**Adventure and Challenge**

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

The spies start out on an adventure. Some report mostly the bright side of the trip, and others only the problems. Most come back fearful and doubting God’s leading, thus turning a whole generation to grumble against God. On the other hand, Moses hears the complaints of the Hebrews, sees the fear in 10 of the spies’ eyes, feels God’s utter frustration toward them, and yet Moses still serves his people. He serves them even when they are extremely difficult to deal with. God had given him a job to do, and he isn’t going to give up.

**This is a lesson about service.**

When we serve others we have a choice to make. We can focus on the best in the people who have needs, like Moses did with the grumbling Hebrews, or we can concentrate on all of their problems, situations, and unloveliness and never be much help at all. God can give us the strength and long-suffering we need to serve Him.

Teacher Enrichment

“The Christian is to be prepared for the doing of a work that reveals kindness, forbearance, longsuffering, gentleness, patience. The cultivation of these precious gifts is to come into the life of the Christian, that, when called into service by the Master, he may be ready to use his highest powers in helping and blessing those around him” (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Ellen G. White Comments, vol. 4, p. 1160).

*How much of a challenge is being a junior or teen Sabbath School leader/teacher? How do I deal with the ones who are difficult for me to understand?*
**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 debrief 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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### Program notes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LESSON SECTION</th>
<th>MINUTES</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>MATERIALS NEEDED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Greet students at door. Ask about their week.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readiness</td>
<td>10-15</td>
<td>A. Balloon Keep-Away (see p. 106)</td>
<td>balloons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B. Leading and Following (see p. 106)</td>
<td>blindfolds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer and Praise</td>
<td>15-20</td>
<td>(see p. 107)</td>
<td>songbooks, world map, pushpins, milk OR honey container, paper keys (p. 146), and pens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bible Lesson</td>
<td>15-20</td>
<td>Introducing the Bible Story (see p. 108)</td>
<td>cloth bandages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Experiencing the Story (see p. 108)</td>
<td>Bibles, board, and marker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Exploring the Bible (see p. 109)</td>
<td>Bibles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applying the Lesson</td>
<td>10-15</td>
<td>Service Challenge (see p. 109)</td>
<td>paper, pencils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharing the Lesson</td>
<td>10-15</td>
<td>Grapes of Service (see p. 110)</td>
<td>blue or purple balloons, stick, string</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prayer (see p. 110) Reminder to Parents (see p. 110) Next Week’s Lesson (see p. 110)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LESSON 10

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

A

Balloon Keep-Away
Beforehand, blow up balloons for each student. Keep for Sharing the Lesson. Divide students into groups of three. Give each group a balloon and ask them to play “keep-away,” by having two people stand a few feet apart, with one person between them. The two outside people hit the balloon to one another, trying not to let the middle person get the balloon. Switch positions when the person in the middle gets the balloon.

Debriefing
Ask: What was easy about what you just did? What was frustrating? How difficult was it to keep the balloon away from the middle person? Tell me about a time you tried to help someone but difficulties kept getting in the way, like the middle person did. But our power text found in Ephesians 4:2 can help us deal with those challenges:

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love” (Ephesians 4:2).

Remember,
Serving others for God can be an adventure and a challenge.

B

Leading and Following
Divide your group into teams of five or six. Each team chooses one person not to be blindfolded; the others wear blindfolds. Each team stands in a line, holding hands with the person not wearing a blindfold at the head of the line. The person not wearing a blindfold then has to lead the others around the route by whispering instructions to the person next in line.

The instructions then have to be passed from person to person by whispering along the line of blindfolded people. No one is to pull another team member around the course; they have to feel their way based on the instructions they are given. (This is a good team-building activity. If anyone feels uncomfortable being blindfolded, be encouraging, but don’t force them to join in.)

Debriefing
Ask: What was challenging about this activity? (We couldn’t see; we had to listen to the leader and also lead others.) What made it an adventure [an undertaking involving danger and unknown risks]? How did it feel to be a leader of others? How did it feel to be a follower?

Say: Let’s say together our power text, Ephesians 4:2,

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love” (Ephesians 4:2).

Ask: How could this verse be applied to the experience you just had?

Serving others for God can be an adventure and a challenge.

(Adapted from Robin Sharples, LiveWires Live [Oxford, Eng.: Bible Reading Fellowship, 1998], p. 55.)
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
“We Are Soldiers (Praise Time, no. 37)
“The Battle Belongs to the Lord” (He Is Our Song, no. 85)
“He Will Carry You” (He Is Our Song, no. 82)

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
Continue to use the milk and honey containers to collect the offering. Say: One way we can serve God is by giving our offerings. We’re collecting the offering in this container because it represents the “land of milk and honey” that the Israelites were entering.

