

# Twelve Spies Investigate New Land Numbers 13

*God's power is bigger than anything else.*

## Teacher Background

### Bible Background

- Read: Numbers 13
- In This Passage: God's people are approaching the land God promised them. Twelve spies head in to scout out the land and see what it's like. Ten come back with a negative report: the people are too giant, and we can't conquer this land. Two come back confident that God is big enough to conquer the land.
- Bible Point: God's power is bigger than anything else.
- Summary Verse: "A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" (Ephesians 6:10).

### Prepare Your Heart

- You'll Be Teaching: *God's power is bigger than anything else.* COVID-19 feels big. Huge! It's a problem across the whole world, and it may feel as unbeatable as the giants in Canaan felt to the Israelites. Help kids see that even though COVID-19 is big, God's power is bigger.
- Think About: What feels like a giant in your life? Pray for God's power to show up.
- Pray for kids to look for and see God's power in their lives.

### Lesson Activities

- Choose what works best for your timeframe and setting.
- Be sure to use the Bible Discovery.

Section	What Kids Do	Supplies	Easy Prep
<b>Opening</b> (5 minutes)	Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bible</li></ul>	
<b>Music Videos</b> (10 minutes)	Kids sing songs of praise to God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• video player</li><li>• "I Will Not Be Afraid" (watch or download <a href="#">here</a>)</li><li>• "My God Is Powerful" (watch or download <a href="#">here</a>)</li></ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “There's Power in the Blood” (watch or download <a href="#">here</a>)</li> </ul>	
<b>Bible Discovery</b> (20 minutes)	Kids scope out their room, looking for positives and negatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bible</li> <li>• flashlight (for teacher use only)</li> </ul>	
<b>Lesson Video</b> (10 minutes)	Kids watch a video called “What Scares You?”, which animates a variety of common childhood fears.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• video player</li> <li>• “What Scares You?” teaching video (watch or download <a href="#">here</a>)</li> </ul>	
<b>Game</b> (10 minutes)	Kids play a game where things just keep getting bigger.		
<b>Bible Exploration</b> (15 minutes)	Kids use a balloon to see what makes fears grow, and what makes them shrink.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bible</li> <li>• uninflated balloon (for teacher use only)</li> <li>• fine-tipped permanent marker (for teacher use only)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write “fear” in small letters on the uninflated balloon.</li> </ul>
<b>Closing Prayer</b> (5 minutes)	Kids pray a call-and-response prayer.		

## Opening-----

### Supplies

- Bible

### Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have kids make a funny face at a friend near them.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids say “happy birthday” in the voice of a cartoon character.

### Introduce the Lesson

Say: I’m excited to see everyone! Today, we’re going to be talking about fear. In our Bible story, we’ll see how people were scared about going to a new place.

### Share

- Tell kids about a time *you* went to a new place.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share about when *they've* been to a new place.
- After partners have shared, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group.

### Summarize

Open a Bible to Numbers 13 and say: **Going to a new place can be really scary...or really fun! In our Bible story, some people thought the new place was scary, but others didn't! Let's find out what they learned about how God's power is bigger than anything else. We'll look in the Bible, God's special book, to find out what happened. Because this comes from the Bible, we know it's a true story. Before we dive in, let's talk with God.**

Pray, thanking God that his power is bigger than anything else.

## Music Videos-----

### I Will Not Be Afraid

#### Supplies

- video player
- "I Will Not Be Afraid" (watch or download [here](#))
- "My God Is Powerful" (watch or download [here](#))
- "There's Power in the Blood" (watch or download [here](#))

#### Tip

- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the "download" button at the link provided.

### Sing Songs to God

Sing the three songs in any order.

