

## Lesson 61

# Moses Sends the Spies

Moses sent 12 men to spy out the promised land.

# Studying God's Word

## Lesson Time

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Lesson Flip Chart, and any items you brought or prepared for this lesson.

## Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of adoration and tell God we love and praise him.

I'll start. Dear God, I praise you because . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration  
I'm sorry prayers—Confession  
I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving  
Please prayers—Supplication

## Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

What word means God will always keep his promises? Faithful.  
What special laws did God give to Moses and the Israelites? The Ten Commandments.  
What people (or nation) did God promise to give the land of Canaan to? The Israelites.  
Who were the Israelites? The descendants of Israel (Jacob).

## Bible Treasure Hunt

Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. Use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!

K-1st Lesson continues next. Pre-K Lesson follows.

### **Pre-K Lesson**

### **K-1st Lesson**

### **Pre-K Lesson**

### **Review**

If you made the Magnifiers Craft, have students use them during the lesson time.

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. We've been learning about the Israelites. God rescued them from Egypt and chose Moses to lead them through the wilderness on their way to the promised land. God gave the Israelites special laws they needed to follow to treat God and each other right. What were those laws called? There were 10 of them. The Ten Commandments.

Then God gave them instructions to build a tabernacle where they could worship God. Everything in the tabernacle could be packed up and carried to a new camp as they traveled on their way to the promised land of Canaan.

### **The Promised Land**

Before class, tape the Clue Pictures around the room (on walls or chairs, etc.) where they can be easily seen by the students during the lesson. (Keep #1, Abraham, to show.)

Show Clue Picture #1. Why was Canaan called the promised land? I'll give you a hint, who did God make a promise to when he obeyed God and moved to Canaan a long time ago? Abraham.

Canaan is the land God promised to give Abraham and his descendants. Abraham had a son named Isaac, who had a son named Jacob. Remember how God changed Jacob's name to Israel? His descendants were called the Israelites. Now, many years later, they were ready to move into the land God promised. It was a very good land.

But wait a minute! There were already people living in this land. And they wouldn't want to give it up without a fight. So, God gave the Israelites another promise.

### Exodus 23:20

Let's read about that in Exodus 23:20. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verse.

Who did God promise to send to guard and guide the people? An angel.

God said his angel would lead the Israelites into the promised land and keep them safe. And if they obeyed God, he would help them fight their enemies and take the land as their own to live in.

### The Spies' Report

Before the Israelites went into Canaan, God told Moses to send spies into the land. What does a spy do? Allow discussion.

A spy is someone who secretly finds out things about the enemy. If you brought a magnifying glass or made the Magnifiers Craft, explain that spies we think of today might use magnifiers to help them find clues.

Moses chose 12 spies. Their mission was to find out about the land—was it good or bad? Find out about the people—were they weak or strong? And find out about the cities—were they small or were they big with walls around them? The 12 spies went on their mission and explored for 40 days, spying out the land. When they came back, they told the people what they learned.

Now it's time for you to be spies. There are pictures all around the room with clues on them about the land of Canaan. Whenever I read about something the spies found, look for the clue and when you find it, raise your magnifier (or hand). As you continue the lesson, allow students to look for the clues from where they're sitting and raise magnifiers when they've found each clue.

### Numbers 13:23

First, let's see what the spies found out about the land in Numbers 13:23. Read the verse.

Show the fruit if you brought some. Let students taste it! Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. What did the spies find and bring back? Fruit. Grapes, pomegranates, and figs.

Good things grew there in the land. Can you find those clues? Have students look for the clues and raise their magnifiers. Clue Pictures #2, 3, 4.

The spies also said the land “flowed with milk and honey.” Can you find those clues? Find clues and raise magnifiers. Clue Pictures #5, 6.

Does that mean there was sticky honey oozing all over and milk flowing in the rivers instead of water? No!

“Flowing with milk and honey” means the land was beautiful. It had many trees and lots of grass and water, so it was good for keeping animals, building cities, and growing food like fruits and vegetables.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. So, the land and its fruit were very good. But there were a lot of people living there already. What about them?

The spies said, “The people are strong.” Do you see a clue for that? Find clue and raise magnifiers. Clue Picture #7.

And what about the cities? Were they small or large?

The spies said, “Their cities are very large, with walls all around them!” How many of you can find that clue? Find clue and raise magnifiers. Clue Picture #8.

