

Bringing **The Story** Home- Ch. 6- Week of October 30th



Wandering

"Bringing The Story Home" is a tool for you to use with your family to connect with the weekly lessons taught in "The Story" curriculum. Feel free to use these activities in a way that fits your family life. Do what works with the time you have each week.

Timeless Truth: We can trust God and His plan for our lives.

Bible Basis: Numbers 13–14, 20:1–13, Deuteronomy 34

Key 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

Parent Tips: Read and discuss the key point from the Sunday school class your child or children attended. Use the Table Talk question to start a discussion around the dinner table or at some point this week. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your family think about the choices we make. The Extra Mile idea will help your family think about trust.

Get The Point: Joshua and Caleb were confident in God's promise. I can be confident in God's promises, too.

Table Talk:

Say: This week The Story tells us how 12 spies went in to look at God's Promised Land and 10 came back scared. Only Caleb and Joshua were excited about going into the Promised Land.

Ask:

- **Why were Joshua and Caleb so confident they could defeat people who were bigger than they were and lived in strong cities?** (They trusted God; they had faith in his promises.)
- **Were the other 10 spies focused more on God or on the situations?**
- **By focusing on earthly things, the 10 spies were too scared to trust God. What are some things in your life that scare you?**
- **Does your fear ever keep you from doing something you want to?**
- **The Israelites chose to listen to the ten fearful spies, instead of Joshua and Caleb who trusted God. Because of that, they missed out on the fruits of God's promises. What can we learn from this story?**
- **What are some promises God has made to you AND kept?** (He promised me eternal life in Jesus, He promised to make me part of his family in baptism, He promises to always be with me.)

Living Faith:

Set up two obstacle courses in your living room, backyard, or a park. Be creative in using items around your home. Make one course long and difficult. Keep the other course rather simple and short. Ideas include: doing a hula hoop ten times, putting your forehead on a bat and spinning around ten times, jumping rope, running around a trash can, crab walking, climbing over the couch or fence, crawling on your hands and knees, skipping, etc. Once the courses are set up, bring a Bible and ask the first racer a question based on this week's reading from The Story.

Sample:

Who buried Moses in Moab when he died? Answer: God.

Where did the Israelites want to go, instead of going into the Promised Land? Answer: Egypt.

God made water pour out of what object? Answer: A rock.

If the racer gets a question correct, allow them to race the short course. If he misses the question, have him run around the longer course. Let each family member try to answer a question and

complete a course. Try to make the questions age-appropriate using *Numbers 13–14, 20:1–13, Deuteronomy 34*.

When everybody's finished, ask:

- **Which course was faster and easier to complete?** (the short one)
- **In what ways do these obstacle courses compare to the Israelites in the desert?** (God had a better plan for the Israelites, but He let them choose. Their choices lead to a harder path and punishment. Knowing God's plan and following it makes life better and results in fewer roadblocks. Even so, God protected and blessed the Israelites, despite their poor choices.)
- **What does this story teach us about our own lives and choices?**

Extra Mile:

Use these ideas to think more about the concept of "trust".

Clear a space in your living room and put out some pillows/cushions. Do "trust falls" with your family (just make sure your children are big enough to catch you). Have one person stand facing away and with their arms crossed in front of them. Instruct them to close their eyes, remain stiff, and fall backwards. Have another family member or two "catch" that person before they hit the pillows. Take turns falling backwards and catching each other. Ask:

- **What was the scariest part?**
- **Was it hard to trust that you'd be safe when you fell backward? Why?**
- **Is it hard sometimes to trust God and his Word?**
- **How do we know we can trust God?** (*Because He has always kept, and will always keep, His promises. He kept the biggest promise of all when He sent His Son to save us from our sin.*)
- **Can you always trust your family to be there for you?**
- **Can you always trust God to be there for you?**

Prayer Time: *Dear God, thank you for always keeping your promises, especially your promise to forgive us for Jesus' sake. Fill us with your Spirit and help us to trust in you for all things. In Jesus' name, Amen.*