



OLD TESTAMENT: SPYING ON CANAAN

Lesson 18

BIG IDEA

Moses sends 12 spies to explore Canaan, the promised land. They give a report that strikes fear in the people and they demand a new leader who will take them back to Egypt. Only Caleb and Joshua trust the Lord to help them conquer the city. A generation passes and Moses dies. The Lord calls Joshua to lead the people. Two spies visit Jericho and are helped by Rahab.

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 8 and/or Joshua 1:9

KEY VERSES

Numbers 13 & 14.
Joshua 1-5

• PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

BIBLE LESSON

- Real or toy binoculars
- Bible
- Experience Mission will provide a baseball cap and bear ears.

GAME - I SPY & DISGUISE RELAY

- Several sets of disguises such as: shirts, sweater, t-shirt, shorts, skirts, shoes, coat, belt, tie, wig, glasses, etc. (If lice or other bugs are an issue in your location, chose simple disguises such as glasses, ties and boots.)
- Several boxes or bags to hold disguises

CRAFT - BINOCULARS

- Stiff paper such as cardstock pre-cut into 5.5.x 8.5 inch sheets (inexpensive at Walmart), two sheets per child.
- Markers or crayons
- Decorations such as sequins, stamps, colored paper, stickers
- Ribbon pre-cut 18 inches long, one per child
- Extra hole punch
- Extra staples and stapler
- Glue

WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)



EM PROVIDES

- Scissors, hole punches, staplers

Psalm 8

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



(extend hands to sides)

You have set your glory in the heavens.



(extend hands high)

Through the praise of children and infants you have



("stop" hand)

established a stronghold against your enemies,

To silence the foe and the avenger.



(index finger over lips)

(wiggle fingers both hands)

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,



The moon and the stars which you have set in place,



(point to moon and stars)

What is mankind that you are mindful of them,



(shrug shoulders)

Human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels



(flat hand at waist)

And crowned them with glory and honor.



(make crown with hands)

You have made them rulers over the works of your

hands;



(open hands)

You put everything under their feet:



(stomp feet)

All flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,



(hands like claws)

The birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim

the paths of the seas.



(hands together wiggle like fish)

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



(arms up as if cheering)



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SKIT

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STAGING

TL wears baseball cap. Bear wears bear ears. Bird wears bird mask.

SCRIPT

- Bear With binoculars held to eyes pop up from over the stage sheet, scan the area then pop back down. Repeat several times at different locations along the stage sheet.)
- TL (Wait for Bear to pop up several times before entering. Watch Bear a couple more times before speaking) Uh, Bear, is that you?
- Bear (Scan area through binoculars and jerk back in shock when TL comes into view) Ahhhhh!
- TL What? What's wrong?
- Bear TL! You're huge!! What happened to you?
- TL (Look down at self, pat body to insure he hasn't grown) Bear, it's just me. Regular sized TL. I'm standing right in front of you.
- Bear Your ginormous and it's really freaking me out!
- TL (Gently pull binoculars away from Bear's eyes) Bear, you're looking at me through binoculars. They make me look 20 times bigger. Silly Bear.
- Bear (Embarrassed) Oh. He-he. Yah.
- TL So what are you doing with binoculars in the first place?
- Bear I'm pretending I'm a super hero. I'm called Super Spy Bear and I seek out law breakers and bring them to justice!!
- TL (Impressed) I see that you took yesterday's bible story about the Ten Commandments to heart. Have you had any luck finding rule breakers?
- Bear Oh yes. I could fill a book with all that I've witnessed today. I saw my neighbor talking with his mouth full. I saw someone spit his gum on the ground. Then there was the guy who didn't hold the door open for the grandma bear. Oh, and I spied on my sister and her library books are overdue! And there was the bear who didn't say please or thank you!



