

# The Twelve Spies

Numbers 13 - 14



## The Story

After the children of Israel wandered around in the wilderness they came to the land of Canaan. The LORD told Moses to spy out the land He was giving to them. He told Moses to send 12 men to see what the land was like. So Moses chose 12 men to be spies as God had told him.

Moses told them to find out what the land and people were like. Moses said, "See if the people are strong or weak, few or many. See if the land is good or bad. See if the cities are strong or weak. Bring back some of the things that grow in the land."

The 12 men went into the land of Canaan and found the first grapes were just getting ripe. They cut a branch of grapes that was so heavy two men had to carry it between them on a pole. They also brought other fruits.

After 40 days the spies returned from the land of Canaan. They came back to Moses and Aaron and all the people. The spies said, "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruits." They showed them the grapes and other fruit from the land.

Then the spies told them, "The people who live in the land are strong. Their cities are very large with walls built around them."

Caleb said, "Let us go at once. We will be able to take the land."

But some of the other spies said, "The people who live there are stronger than we are. The people are giants and we seemed like grasshoppers next to

them. We will not be able to capture the land."

That night the people cried and complained against Moses and Aaron. They said, "If only we had died in Egypt or in the wilderness. Why did the LORD bring us here to be killed? Let us choose a new leader and return to Egypt."

Then two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, spoke to the people and said, "The land is a very good land. If it is the LORD's will, He will bring us into this land and give it to us. Do not turn against the LORD. The LORD is with us. We need not fear the enemy."

The people were angry at Joshua and Caleb and wanted to kill them with stones. God was not happy with His people. He told Moses He would let the children of Israel die in the desert.

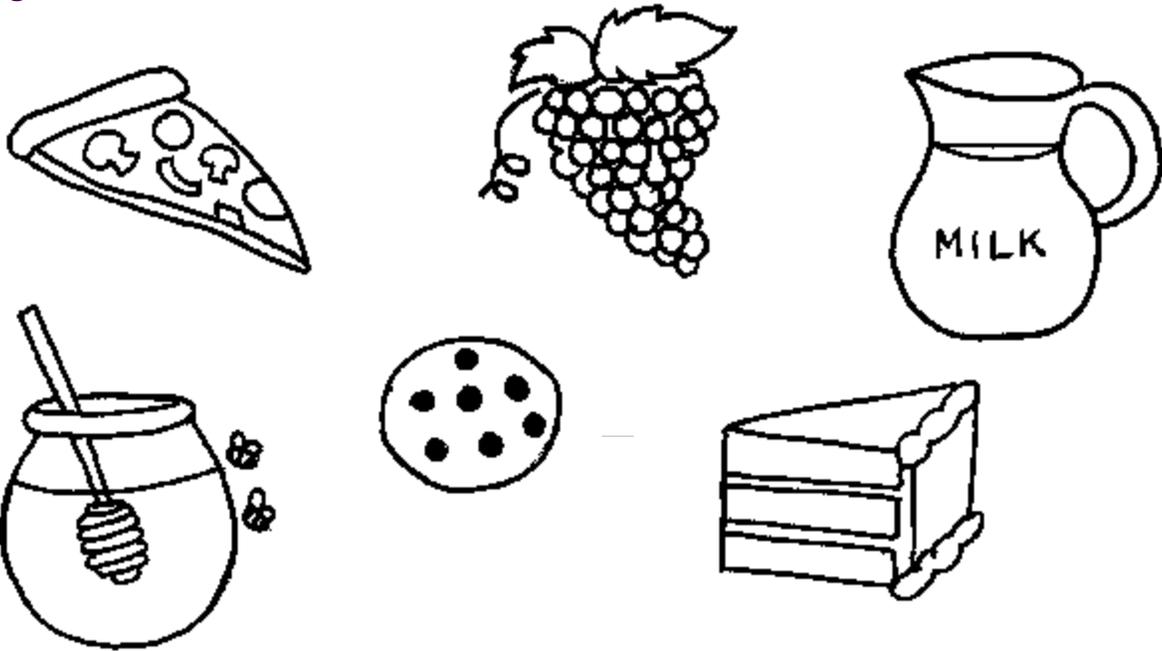
Moses prayed for God to forgive the people.

Then the LORD told Moses that He heard his prayer and forgave the people. But everyone who was 20 years old or older would not come into the land of Canaan. They would die in the desert because they had complained against God. Only Joshua and Caleb would enter the land of Canaan.

So Moses told the people that the LORD said, "Your little ones I will bring into the land which you have despised."

Moses told them they were to go back to the desert where they would wander around for 40 years.

**Activity One** - Circle each item below that the 12 spies found in the land of Canaan.



*Many of God's people did not enter the Promised Land due to their lack of trust.*

**Activity Two** -

Look at the following people.  
Put an "X" on each person that would not be allowed to live in the land of Canaan.

Why didn't all the people get to go into the land?



*Our life is a time of grace and blessings to help unbelievers find Jesus, their Savior.*

**Passage** - This passage tells us that it is important to pray to God. Prayer is very powerful!  
What are some things that you pray about?

James 5:16 - Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another,  
that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man  
avails much.

**Hymn** - TLH #434 v. 1, 3, 4

O God of Jacob, by whose hand  
Thy people still are fed;  
Who thro' this weary pilgrimage  
Hast all our fathers led.

Thro' each perplexing path of life  
Our wand'ring footsteps guide;  
Give us each day our daily bread  
And raiment fit provide.

Oh, spread Thy covering wings around  
Till all our wanderings cease  
And at our Father's loved abode  
Our souls arrive in peace.

## Prayer

Dear God,

Thank You for letting me learn about You. Help my faith to grow strong,  
and keep me always trusting in You to guide me. Give me courage to share  
Your good news of salvation with other people. Amen.