, "The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. If Yahweh delights in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it to us: a land which flows with milk and honey. Only don't rebel against Yahweh, neither fear the people of the land; for they are bread for us. Their defense is removed from over them, and Yahweh is with us. Don't fear them."

Who prayed? (Moses and Aaron) Who encouraged the people to follow God's plan? (Joshua and Caleb) Out of the twelve spies, only two were doing what was right. The other ten wanted to rebel. Imagine being in a group of twelve people. You and one other person want to do what is right. The other ten want to do what is wrong. How would you feel?

nametags & cards

Have one child be Caleb and one be Joshua. Another will be the Ten Spies and the rest will be the Israelites. The Israelites can ask questions about the land. Caleb and Joshua will give a good report, and the ten spies will give a bad one.

HOLY BIBLE

Numbers 14:1-4

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The people reacted by:

☒ God ☐ Criticizing God

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HELLO MY NAME IS:

Spy #11 Caleb

HELLO MY NAME IS:

Spy #12 Joshua

HELLO MY NAME IS:

10 Spies

HELLO MY NAME IS:

Israelites

What is the weather like?

Can we grow flowers?

Are there bugs?

Does it flood?

Does it have a view of the sea?

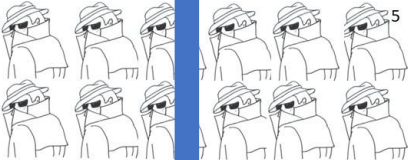
Are the neighbors nice?

Are there mountains?


How big is it?

Number s 14:26- 28	Yahweh spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, "How long shall I bear with this evil congregation that complain against me? I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel, which they complain against me. Tell them, 'As I live, says Yahweh, surely as you have spoken in my ears, so I will do to you."
	How many times can you think of when the Israelites complained about God leading them? (As many as the class can brainstorm: Pharaoh took away their straw, Red Sea, bitter water, no food, no water, Moses went up to Mount Sinai) Had God given them plenty of chances? Finally, He let their punishment be for them to get what they asked for, instead of what He knew would have been good for them. Have you ever wanted something different from what your parents told you you needed, and when you got it, you realized your mistake? (share a story if you have an appropriate one)
Number s 14:31	But I will bring in your little ones that you said should be captured or killed, and they shall know the land which you have rejected.
	The Israelites did not believe God would protect them. They even accused God of bringing them into this land so their children would be captured. But in the end, it was their children who got to go in and live there. Did God punish the children for their parents disbelief? No one is perfect, including parents. But mistakes made by your family don't have to affect your life. You get to make your own decisions and can choose to do what God wants.
Closing:	Create and decode secret messages with Morse code.

How many of the twelve spies encouraged the people to follow God's instruction




Color them.



Numbers 14:26-28


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How many strikes did the Israelites get before they were "out?"



Numbers 14:31

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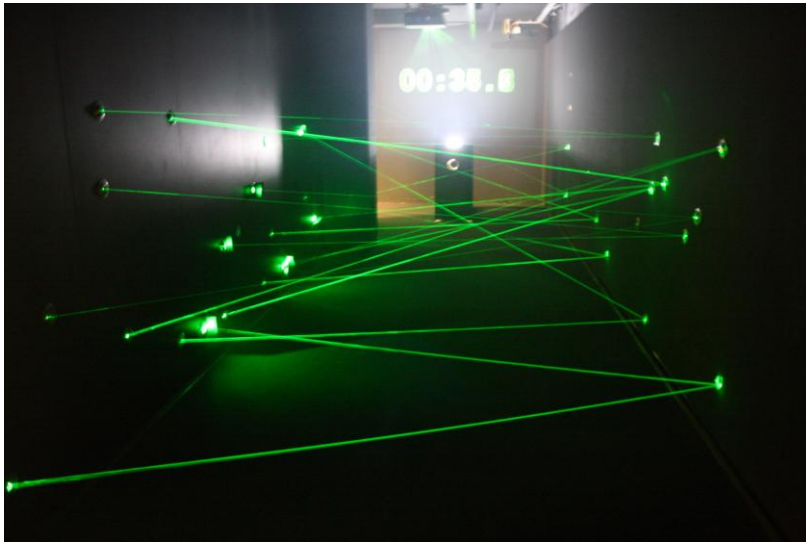


Who did not get punished for the people's disobedience?

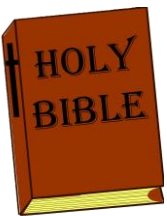
B	_____	O	_____
C	_____	P	_____
D	_____	Q	_____
E	_____	R	_____
F	_____	S	_____
G	_____	T	_____
H	_____	U	_____
I	_____	V	_____
J	_____	W	_____
K	_____	X	_____
L	_____	Y	_____
M	_____	Z	_____

Write your secret message:

Caleb

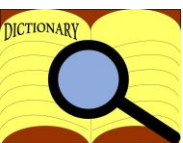


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Numbers 13:1-4a

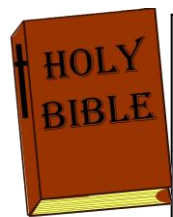
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Promised Land**Pros****Cons**

Giant _____

People are _____

Land rich with _____

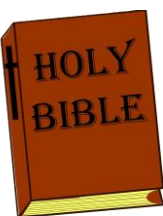
Cities are _____

and _____

and _____

Tie-Breaker:

_____ was on their side.



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Myself



God



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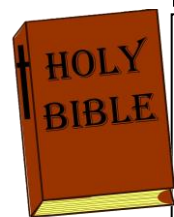
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Trusting God



Criticizing God



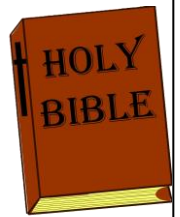
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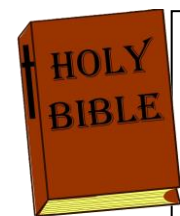
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Numbers 14:26-28

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How many strikes did the Israelites get before they were "out?"



Numbers 14:31

"But I will bring in your little ones that you said should be captured or killed, and they shall know the land which you have rejected."

Who did not get punished for the people's disobedience?

MORSE CODE



A	● —	N	— ●
B	— ● ● ●	O	— — —
C	— ● — ●	P	● — — ●
D	— ● ●	Q	— — ● —
E	●	R	● — ●
F	● ● — ●	S	● ● ●
G	— — ●	T	—
H	● ● ● ●	U	● ● —
I	● ●	V	● ● ● —
J	● — — —	W	● — —
K	— ● —	X	— ● ● —
L	● — ● ●	Y	— ● — —
M	— —	Z	— — ● ●

Write your secret message:

**What is the
weather like?**

**Can we grow
flowers?**

**Are there
bugs?**

Does it flood?

**Does it have a
view of the
sea?**

**Are the
neighbors
nice?**

**Are there
mountains?**

How big is it?

Name: _____

E	F	T	W	E	L	V	E	F	G
D	J	E	X	C	H	B	C	G	V
F	O	R	T	Y	Y	E	A	R	S
X	S	G	R	V	E	U	L	A	P
C	H	T	I	B	N	D	E	P	I
V	U	Y	B	N	O	M	B	E	E
B	A	U	E	N	H	P	L	S	S
G	O	I	S	O	I	O	L	E	R
H	M	U	L	K	U	B	A	D	F
Y	U	I	O	L	O	P	N	H	G
P	R	O	M	I	S	E	D	D	F

JOSHUA
CALEB
SPIES
TWELVE
TRIBES
PROMISED

LAND
GRAPES
MILK
HONEY
FORTY YEARS