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SKIT (CONT. 2)

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- TL Wow. You've been busy. How exactly have you brought these...uh...rule breakers to justice?
- Bear Well, I haven't done anything yet. Mostly I just like to spy.
- TL Would you like to hear a story about some spies in the bible?
- Bear There were spies in the bible? Cool. Tell me all about it.
- TL This story begins a while after Moses received the Ten Commandments. God had lead the Israelites to the wilderness near Canaan. While they were there the Lord spoke to Moses. He said, "Choose a leader from each of the tribes and send them to explore the land of Canaan."
- Bear Oh, the Promised Land! Is this the land flowing with milk and honey?
- TL That's right. It is flowing with milk and honey which also mean good soil, healthy plants, strong animals, and happy bees. So Moses chose twelve men and said, "Find out how good the land is and how strong the people are. Find out if their cities are fortified." Then he sent the spies on to Canaan.
- Bear Whoa, a team of 12 spies. What fun!
- TL I wonder if they felt like it was very much fun. It was a pretty serious job. The spies spent 40 days exploring the land and they were nervous, "The land is rich and fertile, but the people there are strong and their cities are well fortified." Two of the spies said, "We should attack now and take the land. We are strong enough to conquer it." But ten of the spies said, "No way! The people there are way too powerful. The land will not be good for us. And the people there are giants. We felt as small as grasshoppers, and that is how we must have looked to them."
- Bear Gee, I know that feeling. They weren't looking through binoculars by any chance, were they?
- TL (Chuckle) No. Binoculars hadn't been invented yet. The Canaanites were simply big people and the spies were scared. The Israelites became afraid and complained to Moses once again. "It would have been better to die in Egypt! If we do go to this land, we'll be killed. Let's choose a new leader and go back to Egypt.
- Bear You've got to be kidding. After all that God had done for them?
- TL Yes, fear can cause people to make terrible choices. Now remember two spies had faith, they remembered what the Lord had done and knew they had God on their side. They said, "The



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land we explored is an excellent one. With God's help, we can conquer the people easily! Don't be afraid!" But the Israelites were so full of fear that they tried to stone the two spies.

Bear Huh? What does that mean?

TL Stoning people was a way of killing back then. They would surround someone and throw stones at him until he died.

Bear But that's awful! And...and...they just got those Ten Commandments and one of them says not to murder!

TL You're absolutely right Bear. God intervened and saved the two faithful spies. He appeared over the Tabernacle, the special tent for worship, and he said, "How long will these people make fun of me? How long will they refuse to believe in me? They refuse even though I have done many miraculous signs among them. So I will strike them down with a plague. I will destroy them."

Then Moses prayed, "Lord, your love is great. So forgive the sin of these people just as you have done from the time they left Egypt until now.

The Lord replied, "I have forgiven them, just as you asked. You can be sure that my glory fills the whole earth. But none of the unfaithful will live to enter the land. The people will wander around for forty years, until the last of the unfaithful is dead." Then the Lord sent a disease on the ten spies who spread the false report and they died. But Joshua and Caleb, the two faithful spies, were not harmed.

Bear Forty years? That's a pretty hefty punishment.

TL Yes, it was a long time to wait, and it must have been very sad for the people to know they would never enter the Promised Land. But God did not waste the time. During those 40 years the people learned to listen to God and obey him. They practiced following his special laws and worshiping him in the Tabernacle. He caused the Israelites to grow in number and eventually the children grew to be strong warriors. Moses was getting very old and he knew he would not be able to lead the people into the Promised Land. So the Lord chose Joshua, one of the faithful spies to be the new leader.

Moses said to Joshua, You are the one who will lead these people into the land the Lord promised our ancestors. The Lord himself will lead you and be with you, so do not lose courage or be afraid." After this Moses climbed up on a mountain where the Lord showed him all the land that he was going to give to Israel, then, at the age of 120, Moses died and the



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people mourned for him for 30 days.

Bear Oh. That's sad. Moses is like the greatest super hero of the bible.

TL Yes. The bible says that since then Israel has never had a prophet like Moses who knew the Lord face to face, did signs wonderful acts in the sight of all the people of Israel. But now God is preparing Joshua to lead the people. He said, "Get ready to lead the people of Israel across the Jordan into the land that I have promised to give them." So guess what, Joshua sent two spies from the camp with orders to secretly explore the land of Canaan, especially the city of Jericho."

Bear Spies again. Excellent. I hope they obey the Lord this time.