Prayer
Continue with the paper “keys” introduced last week. Say: We are learning about the Israelites at the door of the Promised Land. The key you have been given represents “unlocking and opening up” a new land for them. Please write on your key one way you want to serve God, even though you feel it may be difficult for you. After prayer we will add the keys to our ribbon key ring and hang it up. Pray for the students’ prayer requests, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.
LESSON 10

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story
Have the students form pairs. Pretend one has hurt their arm. Ask the other person to wrap a cloth bandage around the “hurt” arm while the hurt person keeps moving it.

Ask: What was difficult about this activity? (The person who needed help wouldn’t let me help them.) Think about a time you tried to help someone who wasn’t being cooperative. Our story today is about Moses leading the Israelites even when they were not cooperative with him or with God. Say:

Serving others for God can be an adventure and a challenge.

Experiencing the Story
Say: As we read Numbers 13:31-33 and Numbers 14 together, let’s look at the differences between the way the 10 spies reacted as opposed to the way Joshua and Caleb responded. Have student volunteers take turns reading. Then write the following heading on the board: “10 Spies Versus Joshua and Caleb.” Have the students brainstorm ideas while you or a student scribe writes them down. Then ask:
To be able to serve difficult people, what qualities did Joshua, Caleb, and Moses possess? How did Moses develop these qualities? Do you feel you possess these qualities? How can you develop them? (Encourage responses.) God supplies all the qualities we need to do what He asks us to do. He knows that

Serving others for God can be an adventure and a challenge.
Exploring the Bible
Say: Caleb and Joshua stood alone against the other 10 spies and the entire congregation. Let’s read Numbers 14:6 together, where it states that they “tore their clothes.” Find and read the verse together. Then divide the students into pairs or groups to look up the following texts:
   Genesis 37:26-35
   Esther 3:13-4:1
   Job 1:18-20
   Job 2:11, 12
   Give time for all the groups to find and read their texts together.
   Say to each group: Share with the whole group who tore their clothes.
   Ask: Why did the people in Bible times tear their clothes? (To express profound grief.) What does this action reveal about how Caleb and Joshua were feeling about the rebellion? How do people where we live show profound grief, or the same emotion Caleb and Joshua were expressing?
   Say: God is always with us when we serve others, but He knows that
   ![Serving others for God can be an adventure and a challenge.](image)

Accommodations for students with special needs
Ahead of time prepare a handout with the Bible passages and the questions from this activity if there are students with visual impairments or other special needs in your class who would benefit from having it.

Service Challenge
Say: Think of some people in your world whom God may be calling you to serve. List their names on the paper. Beside each name list a way that serving them might be an adventure. Beside each adventure list the challenge that might be present as you serve this person. Give them time to create their lists. Say: Now choose a partner and describe to them the names, adventures, and challenges you listed.

Debriefing
Ask: How might God bless you when you serve these people? What will you need to begin to serve? Remember:
   ![Serving others for God can be an adventure and a challenge.](image)

Ask each student to choose someone from the list they created earlier, to serve in a specific way. Choose “accountability partners” and encourage the students to call or e-mail their partner and report on their service during the week.
Grapes of Service

Invite students to share if they had the opportunity to serve someone in a challenging situation.

Beforehand, tie small purple or blue balloons to a broom stick or other stick in the shape of a cluster of grapes hanging down vertically from a horizontal stick.

Ask: Do you know of someone who is difficult to serve? How are they difficult? Discuss how people can be challenging to help because of physical problems, personality traits, etc. Say: Would you make a commitment to do something kind for someone you know who is difficult to deal with? Let students brainstorm ideas such as bake a food item and deliver to a grumpy neighbor, make a get-well card for a bedridden elderly person, pick flowers and give them to a brother or sister who tattles on you, make a phone call to a classmate who has no friends, read to a child, etc.

Ask each student to decide on one adventurous or challenging act of service they will do as soon as they have the opportunity. When each one has decided what they will do, they can come up, take one of the “grapes,” and tell everyone what their adventure will be. The “grape” will be to remind them to carry out their plan.

Prayer and closing comments:
Ask God to help each student be willing to serve Him even when faced with difficulties.

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: The Israelites cross the Jordan. No matter where we are, we can serve God.

Note to leader:
Provide a copy of the words of “On Jordan’s Stormy Banks” from The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal (no. 620) to each student. They will use them in their daily Bible study activities for lesson 11.
When have you had to deal with difficult people? You want to help them, but they don’t seem to want to help themselves. For any variety of reasons you may face challenges. Let’s see how Joshua, Caleb, and Moses faced the challenges of leading a stubborn, unfaithful nation.

Palti stood in front of Joshua, pointed his finger in Joshua’s face, and shouted, “We can’t attack the Canaanites; they are stronger than we are. They’re giants! Compared to them, we look like grasshoppers.”

