Spy Service

The Bible Lesson at a Glance
Twelve men are selected to spy out the land of Canaan. Ten of the spies come back with pessimistic reports, saying it is impossible to conquer the land. However, Caleb and Joshua return with a report that expresses their faith in the power of God to conquer the land. God is happy with Caleb and Joshua because they courageously trust Him in spite of the risks.

This is a lesson about service. What God asks us to do may sometimes be risky. He wants us to trust Him as we help others. When God asks us to do something, we can be sure He will give us courage and strength to complete the task.

Teacher Enrichment
“Now the scene changed. Hope and courage gave place to cowardly despair, as the spies uttered the sentiments of their unbelieving hearts, which were filled with discouragement prompted by Satan. Their unbelief cast a gloomy shadow over the congregation, and the mighty power of God, so often manifested in behalf of the chosen nation, was forgotten. The people did not wait to reflect; they did not reason that He who had brought them thus far would certainly give them the land; they did not call to mind how wonderfully God had delivered them from their oppressors, cutting a path through the sea and destroying the pursuing hosts of Pharaoh. They left God out of the question, and acted as though they must depend solely on the power of arms.

“In their unbelief they limited the power of God and distrusted the hand that had hitherto safely guided them” (Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 388).

How has God provided for me in the past? How will remembering His provisions help me move ahead? How do I limit the power of God?

The students will:
Know that helping others may involve taking some risks.
Feel the courage to serve in spite of risks.
Respond by having the courage to trust God, as Caleb and Joshua did.

Service
We serve God wherever we go.

POWER TEXT
“Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, ‘We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it’” (Numbers 13:30).

KEY REFERENCES
- Numbers 13
- Patriarchs and Prophets, chap. 34, pp. 387-389
- The Bible Story (1994), vol. 3, pp. 26-31 (“So Near Yet So Far”)
- Student story on page 102 of this guide.

OUR BELIEFS
- No. 8, The Great Controversy
- No. 7, The Nature of Man
- No. 17, Spiritual Gifts and Ministries

OBJECTIVES
The students will:
- Know that helping others may involve taking some risks.
- Feel the courage to serve in spite of risks.
- Respond by having the courage to trust God, as Caleb and Joshua did.

POWER POINT
94

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Welcome
Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly. You may de-brief students on the previous lesson to help them see the chronological continuity of the Bible stories from one week to another. Then ask students to share a few things they have learned from the current lesson prior to Sabbath School. Ask: What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. Transition into the Readiness activity of your choice.

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READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

"TIMBER!"
Instruct the students to choose two partners. Say: Pretend you are logging in a forest. Two persons in each group are the lumberjacks and the other person is the tree. The lumberjacks will stand behind the tree and “cut” the tree using an ax or saw motion (without touching the tree). When I call “timber!” the “tree” should fall backward, keeping its “trunk” rigid. The lumberjacks should prepare to catch the “tree”. Make sure your students are coached in safety procedures for this activity.

Debriefing
Ask: What happened when you fell backward? How did you feel? What was risky about this activity? Let’s say together our power text, Numbers 13:30

“Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, ‘We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it’ ” (Numbers 13:30).

Remember:
We can face risks with courage when we serve God.

Accommodations for students with special needs:
Consider involving the students who have physical disabilities in observing, discussion, answering questions, if they cannot participate physically in this activity.

B

Spy Code
Beforehand, have written on the board in exact order:

71 79 68
67 65 76 76 83
85 83
84 79
70 65 67 69
82 73 83 75 83
67 79 85 82 65 71 69 79 85 83 76 89
65 83
87 69
83 69 82 86 69
72 73 77

Say: Pretend you are spies cracking a secret code. We will be using the ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange). Here is the code’s secret: 65 stands for A, 66 for B, 67 is for C, etc. Now figure out what the message on the board says.

Debriefing
Ask: What does it say? That’s right! (God calls us to face risks courageously as we serve Him.) What are some risks that you are facing?

Say: Let’s say together our power text, Numbers 13:30,

“Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, ‘We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it’ ” (Numbers 13:30).