TL This is a pretty exciting part of the story. When the spies got to Jericho, they stayed the night in the house of a woman named Rahab. She was kind to them, even though they were enemies of her city. She hid them on her roof under bundles of flax. Word reached the king of Jericho that Israelite spies were at Rahab's house. He sent a message to her: The men in your house have come to spy on our country! Bring them out!" Rahab replied, "Some men did come to my house, but I don't know where they have gone. They left at sunset. Go quickly and you might find them." So the king's men left to search for the spies.

Bear Cool. A double agent!

TL Perhaps Rahab had already heard of what God had done for the Israelites. In fact, she told the spies, "I know the Lord has given you this land. No promise me that you will treat my family as I have treated you. Don't let them be killed!" The spies answered, "If you do not tell anyone what we have been doing, we promise you that when the Lord gives us this land, we will treat you well. When we come back, be sure to tie a red rope in your window. Bring your family to your house and they will be safe." Then Rahab helped the spies escape by letting them down from her window in the city wall and told them where to hide for a few days until the soldiers stopped hunting for them.

The two spies hid in the hills for three days, as Rahab had advised. The king's men looked all over the countryside for them but finally gave up and returned to Jericho. Then the spies returned to the Israelite camp. They told Joshua all that had happened and then said, "We are sure the Lord has given the whole land over to us. All of the people there are weak with fear because of us."

Bear Gee. Two spy stories in the Bible! And they are so totally different.



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TL It's pretty interesting to compare the two stories. In the first one, the ten spies gave in to fear and had no faith. The Lord punished them for their disobedience. In the second story, the two spies had a lot of faith and they could see that their enemies were full of fear.

Bear So, what happens? Do they conquer the city?

TL Ah. That my friend, is a story for tomorrow.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How many spies did Moses send to the land of Canaan?
- How many of the 12 spies were full of fear?
- How did they influence the Israelites?
- What was the consequence for the 10 unfaithful spies?
- What was the consequence for the Israelites?
- How many spies did Joshua send to Jericho?
- How did Rahab help them?
- What did the 2 spies report to Joshua?
- What does it mean to have faith?



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CRAFT & GAME

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• CRAFT •

OBJECTIVE: BINOCULARS

Kid will make and decorate binoculars.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Stiff paper such as cardstock pre-cut into 5.5 x 8.5 inch sheets (inexpensive at Walmart), two sheets per child.
- Markers or crayons
- Decorations such as sequins, stamps, colored paper, stickers
- Ribbon pre-cut 18 inches long, one per child
- Extra hole punch
- Extra staples and stapler
- Glue

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Scissors, hole punch, stapler

DIRECTIONS

- Roll up each of the two sheets of card stock along the 5.5 inch side into two tubes. Staple at top and bottom to hold (add a bit of glue along seam for extra reinforcement).
- Staple tubes together at top and bottom.
- Punch hole into the sides of the tubes. Tie each end of the ribbon to the holes forming a loop for the child's head.
- Decorate

EXAMPLE





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CRAFT & GAME

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• GAME •

OBJECTIVE: I SPY & DISGUISE RELAY

I Spy Objective: Find the secret object.

Disguise Relay: Teams race to put on and take off a disguise.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