## Bible Discovery-----

### Twelve Spies Investigate New Land (Numbers 13)

#### Supplies

- Bible
- flashlight (for teacher use only)

#### Observe & Report

Say: **God's people had been wandering in the desert, waiting to get to their new home. They finally got close, so 12 people snuck into the new land to check it out.**

**Tiptoe in place like you're sneaking into the land.** Lead kids in tiptoeing.

Whisper: **Great! We're in! Now, without moving around, I want you to look all around our room. If you're on this side of the room** (gesture to half the kids),

**look for anything good you can find about the room. Maybe you think the carpet is a nice color or you like the view out the windows. If you're on this side of the room (gesture to the other side), look for anything about the room you can complain about. Maybe you notice a water stain in the ceiling, or you wish the room had donuts.**

**I'll give you a minute to observe and find as many things as possible to report on. Allow time.**

Ask: • **What did you observe?**

• **How did your assignment change the way you looked at our room?**

Say: **I heard a lot of mixed reports. Some people had only good things to say, while others had only bad things to say!**

**That's a lot like what happened when the twelve spies snuck into the land.**

### **Report on the Land**

Say: **Ten of the guys were focused on the bad things. Sure, they noticed there was some good food there. But they also noticed this.**

Read Numbers 13:28.

Walk around the room, shining a flashlight on kids at an angle that makes their shadows on the wall look huge.

Say: **Wow! They're right! Our room *is* full of giants!**

Say: **But a guy named Caleb spoke up, because he knew God's power is bigger than anything else. Even though there were giants, Caleb knew God was bigger.**

Read Numbers 13:30.

Say: **But the scared guys didn't agree they could beat the people in the land.**

Read Numbers 13:31-32.

Ask: • **What happened when most of the spies only focused on the bad, scary things they saw?**

Say: **Sometimes things seem all bad. But if we remember that God's power is bigger than anything else, we can have faith that God can help us! And we can focus on the good things God is doing!**

Ask: • **What feels giant about the situation in our world right now?**

• **What's one good thing you can focus on instead?**

Say: **Even though COVID-19 seems big...and it is...God's power is bigger than anything else. Sickness all around the world may seem like a giant, but we can always trust that God is bigger! And we can choose to focus on the good, and on God's power, instead of just what's scary.**

## **Lesson Video-----**

**What Scares You?**

### **Supplies**

- video player
- "What Scares You?" (watch or download [here](#))

### **Tip**

- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the "download" button at the link provided.

### **Discuss and Watch "What Scares You?"**

Say: **We're learning that God's power is bigger than anything...including the things that scare us! Let's watch a video with some scary things! Then we'll see how God is bigger.**

Watch "What Scares You?"

Ask: • **Which of the scary things named in this video are scary to you, too?**  
• **How did the Bible verses help show that God's power is bigger than those fears?**

• **What can remind you about how big God is the next time you're scared?**

Say: **God's power is bigger than anything. He made the mountains, the oceans, and outer space! God so big and powerful, we don't need to be afraid.**

### **Game-----**

#### **Bigger and Bigger**

#### **Guess the Next Direction**

Say: **Today we're exploring how God's power is bigger than anything. Let's play a game where things just keep getting bigger and bigger!**

- You'll play an alphabet game, where kids take turns naming something that starts with each letter of the alphabet. The new item named for each letter must be bigger than the previous thing, so it's good to start small.
- For example, the first child might say "ant," and the next child could say "ball."
- If you have younger kids, you can just have them name bigger and bigger things that start with any letter.
- The round will end when kids are stumped at coming up with anything bigger.
- Play additional rounds as time allows, trying to get further into the alphabet.

#### **Talk About It**

Ask: • **When did it get hard to think of bigger items?**

• **How can you be sure God's power is bigger than anything we named?**

Say: **God's power is bigger than anything. In the Bible story, most of the spies were comparing the size of the giants to their own size...so the giants seemed huge! But Caleb compared the giants to the size of God's power, and knew God's power was so much bigger! No matter what feels big to us, we can be sure that God's power is bigger.**

### **Bible Exploration-----**

#### **What if My Fear Feels Bigger Than God's Power?**

## **Supplies**

- Bible\*
- uninflated balloon (for teacher-use only)
- fine-tipped permanent marker (for teacher-use only)

## **Easy Prep**

- Write “fear” in small letters on the uninflated balloon.