Let’s remember:
We can face risks with courage when we serve God.
Fellowship
Allow students to report things that they are pleased or troubled about. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors. Get contact information from the adult who brought them to church. Early in the following week, send a postcard or e-mail letting the visitors know how much you enjoyed having them in your class and that you would like to see them again.

Suggested Songs
"You Are My Hiding Place" (He Is Our Song, no. 96)
"Humble Thyself" (He Is Our Song, no. 81)
“All Through the Day” (He Is Our Song, no. 77)

Mission
Use Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story and compare it to where they are. You could use pushpins to mark where the mission story takes place.

Offering
Since for these next four weeks we will be learning about the Israelites entering the “land of milk and honey” you could use either a clean, empty milk carton or a honey jar for the offering.

Say: One way we can serve God is by giving our offering. We’re collecting the offering in this container because it represents the “land of milk and honey” that the Israelites would eventually enter.

Prayer
In advance, cut out four colored paper “keys” (p. 146) for each student to be used for the next four weeks. Punch a hole at the top to thread a ribbon through. Say: For the next four weeks we will be learning about the Israelites before and during the time they entered the Promised Land. The key you have been given represents the “unlocking and opening up” of a new land for them. Please write on your key one area in your life in which you would like to have more courage to do what God asks you to do in service to Him. After prayer we will string the keys on this ribbon key ring and hang it up.

Pray for each student’s commitment to serve God even when it is risky. Remember to pray for students’ prayer requests, for birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.
LESSON 9

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story
Ask students to turn to a partner. Instruct both students to stand and face each other with their arms out in front of them—elbows bent. One of each pair—Student A—should have their palms up with their partner’s hands resting lightly, palms down, above theirs. When someone gives a signal, Student B tries to quickly remove their hands and place them behind their back before Student A can “slap” Student B’s hands. Keep repeating until Student B gets “slapped.” Then reverse roles and try again.

Debriefing
Ask: What made this activity easy or difficult to do? When have you been asked to do something that was difficult to do, to take a risk? In our story today we learn about people who were unwilling to take a risk and trust God.

Experiencing the Story
Before Sabbath School begins choose three students who will be “spies” during this activity. Each one should choose a different activity from the three listed below in which to participate. Instruct them to participate but also to watch the activities of their classmates without letting them know. Have them look for specific things such as who seemed to be the leader in each group, how well the groups worked together, and whether or not their group accomplished the task assigned, etc. After the debriefing of each activity, ask the spies to report their findings to the rest of the class. Say: Let’s read Numbers 13 together aloud. Allow anyone who is willing to read a few verses, depending on the size of your group. Ask students to choose one of the following activities:

A. Mapmaking: Supply a large sheet of paper, pens, and Bible maps. Students can make a map of the 12 spies’ journey through Canaan. Have them note significant places such as Hebron and the deserts of Zin and Paran and locate geographical features such as rivers and mountains. They will create a legend for their map so others can “read” it. (See map on page 147.)

B. Spy Travels: Supply Bible maps (p. 147), paper, and pens. Have this group calculate how long it would have taken the spies to travel between two specific points on their route through Canaan by estimating the distance from the map provided. The average person could walk approximately three miles (five kilometers) per hour.

C. Living Off the Land: Supply paper and colored pens. This group can make a list of and then draw pictures of food items that someone could eat if they were spies living off the land in your area.

Debriefing
Ask the “Mapmaking” group: Please show us your map and point out the important locations for the 12 spies. Ask the “Spy Travels” group: What two places on the map did you select and how long do you think it took the spies to travel between those two? Ask the “Living Off the Land” group: Which food items would be hard to get? Which ones easy? What food or drink would you miss the most if you had to live off the land?

Ask: Did anyone guess that there were spies among you? Raise your hand if you were a spy. Share what information you were spying on. Ask the class: In what ways was their task like the job of the 12 spies? In what ways was it different?

We can face risks with courage when we serve God.

Accommodation for students with special needs:
Guide students with special needs to groups that offer them assistance in participation. Identify their skills and encourage these students to contribute in ways that allow them to feel comfortable, accepted, and valued.
Exploring the Bible
Ahead of time write the following texts on a board, but exclude the Bible characters’ names.