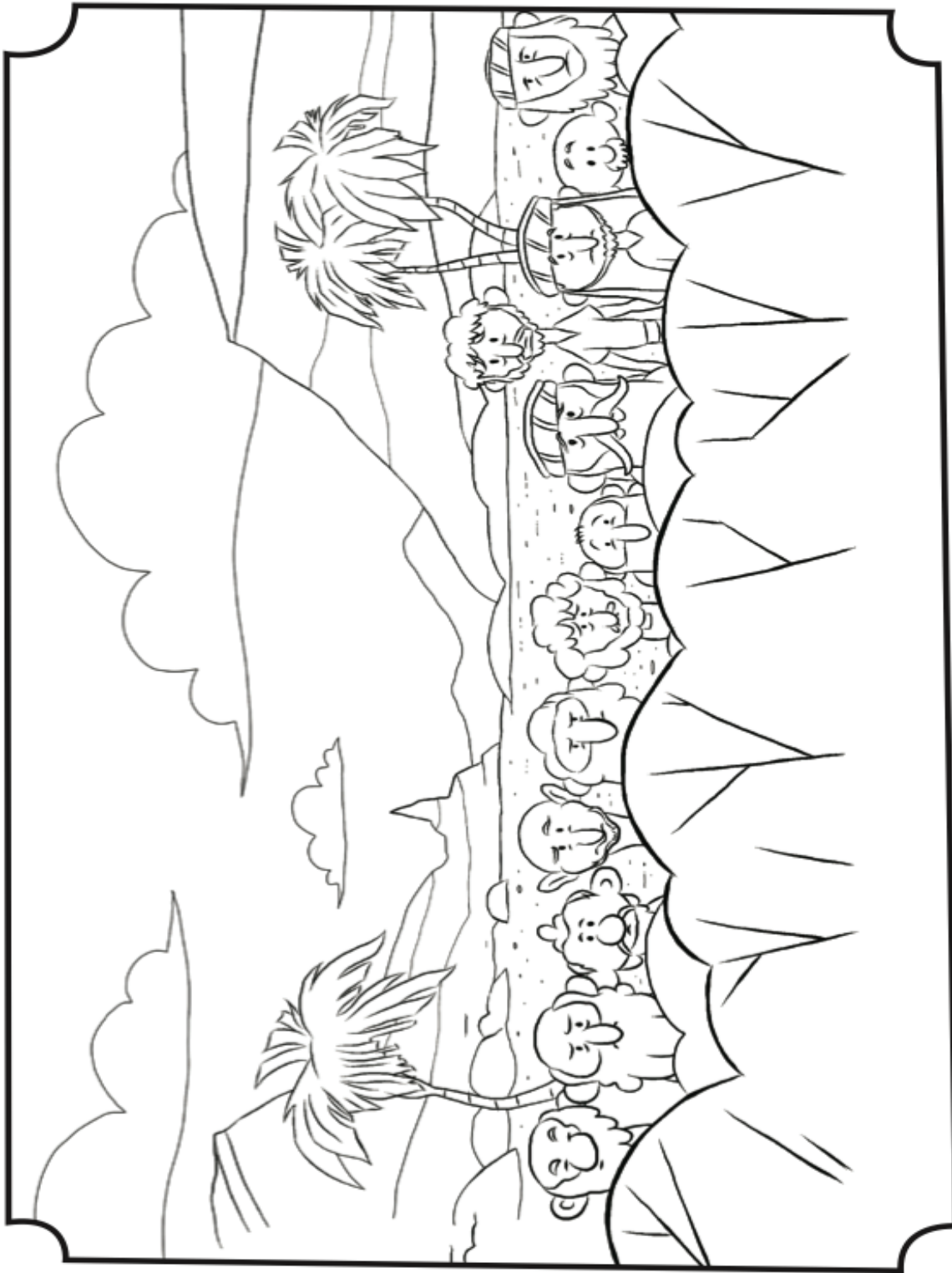
- Several sets of disguises such as: shirts, sweater, t-shirt, shorts, skirts, shoes, coat, belt, tie, wig, glasses, etc. (If lice or other bugs are an issue in your location, chose simple disguises such as glasses, ties and boots.)
- Several boxes or bags to hold disguises

INSTRUCTIONS FOR I SPY

- Have everyone sit down in a group.
- Look around the room and pick an object. Say the phrase "I spy something..." and describe one feature about the object (for example, "I spy something blue").
- Have each of the kids guess what the object is. If no one is able to identify the object, say the phrase again and say another feature. Repeat until someone guesses the object.
- The first person to guess the object wins the game. Have the winner start a new round of "I Spy".

INSTRUCTIONS DISGUISE RELAY

- Divide kits into at least two teams and form a line per team.
- Each team will send one person to the box at a time. The first dresses in the disguise and comes back, takes off the disguise, and it to the second person.
- The second person puts on the disguise, runs back to the box, takes off the disguise and places it back in the box.
- The game continues in this manner until every person in the team has worn the disguise, removed it and puts it back in the box.



God showed the Israelites the Promised Land. Moses send 12 spies into Canaan, but 10 of them said the people were too big and scary. Because they didn't trust God, He sent them back into the desert. - **Numbers 13**