

Unit Title : **FAITH**
Lesson 6 : **CALEBS' S FAITH**
Bible Story : **CALEB'S UNSHAKABLE FAITH**
Lesson Scripture : **Numbers 13, 14; Joshua 14**

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session, the student will be able to:

1. identify Caleb as one of the twelve (12) spies who explored the Promised Land and gave a good report to Moses and to the people of Israel;
2. know that God's way is the right way and that we should trust Him;
3. know that our strength comes from God, not from ourselves;
4. to recite the memory verse

BIBLE REFERENCE

[Numbers 13:30 \(ESV\)](#)

"Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it."

[Numbers 14:8 \(ESV\)](#)

"If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land which flows with milk and honey."

WORDS TO REMEMBER

Giant - a person or thing of great size; unusually large; gigantic; huge.

Paran - a wilderness where the Israelites stayed before entering the Promised Land.

Caleb - the name "Caleb" signifies dog; representative of the Tribe of Judah during the Israelites' journey to the Promised Land;
- He is an Israelite particularly from the tribe of Judah and his father is Jephunneh (a Kenizzite, which is not under the Israelites)

PRE-SESSION ACTIVITY

Play a game, sing a song or give them activity to introduce the new lesson.

(Activities may vary depending on age level and purpose of the lesson either for Sunday school or outreach ministry.)

Marshmallow Test

Play **"I Spy"**

"Whom can we trust" - Explain to the kids that there are several types of people we can usually trust. (parents, teachers, church leaders, police officers, firefighters). As a group, talk about how the person you described is someone we should be able to trust. Ask what would happen if we didn't trust any of those people.

A. PREPARATION and MOTIVATION

Teacher, review the past lessons.

1. Who is Rahab?
2. Why did Rahab hide the spies? *she believed their God would be victorious and wanted to be saved*
3. What did the spies report to Joshua? *that the whole area was afraid of them*
4. How many spies went into Jericho? *two (2)*
5. What reward did God give Rahab? *her family was saved, she became an ancestor of Christ*
6. What did the centurion ask Jesus to do?
7. How did the centurion show his faith to Jesus?
8. What happened to the sick servant?
9. Why do you think Jesus was so impressed with the centurion?
10. What does it mean to be blind?
11. Why did the blind man cry out to Jesus?
12. Why didn't the man stay quiet when everyone around him told him to be quiet?
13. Why did Jesus heal the man?
14. What did the man do when he was able to see?
15. Who is Naaman and where did he live?
16. What disease did Naaman have?
17. Who told Naaman how to make his leprosy go away?
18. What message did Elisha's servant give Naaman?
19. What happened when Naaman dipped in the Jordan River seven times?
20. Why did Elimelech and Naomi take their two sons and move away from Bethlehem?
21. What happened to Naomi's family in Moab?
22. Which daughter-in-law refused to leave Naomi?
23. Whose field did Ruth gather in?
24. How did Boaz show Ruth kindness?

B. INTRODUCTION

Background Study:

Caleb, one of the spies sent by Moses from Kadesh in southern Palestine to spy out the land of Canaan. Only Caleb and Joshua advised the Hebrews to proceed immediately to take the land; for his faith Caleb was rewarded with the promise that he and his descendants should possess it (Numbers 13–14).

Caleb was the head of the tribe of Judah—the same tribe as David and the Lord Jesus Christ. Caleb and Joshua, along with 10 other men, were sent into Canaan to see if the land was good or bad and whether the land that God had promised them was even worth fighting for (Numbers 13:17-20). If there were any doubts in Moses' mind about the worthiness of the land, the report brought back by the spies should have easily dispelled those fears.

Caleb's courage was first displayed after his return from his spy mission into the Promised Land. He was willing to take a stand with God when the crowd was more than willing to oppose God's will.

C. LESSON

Read today's story aloud from the Bible, or by showing pictures, or tell the story in your own words. (*Focus on Obedience: Choose to obey God*)

CALEB'S UNSHAKABLE FAITH

The people of Israel have left Mt. Sinai, where they received the 10 commandments. After some further travels, they camped in the desert of Paran. The Lord tells Moses to send some spies to explore the land of Canaan, which the Lord was giving to Israel. It is a land flowing with milk and honey. Moses sends one (1) representative from each of the 12 tribes including Caleb (tribe of Judah) and Joshua (tribe of Ephraim). After the spies were chosen, Moses told them where to go and what to bring back.

After 40 days of searching the land, the 12 spies returned. Ten (10) of them came back with a bad report. They say that the people are strong and as big as giants! The cities are strong and they are not able to defeat them.

Joshua and Caleb reported just the opposite. In fact, Caleb, "calm the people before Moses", and said, "Let us go up at once, and occupy it; for we are well able to overcome it" (Numbers 13:30 – ESV).

However, when God saw the negative attitudes of the children of Israel and their lack of faith and belief in Him and His power - He pronounces judgment that they should wander in the wilderness for 40 years to match up with the 40 days they had spied out the land for.

Due to no fault of his own, Caleb was forced to wander in the wilderness for 40 years. Through all that years, Caleb never blamed God but simply trusted God and waited for the day when he would be allowed to cross over to the Promised Land.

After the death of Moses 40 years later, Joshua led the people across the Jordan River into the Promised Land. Caleb received an inheritance in the Promised Land in his old age (Joshua 14).

Caleb's Strengths:

Caleb was physically strong, vigorous to old age, and ingenious in dealing with trouble. Most importantly, he followed God with his whole heart.

Points:

- Caleb's faith gave him strength to attempt the impossible in the eyes of others and to accomplish it.
- Caleb dared to believe God when he was young. He still dared to believe God when he was older
- Caleb's life illustrates for us that there is "no retirement plan" in doing the Lord's work.
- Caleb inherited what God had promised because his faith never wavered (*God enabled Caleb to take, possess, enjoy, and keep his inheritance, and his heirs enjoyed it too (Num. 14: 23-24)*)

MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. How many spies were sent into the promised land?
2. How many brought back a good report?
3. Name the two spies who gave a good report.
4. Why were the people afraid to go into the promised land?
5. When God gives an order is it wise to disobey and follow our own ideas?

LIFE APPLICATION

"The kids need to know that they don't have to run from their giants because they have a God who will fight for them."

Caleb knew that when God gave him a task to do, God would supply him with all he needed to complete that mission. Caleb spoke up for truth, even when he was in the minority. We can learn from Caleb that our own weakness brings an inpouring of God's strength.

ACTIVITY

Play Opposites Game

Give each child a card. Instruct them to not show other kids what card he/she is handling. Invite a volunteer to guess who is holding the opposite of the card you will display. Give each child an opportunity to guess.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

*Dear God, we know that we will face many problems and some of these problems are so big they seem like giants, but God, no matter how big our giants are, they are not bigger than you. Thank you for being a big and mighty God. We love you so much.
In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.