Say: There are many examples of people taking risks as God called them to. Let’s divide into pairs or groups, and I will assign each of you one of the texts on the board. You will discover a story of someone taking a risk to serve God. Specifically note what their risk was. Then we’ll get back together and share what we’ve found.

- Genesis 6:9-22 (Noah)
- Genesis 12:1-5 (Abraham)
- Genesis 22:1-19 (Abraham and Isaac)
- Exodus 3:4-20 (Moses)
- Judges 6:1-35 (Gideon)
- 1 Samuel 17:1-54 (David)
- Daniel 6:1-22 (Daniel)
- Mark 14:32-42 (Jesus)
- Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60 (Stephen)
- Acts 21:10-15 (Paul)

Ask the group to share who their character was and what risks they took for God.

Let's say our power point together:

We can face risks with courage when we serve God.

Accommodations for students with special needs: Have students with visual impairments sit near the board or prepare for them ahead of time a handout with the Bible passages and the questions for this activity.

Scenarios
Read the following scenarios to the students. At the end of each, ask if courage to take a risk for God was demonstrated or not, and if it was, how?

1. Taylor finds a small kitten near the trash dumpster during lunchtime as she’s about to throw away her empty lunch bag. She opens up her milk carton to give the kitten a few drops of leftover milk. Meanwhile Jackie and Mark come along and start teasing her about helping a stray cat. The taunts continue as Taylor pets the kitten and ignores Jackie and Mark.

2. Mike’s family has been praying and feels led to become missionaries in a remote area of Thailand. Mike isn’t too thrilled about having to take school by correspondence. He is upset at having to leave his friends and is refusing to go.

3. Tiesha is on a school field trip to the aquarium. Outside she notices a homeless person shivering in the cold. When she gets home she asks her mom if they can go back and take the homeless person a coat. They return and offer the person a warm coat and a sack lunch.

4. Carter is very shy. He admires people who can be friendly and make new people feel welcome. He has noticed how sometimes visitors come into his Sabbath School and the teacher will greet them but the students don’t pay much attention to them. He is determined to change that, even though he is very uncomfortable doing it himself. One Sabbath a few weeks later a visitor comes and Carter summons the courage to say hello and ask where he’s from.

Ask: What situations have you been in that took courage? How did you feel God calling you to serve Him?
Let's repeat the power text together (Numbers 13:30).

Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, ‘We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it’” (Numbers 13:30).

Remember:

We can face risks with courage when we serve God.
LESSON 9

Show You Care
Allow students to share with the class if they had the chance to do a service project during the past week where they had to step out of their comfort zone. What were the outcomes?

Ask students to design a symbol, such as the two spies carrying the cluster of grapes, that would complement this week’s power point. Have them add the power point in a decorative way. Have the students show the class the symbol they designed.

Debriefing
Ask: How can you share your symbol and what you have learned this week with someone? (Allow time for thoughtful responses.) What risks may be involved in serving God in this way? How do you know you can trust God to empower you to serve Him? Remember:

We can face risks with courage when we serve God.

Prayer and closing comments:
Ask God to give your students opportunities to serve God and others. Also ask for courage in serving Him, even when there are risks involved.

Reminder to parents:
Say: Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents’ Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.

Coming up next week:
Say: Moses is patient. We should serve others with patience and love.
LESSON 9

Spy Service

When have you felt called by God to do something that required you to be more brave than you felt? Maybe it was something small, but it still required courage on your part. Imagine being asked to be a spy.

Moses studied the 12 men standing before him. He had selected them carefully—one from each of the 12 tribes. His craggy face suddenly crinkled into a smile. “It’s time!” he exclaimed. His eyes shone. “And you 12 will be the first!”

Caleb took a deep breath. He could hardly believe that he was one of the chosen ones. He would be one of the very first Israelites to set foot in the land that the Lord had promised to give them. “Oh, thank You, Lord, for this great favor,” he may have prayed silently.

All 12 men listened attentively to Moses’ instructions, which sent them north, into the land of Canaan. He said to them, “Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. What kind of land do they live in? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land” (Numbers 13:17-20).

