



Spying on the Promised Land

(based on Numbers 13:1-14:9)

Finally, the people of God were ready to enter the promised land. Before they went into the land, Moses identified twelve people and called on them to scout out the area.

Moses said, “Go up into the hill country and see what the area is like. See whether the people who live there are strong or weak, whether they are few or many, whether the towns have walls or are unwalled, whether the land is rich or poor, and whether there are trees in it or not. Be bold and bring back some of the fruit of the land too!” The twelve people began their journey.

After forty days, the twelve spies returned to Moses, bringing grapes on a pole carried by two men and pomegranates and figs as big as their fists. They told Moses about the sweet and fertile land. They saw lush fields to graze sheep and goats, trees bursting with fruit, and buzzing bees gathering nectar. The grapes were plentiful, and the pomegranates and figs were the largest they had ever seen.

“The land is good, but we don’t want to go,” ten of the spies muttered. “We saw the people who live there. They are so big and strong, like giants! We felt like grasshoppers. They live in cities with walls to protect them. If we try to enter the land, they will surely squash us!”

Joshua and Caleb disagreed with the others: “The land we went through was good land. God will be with us and give us this land flowing with milk and honey.” They urged the people not to rebel against God’s plan. They said, “The Lord is with us. Do not fear!”



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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- Talk together about big things, “giants,” that are scary in your lives. How do they make you feel? Where can you see God in these situations?
- Pretend you are a spy this week and look for God in all things. Share them at a family time.



Responding to God's Grace

- Play I Spy. Try spying for things that are mentioned in the story, such as giant things, tiny things like grasshoppers, fruits, and signs of God.
- Have a conversation about standing up for what you believe. Twelve people went to check out the land, and ten were in agreement that the situation was bad. Joshua and Caleb trusted God and stood up for what they believed to be true—that God was with them.
- Do a trust walk. Take turns blindfolding one person and carefully leading them around the room or through your home. Talk together about what it feels like to trust when you do not know what is coming next.

Celebrating in Gratitude

- Watch and sing along to the YouTube video “Twelve men went to spy on Canan” (bit.ly/GGG12MenSong). Add actions.
- Try the fruits mentioned in the story: grapes, figs, and pomegranates. The story also says that the land was flowing with milk and honey. Mix some honey in milk. Try all these sweet things and imagine why Joshua and Caleb thought the land was good.
- Pray this prayer each day this week:

Gracious God, may we seek to see you in all things, trusting in your faithfulness. Amen.

Note: bit.ly web addresses are case sensitive.