Then the spies told the worst part, “We even saw giants! We felt like grasshoppers next to them!” Oh no! When these spies saw how tall and strong some of the people were, it made them feel like little grasshoppers.

Do you see any clues about that? Find clues and raise magnifiers. Clue Pictures #9, 10.

## **The Israelites’ Response**

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. It wasn’t long before an argument broke out. Ten of the spies said the people were too scary and there was no way the Israelites could go in and take the land. But the other two spies, Joshua and Caleb, trusted God and argued that the Israelites could take the land with God on their side. They knew this was a very good land that God had promised to them. The people just needed to trust God to help them fight the enemies—and the land would be theirs!

But the Israelites did not listen to Joshua and Caleb. They listened to the 10 spies who did not trust God and became so afraid that they wanted to go all the way back to Egypt instead of going into the promised land!

Numbers 14:10

Uh oh! Now what will happen? Let’s find out in Numbers 14:10. Read the first half of the verse.

What were the people going to do to Joshua and Caleb? Stone them with stones.

The Israelites were so afraid that they became angry and picked up rocks to throw at Joshua and Caleb to kill them!  
Then what happened? What appeared? Read the second half of the verse.  
The glory of the Lord.

Suddenly the Lord appeared and spoke to Moses. He knew what was going on. The people were too afraid to go into the land. They would not listen or trust God.

God was very angry with the Israelites; they would be punished because of their sin. Instead of going into the promised land, all the Israelites would wander in the wilderness for 40 years until all the adults over 20 years old died. Only the young people and Joshua and Caleb, the spies who trusted God, would be allowed to go into the promised land.

Isn't that sad? All those people let their fear take over and did not trust God. He had promised this land to the Israelites, but they would not obey him. They didn't believe God was faithful. But he is. God always keeps his promises.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.

## **K-1st Lesson**

### **Review**

If you made the Magnifiers Craft, have students use them during the lesson time.

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. We've been learning about the Israelites. God rescued them from Egypt and chose Moses to lead them through the wilderness on their way to the promised land. God gave the Israelites special laws they needed to follow to treat God and each other right.

What were those laws called? There were 10 of them. The Ten Commandments.

Then God gave them instructions to build a tabernacle where they could worship God. Everything in the tabernacle could be packed up and carried to a new camp as they traveled on their way to the promised land of Canaan.

### **The Promised Land**

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Show Clue Picture #1. Why was Canaan called the promised land? I'll give you a hint: who received a promise from God when he was told to move to Canaan a long time ago? Abraham.

Canaan is the land God promised to give Abraham and his descendants. Abraham had a son named Isaac, who had a son named Jacob. Remember how God changed Jacob's name to Israel? His descendants were called the Israelites. Now, many years later, they were ready to move into the land God promised. It was a very good land. God said it was "flowing with milk and honey!"

What do you think that means? Allow discussion.

It means that the land had lots of trees, grass, and water, so it was good for keeping animals, for growing food like fruits and vegetables, and for building cities. God was giving the Israelites a beautiful place to live.

But wait a minute! There were already people living in this land. And they wouldn't want to give it up without a fight. So, God gave the Israelites another promise.

### Exodus 23:20

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Who did God promise to send to guard and guide the people? An angel.

God said his angel would lead them into the land and keep them safe. And if the Israelites obeyed God and did all that he said, God would help them fight their enemies and take the land as their own.

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Moses chose 12 spies. Their mission was to find out about the land—was it good or bad? Find out about the people—were they weak or strong? And find out about the cities—were they small or were they big with walls around them? The 12 spies accepted their mission and explored for 40 days, spying out the land. When they came back, they told the people what they learned.

Now it's time for you to be spies. There are pictures all around the room with clues on them about the land of Canaan. Whenever I read about something the spies found, look for the clue and when you find it, raise your magnifier (or hand). As you continue the lesson, allow students to look for the clues from where they're sitting and raise magnifiers when they've found each clue.

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Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. What did the spies find and bring back? Fruit. Grapes, pomegranates, and figs.

Show the fruit if you brought some. Let students taste it! Good things grew there in the land. Can you find those clues? Have students look for the clues and raise their magnifiers. Grapes, figs, and pomegranates. Clue Pictures #2, 3, 4.