## **Explore the Story**

Say: **We’re discovering that God’s power is bigger than anything. But sometimes our fears feel really big! So what if our fears feel bigger than God’s power? What do we do? Let’s explore that.**

**Sometimes our fears *are* really big. The Israelite spies really did see giants, but was their fear as big as they said? Listen to what they said.**

Read Numbers 13:32-33.

Say: **The spies said that *all* the people they saw were huge. Let’s look back at what they saw.**

Read Numbers 13:21.

Ask: • **Did the Bible mention that the spies saw any giants in this verse?**

Read Numbers 13:22.

Ask: • **Did the Bible mention that the spies saw any giants in this verse?**

(The descendants of Anak were the giants.)

Read Numbers 13:23.

Ask: • **Did the Bible mention that the spies saw any giants in this verse?**

Say: **The spies went to a lot of places. Some of those places had giants. But some of them didn’t seem to have giants. They saw some huge people, and their fear grew big. It’s kind of like this.**

## **Inflate a Balloon**

Show kids the balloon, and point out that it says “fear” on it.

Say: **Right now, the word *fear* isn’t very big. Share some things people are afraid of.** Allow time for kids to respond.

Say: **Those are all real fears people have. But sometimes, those fears become bigger in our minds than they really are.**

Ask: • **Tell about some things you think about that can make your fear feel bigger.** Share an example to get kids started. For example, maybe you spend too much time on social media and it focuses your attention on negative things about COVID-19. As kids share, blow one breath into the balloon for each answer, and hold the end so it stays inflated.

Say: **See what happened? When we focus on our fears or worry about them too much, they start to feel huge—like giants! It’s not that the fears aren’t real. Our balloon really does have “fear” written on it. But our minds can make the**

**fears feel bigger than they really are. We compare them to our own strength, and they seem giant.**

Ask: • **What do you think made the Israelites' fear grow?**

### **Shrink Fear**

Say: **We've seen that when we focus on our fears and worries, they grow. But what happens when we focus on God's power instead?**

Read the following verses and statements. After each one, let a little air out of the balloon, and then pinch the end so the balloon stays somewhat inflated but shrinks a bit each time.

- Read Psalm 77:11. Say: **When we can remember big things God has done before, our fear shrinks.**
- Read Psalm 47:2. Say: **When we remember that God is awesome, our fear shrinks.**
- Read 1 John 4:4. Say: **When we understand that God's power is greater than anything, our fear shrinks.**
- Read Isaiah 41:10. Say: **When we remember that God is with us, our fear shrinks.** Let all of the remaining air out of the balloon.

Ask: • **Tell about a time God helped shrink a fear in your life.** Share your own example first.

Hold up the deflated balloon and say: **Look at our fear now. It's still there, but we've put it in the right perspective. It doesn't look so big because we've compared it to God's size, not our own. God's power is bigger than anything. Let's pray about that.**

Pray: **God, thank you that you're with us when we're afraid. Thank you that your power is bigger than anything. Please help us focus on your power as you shrink the fears in our lives. In Jesus' name, amen.**

## **Closing Prayer-----**

**You Are Bigger!**

### **Call and Respond**

Say: **God's power is bigger than anything. Let's remind us that no matter what feels giant in our lives, God's power is bigger! I'll start a prayer, and you'll fill in when I pause by saying to God, "your power is bigger!"**

- Pray: **God, when COVID-19 feels big...** (your power is bigger!)
- Pray: **God, when fear feels big...** (your power is bigger!)
- Pray: **God, when worries feel big...** (your power is bigger!)
- Pray: **God, when loneliness feels big...** (your power is bigger!)
- Pray: **God, when boredom feels big...** (your power is bigger!)

- Allow kids to call out their own prayer starters following the same format, if they want.
- Pray: **God, thank you that no matter what is giant in our lives, your power is bigger. In Jesus' name, amen.**
- Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.

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**Credits**

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**Empowering Courageous Kids: Back-to-Church Edition**

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