The men agreed together that they should leave before the sun came up in the morning. Then they may have hurried back to their tents to say goodbye to their families and get a little rest. Most likely it was impossible to rest, however. No doubt friends, neighbors, and relatives, bursting with curiosity, all wanted to talk about the spies’ mission. “What do you suppose the land is like?” they asked. “What do you think you’ll find?”

Stars were still hanging in the sky when the spies left camp the next morning. They began to hike north in the pitchy darkness. They had a lot of territory to cover to complete their assignment.

The spies discovered that the land of Canaan was rich and beautiful. “Look at those pasturelands,” Caleb exulted. “Our flocks and herds will grow fat here and prosper.”

The spies learned that Canaan had abundant water. There were plentiful forests where timber could be cut. They found that the land was big, the cities were big, and some of the people were big too. In fact, they discovered giants living in the city of Hebron.

The spies spent 40 days in the land of Canaan and then returned to report their findings to Moses. The men remembered that he had told them to bring some fruit back with them, so they brought a bunch of grapes they were certain would impress him. The single bunch was so heavy that it took two of the men to carry it on a pole between them! They also brought back golden-red pomegranates with hard rinds, and sweet figs.

The whole camp gathered to hear the spies’ report. “It’s a rich and fertile land!” Shammua began. “Just look at this fruit!”

“The people of Canaan are incredibly powerful,” Nahbi jumped in. “They live in large, well-fortified cities. They are prepared to defend themselves and their homes. And some of the people living in the land are actually giants!”

The entire camp had been listening carefully to the spies’ report. They were awed by the fruit the spies had returned with. But at the news of well-guarded cities and powerful people (not to mention giants!), they began to mutter, and murmur, and complain. “Why did Moses bring us out here to die?” they wailed.

Joshua and Caleb listened to the multitude’s mood turn ugly. Joshua stepped forward and said, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them” (Numbers 14:7-9).
“Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, ‘We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it’ ” (Numbers 13:30).

We can face risks with courage when we serve God.

**Sabbath**
- **DO**: Do the activity on page 74.
- **LEARN**: Begin learning the power text.

**Sunday**
- **READ**: Read Numbers 13:1-20 and this week’s story, “Spy Service.”
- **SING**: Sing “You Are My Hiding Place” or another song.
- **REVIEW**: Review the power text.
- **PRAY**: Pray that God will show you ways to serve Him, even if it involves taking a risk.

**Monday**
- **READ**: Read Numbers 13:21-25.
- **LIST**: List the names of the spies.
- **REVIEW**: Review the power text.
- **PRAY**: Pray that God would empower you to go wherever He asks you to go to serve Him in any capacity.

**Tuesday**
- **READ**: Read Numbers 13:26-33.
- **CREATE**: Make an acrostic for the word SERVE. Relate it to this week’s lesson (example: E can stand for “Explored the land”).
- **MAKE**: Make a picture symbol representing your service to God (such as a picture of two men carrying grapes on a pole).
- **REVIEW**: Review the power text.
- **PRAY**: Ask God for courage and determination to follow Him wherever He leads.

**Wednesday**
- **READ**: Read Deuteronomy 1:19-32.
- **THINK**: Think about your feelings when you are called to do something that involves taking a risk.
- **SERVE**: Do a service project that takes you out of your comfort zone.
- **REVIEW**: Review the power text.
- **PRAY**: Pray that God will give you peace when asked to serve Him.

**Thursday**
- **READ**: Read Joshua 14:7, 8.
- **REFLECT**: In your Bible study journal, write about any concerns you may have about taking risks for God.
- **REVIEW**: Review the power text.
- **PRAY**: Ask God to help you discover where and how He wants you to serve Him.

**Friday**
- **READ**: Read Psalm 28:7.
- **ACT**: With your family, act out the Bible story during worship tonight.
- **DISCUSS**: Talk about the risks involved in being a spy. Talk about the risks involved in being a Christian in some parts of the world. Consider how the benefits of being a Christian far outweigh the potential dangers Christians face in certain societies when they stand up for their beliefs.
- **SHARE**: Share the power text with your family.
- **PRAY**: Thank God for using you to serve Him.