The spies also said the land "flowed with milk and honey" just like God told them. Can you find those clues? Find clues and raise magnifiers. Milk. Honey. Clue Pictures #5, 6.

Does that mean there was sticky honey oozing all over and milk flowing in the rivers instead of water? What did we say about that earlier? The land was good for keeping animals, building cities, and growing food like fruits and vegetables.

### Numbers 13:28

So we've found out that the land and its fruit were very good. But there were a lot of people living there already. What did the spies find out about them? Listen to this verse so you can find the clues. Read the first sentence in Numbers 13:28.

What did the spies say about the people living in the land? Find clue and raise magnifiers. They are strong. Clue Picture #7.

And what about the cities? Were they small or large? Very large.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. The cities were very large and what was all around them? Find clue and raise magnifiers. Walls. Clue Picture #8.

Do you think it would be easy or hard for the Israelites to attack these cities? Hard!

Not only that but some of the people were so tall—they were giants! The spies said, "We felt like grasshoppers next to them!" Are there any clues about that? Find clues and raise magnifiers. Giants. Grasshoppers. Clue Pictures #9, 10.

### The Israelites' Response

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. It wasn't long before an argument broke out. Ten of the spies said the people were too scary and there was no way the Israelites could go in and take the land. But the other two spies, Joshua and Caleb, trusted God and argued that the Israelites could take the land with God on their side. They knew this was a very good land that God had promised to them. The people just needed to trust God to help them fight the enemies—and the land would be theirs! But the Israelites did not listen to Joshua and Caleb. They listened to the 10 spies who did not trust God and became very afraid .

### Numbers 14:10

Uh oh! Now what will happen? Let's find out in Numbers 14:10. Read the verse.



What happened first? The people said to do what to Joshua and Caleb?  
Stone them with stones.

The Israelites let their fear turn into anger, and they were picking up stones to throw at Joshua and Caleb to kill them! They were ready to turn around and go back to Egypt! These people were not trusting God.

What happened next? What appeared? The glory of the Lord.

Suddenly the Lord appeared and spoke to Moses. God had led the people such a long way, and they finally made it to the promised land. He even promised to send an angel to protect them. But they would not listen. God was very angry with the Israelites and was ready to destroy them because of their sin.

Moses begged God to have mercy on them. God listened to Moses and didn't destroy them all, but they would be punished. Instead of going into the promised land, all the Israelites would wander in the wilderness for 40 years until all the adults over 20 years old died. Only the young people and Joshua and Caleb, the spies who trusted God, would enter the promised land.

Isn't that sad? All those people who had seen God rescue them from Egypt and Pharaoh's army never got to see the promised land "flowing with milk and honey"—all because they let their fear take over and did not trust God.

God promised this land to the Israelites, but they didn't trust him. They didn't believe God was faithful. But he is. God always keeps his promises.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.

## Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

## Basket Toss

Students give the correct answer and toss the beanbags to see how many points they can collect for their team. Each basket has greater points.

## Materials

- Review Questions
- Two beanbags
- Three laundry baskets or boxes
- Masking tape

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a tossing line. Bring in three laundry baskets or boxes. Set the baskets in a line, making each one a little farther away from the tossing line. Label the baskets with 5, 10, and 25 points so the farther away it is the higher the score.

Divide the class into two or more teams depending on size. Have the teams line up at the tossing line. Take turns asking the first students in line from each team a review question. When a student answers correctly, he will have a chance to toss a beanbag into a basket then go to the end of the line. If the beanbag misses, there are no points scored. If someone does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Keep track of the scores for each team on the board. Continue until all the questions have been answered. Repeat questions if necessary.

## Board Game

Teams will answer questions and make their way to the finish on the Game Board.

### Materials

- Review Questions
- Game Board (provided in the Teacher Kit)
- Dice, numbered cards, or spinner
- Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team

### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams.

Team members will take turns answering the review questions. If they answer correctly, they will roll the dice, spin, or draw a numbered card and move that number of spaces on the Game Board. Follow the directions on the spaces to move ahead, fall back, or switch places with another team. If someone does not know or does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Alternate between teams as long as time permits, repeating questions if necessary. The first team to make it all the way to the Finish wins.

## Bible Baseball

Students will answer questions and run the bases!

