



Week 2 – Elementary  
Additional Resources for Parents

**STORY: Differing Points of View**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell a story about a time you remembered something in a different way than someone else. People don't see the world the same way. We all see the world through a specific point of view or lens.

Today, we are going to hear a story about how twelve different spies saw things in different ways. We are going to see how trusting God made a difference in what they saw.

**SCRIPTURE: Numbers 13:2-14:9**

***Exploring Canaan***

**13** The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders.”

<sup>3</sup>So at the LORD's command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites. <sup>4</sup>These are their names:

from the tribe of Reuben, Shammua son of Zakkur;

<sup>5</sup>from the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat son of Hori;

<sup>6</sup>from the tribe of Judah, Caleb son of Jephunneh;

<sup>7</sup>from the tribe of Issachar, Igal son of Joseph;

<sup>8</sup>from the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea son of Nun;

<sup>9</sup>from the tribe of Benjamin, Palti son of Raphu;

<sup>10</sup>from the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel son of Sodi;

<sup>11</sup>from the tribe of Manasseh (a tribe of Joseph), Gaddi son of Susi;

<sup>12</sup>from the tribe of Dan, Ammiel son of Gemalli;

<sup>13</sup>from the tribe of Asher, Sethur son of Michael;

<sup>14</sup>from the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi son of Vophsi;

<sup>15</sup>from the tribe of Gad, Geuel son of Maki.

<sup>16</sup>These are the names of the men Moses sent to explore the land. (Moses gave Hoshea son of Nun the name Joshua.)

<sup>17</sup>When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, “Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. <sup>18</sup>See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. <sup>19</sup>What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? <sup>20</sup>How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land.” (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.)

<sup>21</sup> So they went up and explored the land from the Desert of Zin as far as Rehob, toward Lebo Hamath. <sup>22</sup> They went up through the Negev and came to Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmi, the descendants of Anak, lived. (Hebron had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) <sup>23</sup> When they reached the Valley of Eshkol,<sup>[a]</sup> they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs. <sup>24</sup> That place was called the Valley of Eshkol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there. <sup>25</sup> At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land.

#### **Report on the Exploration**

<sup>26</sup> They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. <sup>27</sup> They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. <sup>28</sup> But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. <sup>29</sup> The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan."

<sup>30</sup> Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it."

<sup>31</sup> But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." <sup>32</sup> And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. <sup>33</sup> We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

#### **The People Rebel**

**14** That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. <sup>2</sup> All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! <sup>3</sup> Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" <sup>4</sup> And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

<sup>5</sup> Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. <sup>6</sup> Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes <sup>7</sup> and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. <sup>8</sup> If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. <sup>9</sup> Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them."

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Summarize the Bible story in Numbers 13:2-14:9 similar to the following:

God's people had come to the edge of the land God promised them, which was called Canaan or the Promised Land. Moses picked twelve people, one from each tribe of Israel, to go and spy out the land. "What is the land like? What are the people like? How do they live? Bring back some of the fruit of the land," Moses told them.

So, the twelve spies went into Canaan to see what the land was like. They gathered up fruit – grapes, pomegranates, and figs – and carried them back to their own people. They stood before Moses and all the people and gave their report.

"The land is indeed full of fruit," the spies reported. "It flows with milk and honey." That means the land was full of all kinds of good things! "But," the spies continued, "the people are powerful and the cities are strong and large." Caleb and Joshua spoke up, "We should go and take over the land. We can do it!" But the other spies argued, "No! The people are too powerful! We would surely lose."

Caleb and Joshua trusted God. They knew God had promised they would live in this

wonderful land and they continued to try to convince the people to trust God and go where they had been sent.

**QUESTION: Things That Worry or Scare Us**

Most of the spies were afraid to move into the Promised Land because they were afraid of the people there. **Have you been afraid of something or someone?**

Sometimes, we get worried around people who are different from us. **Have you ever been worried around someone just because they were different?**

**ACTIVITY: Stomp Out Your Worries**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a blown up balloon. Pass around a permanent marker and tell them to write something they are worried about on their balloon. Give each person a chance to share their worry, if they want. Say the Big Idea together, then have each kid say, "I can trust God!" as they stomp on their balloon to pop it. Work together to pick up and discard the balloon pieces.

For a quieter alternative, ask the kids to write down their worries on an index card or piece of paper, then tear them up while saying the Big Idea together.