Caleb stepped forward and silenced them. “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it” (Numbers 13:30). In spite of his efforts, arguing and fighting spread like a fog over the whole assembly gathered to hear the spies’ report. The fruit they had carried back had caused quite a sensation. This land seemed perfect. It had everything they needed to live well. But now this conflict ruined everyone’s enthusiasm.

“The people who live in Canaan are powerful,” one spy said. He had forgotten that God is more powerful.

“The cities are fortified and very large,” said another. He had forgotten that God had taken them out of Egypt, the strongest nation on the earth.

“We even saw giants living there, the descendants of Anak,” said a third. He had forgotten how big God is.

By nighttime the wails of the people filling the air sounded like a gigantic funeral. By morning the people blamed Moses for their misery. “Why did you bring us out of Egypt?” they demanded. They had forgotten that God, not Moses, had taken them out of Egypt.

“If only we had died in the desert,” they said. They had forgotten that God had protected them from death in the desert.

Someone said, “Let’s go back to Egypt.” Without stopping to think it through, the people decided they should choose a leader to guide them back to the land of slavery. The Hebrew people rejected Moses as their leader. They rejected God as their guide.

Caleb and Joshua tore their clothing and cried, “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).

“Stone them,” someone yelled. Others picked up the cry. “Stone them! Stone them!”

Suddenly the pillar of cloud, God’s visible presence, moved to the front of the tabernacle tent. God spoke to Moses. “How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I have performed among them?” (verse 11).

It was as though God was asking Moses, “What more do I need to do to prove Myself to them?” Then God said something very unusual to Moses. “I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they” (verse 12).

Moses answered God, “If you put all these people to death, leaving none alive, the nations who have heard this report about you will say, ‘The Lord was not able to bring these people into the land he promised them on oath, so he slaughtered them in the wilderness.’ ” “In accordance with your great love, forgive the sin of these people, just as you have pardoned them from the time they left Egypt until now” (verses 15, 16, 19).

Moses’ response to God is remarkable because Moses didn’t think about himself, but about God. He could have blamed God. He could have let them suffer the consequences of their distrust in God. But Moses didn’t respond in any of these ways. His answer to God demonstrated that he loved the Hebrew people in spite of their hurtful words and actions, in spite of their stubborn rebellion. His answer to God demonstrated that he was concerned about God’s reputation, not his own.

The terrible sentence finally came to the people camped on the edges of the Promised Land. God said, “Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun” (verse 30).

One entire generation gone. One entire generation who didn’t get it, who didn’t recognize that joy in this life comes from loving God and serving Him as Moses had modeled for them.
**KEY REFERENCES**
- Numbers 13:31-33; 14
- Patriarchs and Prophets, chap. 34, pp. 389-394
- The Bible Story (1994), vol. 3, pp. 26-31 (“So Near Yet So Far”)
- Our Beliefs nos. 17, 22, 7.

**POWER TEXT**
“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love” (Ephesians 4:2).

**POWER POINT**
Serving others for God can be an adventure and a challenge.

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**Sabbath**
- **Do** Do the activity on page 75.
- **Learn** Begin learning the power text.

**Sunday**
- **Read** Read Numbers 13:31 and this week’s story, “Adventure and Challenge.”
- **Plan** Plan what you will do this week to be of service in a challenging situation as discussed in your lesson.
- **Review** Review the power text.
- **Pray** Pray that God will guide you to serve someone.

**Monday**
- **Think** What did the spies mean by feeling like “grasshoppers”? In your Bible study journal, write how you could overcome feeling insignificant while working for God.
- **Review** Review the power text.
- **Pray** Pray for strength in your service to God.

**Tuesday**
- **Discuss** With an adult, discuss how to handle being unfairly blamed for something you haven’t done while maintaining a Christlike spirit.
- **Ace** Serve someone this week, even though it may be challenging.
- **Review** Review the power text.
- **Pray** Pray that God will bless your efforts as you do your service adventure this week.

**Wednesday**
- **Read** Read Numbers 14:10-19.
- **Think** What reasons did Moses give God as to why He should not destroy the Israelites? What do these reasons reveal about Moses’ understanding of God? Whom was Moses serving in this situation?
- **Review** Review the power text.
- **Pray** Pray that you will have the compassion and long-suffering patience of Moses.

**Thursday**
- **Read** Read Numbers 14:20-35.
- **Discuss** Consider the words that God has spoken against the Israelites following their rebellious response. How do you understand God’s justice in relation to His compassionate mercy?
- **Review** Review the power text.
- **Pray** Pray that you will choose to obey God.

**Friday**
- **Read** Read Numbers 14:36-45.
- **Ace** Help younger children act out the story at worship. Or tell the story to your family in your own words.
- **Share** Share the power text with your family.
- **Pray** Pray that you will stay committed to serving God, no matter how difficult the situation.