### Materials

- Review Questions
- Three chairs set out for bases
- Optional: gift wrap tube and a large balloon

### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Set out chairs as bases. Have the students line up by the home base area facing you (at the pitcher's mound). Each student up to "bat" will have a chance to answer a review question. If he can answer it correctly, let him run the bases. If he can't answer correctly, give the answer and ask him to go to the end of the line and try again.

You may want the students to sit on the chair at each base while they wait to run to the next base or have them run all the way around and return to the line. Repeat the questions until all the students have run around the bases.

For some added fun, you can use a gift wrap tube as a bat and toss a large balloon for students to hit after they answer each question.

## Bowling

What do you do with extra water bottles and softballs? Go bowling, of course. Students will answer questions then bowl for points.

### Materials

- Review Questions
- Six to ten empty water bottles
- Softball or other small playground ball
- Masking tape
- Optional: dried corn or beans

### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. If available, pour a small amount of dried corn or beans into the bottom of each water bottle (to add weight) and tighten the lid. Set out the bottles on one end of the room. Use masking tape to form a "lane" from the bottles to where the students will line up across the room.

Divide students into teams. Have students line up. Ask the first student a review question. If he answers correctly, let him roll the ball down the lane toward the bottles. Each bottle that is knocked down is worth 1 point. A strike (knocking down all the bottles) is worth 20 points. Take turns asking questions of each team. If a student gives an incorrect answer or does not know the answer, he can ask his teammates for help. Keep track of scores.

## Goofy Golf

Hit the sock with the noodle? Teams must work together to answer the questions and putt to get a hole-in-one in this crazy golf game!

### Materials

- Review Questions

Swimming noodles or rolled up newspapers  
Rolled up socks  
Masking tape  
Ten sheets of paper  
Markers

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use the markers to number sheets of paper 1–10 (use more or less depending on class size and time). Tape down the sheets of paper around the room in a random pattern to form a golf course. You may want to add chairs as obstacles in the path.

Divide the class into teams. Give each team a rolled up sock and a swimming noodle. Ask the first student a review question from the lesson. If he answers correctly, allow him to use the noodle to drive the rolled up sock toward the first sheet of paper labeled #1. Continue with the next team. Take turns allowing team members to answer questions and continue putting the socks along the course to each hole, continuing from where the last teammate left off. The sock must touch or roll over the sheet of paper to consider it in the hole. The first team to reach the tenth hole wins.

## Racetrack

Who will reach the checkered flag first? Teams will race to the finish by answering review questions.

## Materials

Review Questions  
White board or chalkboard  
Markers/chalk  
Optional: paper cutouts for each team (cars, animals, circles, etc.),  
tape/poster putty

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Draw a racetrack on the board. It may be as simple as a straight horizontal path or a curvy circle. Label "Start" and "Finish" (with a checkered flag) at either end of the track. Add numbers along the track (e.g., 1–10) at equal intervals between Start and Finish. The numbers will be used as placement points for the racers as they progress along the track.

Divide the class into teams. You may draw a different symbol (e.g., stick figure, circle, X or O) to represent each team at the Start, or use paper cutouts as team markers and stick them to the board with tape/poster putty.

Ask the first team a review question. If they answer correctly, move their marker or redraw their symbol along the track at #1. If they answer

incorrectly, give the next team a chance to answer and move to the first number. If they do not know, give the answer and ask that question again later. Continue to alternate asking review questions and moving teams' markers along the racetrack according to the numbers along the track. The first team to reach the Finish wins!

## Toss for It

How many points? Toss for it! Students answer the questions and toss the beanbag to earn points for their team.

### Materials

Review Questions

A deck of numbered cards, or numbers and "wild" written on index cards

One beanbag

Masking tape

Two baskets or containers for cards

### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Place several rows of numbered cards facedown with a few inches between them to form a grid pattern (make sure to put several wild cards or Jokers down, too). Use the masking tape to make a tossing line several feet from the cards.

Divide students into teams and have them line up behind the tossing line. Ask the first student a review question. If he gives the correct answer, have him toss the beanbag onto a card. Turn the card over to reveal the points he receives for his team. Face cards or word cards are 10 points each. Wild or Jokers are also 10—plus another turn. All other cards are face value.

Have the student pick up his card and put it in the team's basket to be counted at the end of the game. Next team's turn. If a student gives an incorrect answer, he should go to the end of the line. Give the answer and repeat that question later. Continue taking turns until all the questions have been answered. Add more cards to the grid if necessary.

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