

# Adventures with GOD!

## CALEB AND JOSHUA, THE COURAGE OF HEROES (C.3.FALL.6)

Biblical Reference	Numbers 13:1-3, 21-29, 14:1-12
Key Verse	Joshua 1:9
Key Concept	As a true hero, I need to trust in God who gives me courage to face even my enemies.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe the attitude of the 12 spies as they saw the reality of the promise land</li> <li>2. Tell how life would have been if they would have believed in the report that Caleb and Joshua gave and trusted the Lord</li> <li>3. Say by memory the Bible verse (Joshua 1:9) and tell what it means in their lives</li> </ol>

### LIFE APPLICATION:

The story of Caleb and Joshua teaches us that many times a true hero has to make a decision that goes against what the majority has decided. In the case of Caleb and Joshua, they had to tell the truth even though they knew that they were in the minority in terms of their opinion. The children will learn to ask for God's help to always tell the truth, even when it not be the most popular thing to do. They will learn that God is trustworthy and will give them the courage they need to act as true heroes.

### Possible activities and class plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Group work	Poster board, markers, Bible	15 minutes
Bible exploration	Bible, illustrations	15 minutes
Drama		10 minutes
Project	See instructions	10 minutes
My GROW adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing prayer	Candle	1 minute

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## Instructions

**My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review:** As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

**Opening Prayer:** Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

**Bible Reading:** Explain that as we read the Bible we do so first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out-stretched, palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the biblical reference for the day (Numbers 13:1-3, 21-29) two times and ask children to respond.

**Question examples:** What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you through the story?

**Group work:** Have the tables ready so that they can divide up into groups and sit together. If possible give each group a color (have colored flags or a colored banner at every table.) Have the children pick out a little colored piece of paper from a bag, which will determine what group they are a part of. At each table have a Bible, a poster board, markers, felt, scraps of fabric, raisins, etc. Have them read the Bible passage (Numbers 13:21-29) and try to imagine what the promise land that the 12 spies saw looked like. Then have them make a representation of what the spies saw using the materials they have on their table.

After they have finished working on their collage/drawing, have them show it to the other groups.

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## **Bible exploration:**

Open your Bibles to Numbers 13. What was it that the 12 spies encountered when they went to the Promised Land? How must they have felt? Have on hand the illustrations with the different emotions on them. Read Number 13:30-33. What is Caleb's response? Compare it to the other spies's response. Ask the children if they would have been scared by what the spies saw? What made Caleb and Joshua so confident that they could overcome their enemies?

On a poster board, have the memory verse written out (Joshua 1:9). Read it all together. Then, one by one cover up the words. Have the children continue to repeat the verse until all the words are covered and they are saying it by memory.

Continue with the story in Numbers 14:1-12. What was the response of Caleb and Joshua? How much courage did it take for them to stand up and tell the truth, when everyone around them saw things a different way? What are some times that we might feel scared to confront a situation or a person, but we know that it is what God is telling us to do? What was God's promise to Caleb and Joshua? Read Numbers 14:36-38, What happened to those who refused to believe Caleb and Joshua? At the end who was it that was able to enter the promised land? How would the story have ended differently if the people would have believed Caleb and Joshua and trusted God?

The Israelites had to spend 40 years in the desert and at the end of these 40 years, only Caleb and Joshua survived from the other spies and were able to go into the promised land.

**Drama:** If there is time, give them props and allow them to act out the story in Numbers 13. The children can play the part of the 12 spies, Moses, and the multitude.

**Project:** Take some time to work on the Project for the trimester. The drama can be part of it, or incorporate a game that they can use to review the story. Or use the activity sheets found in the following pages to review.

## **Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:**

**G: God's Word:** What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

**R: Relationships:** Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

**O: Outward Action:** Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

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**W: Worship:** Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

**Closing Prayer:** Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen.

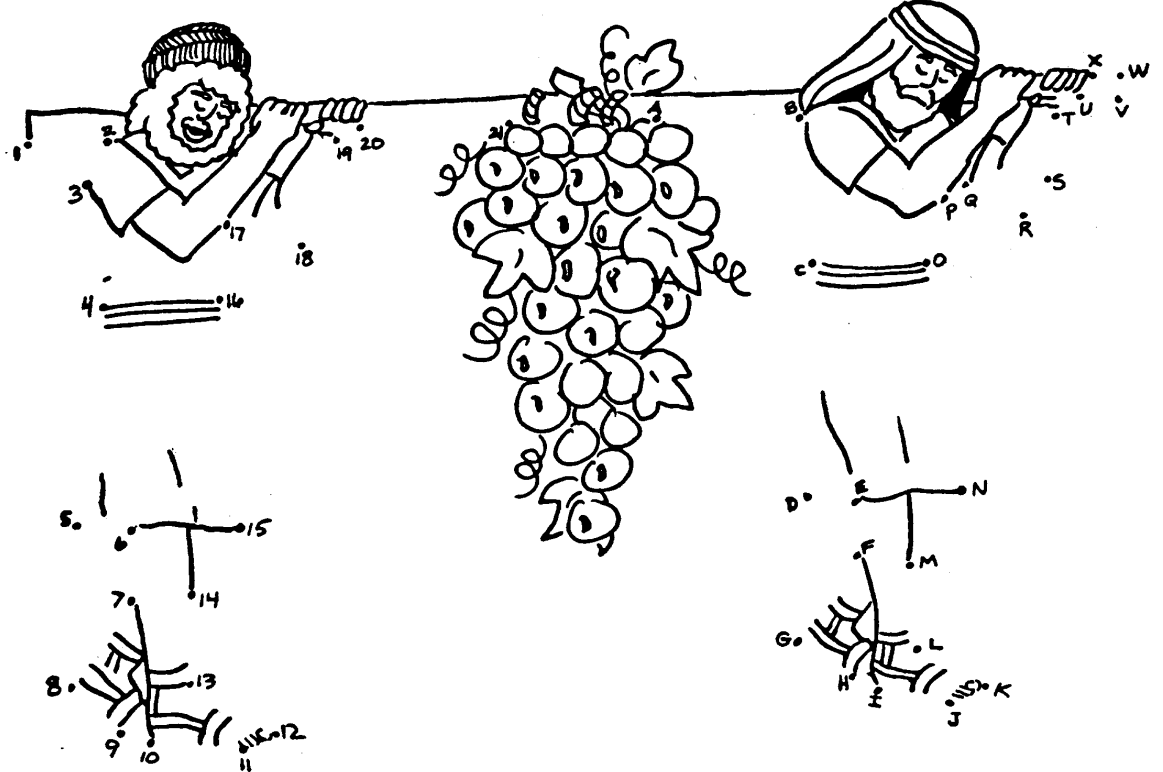


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## ACTIVITY SHEET

### GRAPES, GRAPES, GRAPES

The spies that Moses sent to the Promised Land carried back a cluster of grapes, pomegranates and figs. Connect the dots and then the letters from A-X to discover how they carried the fruit.

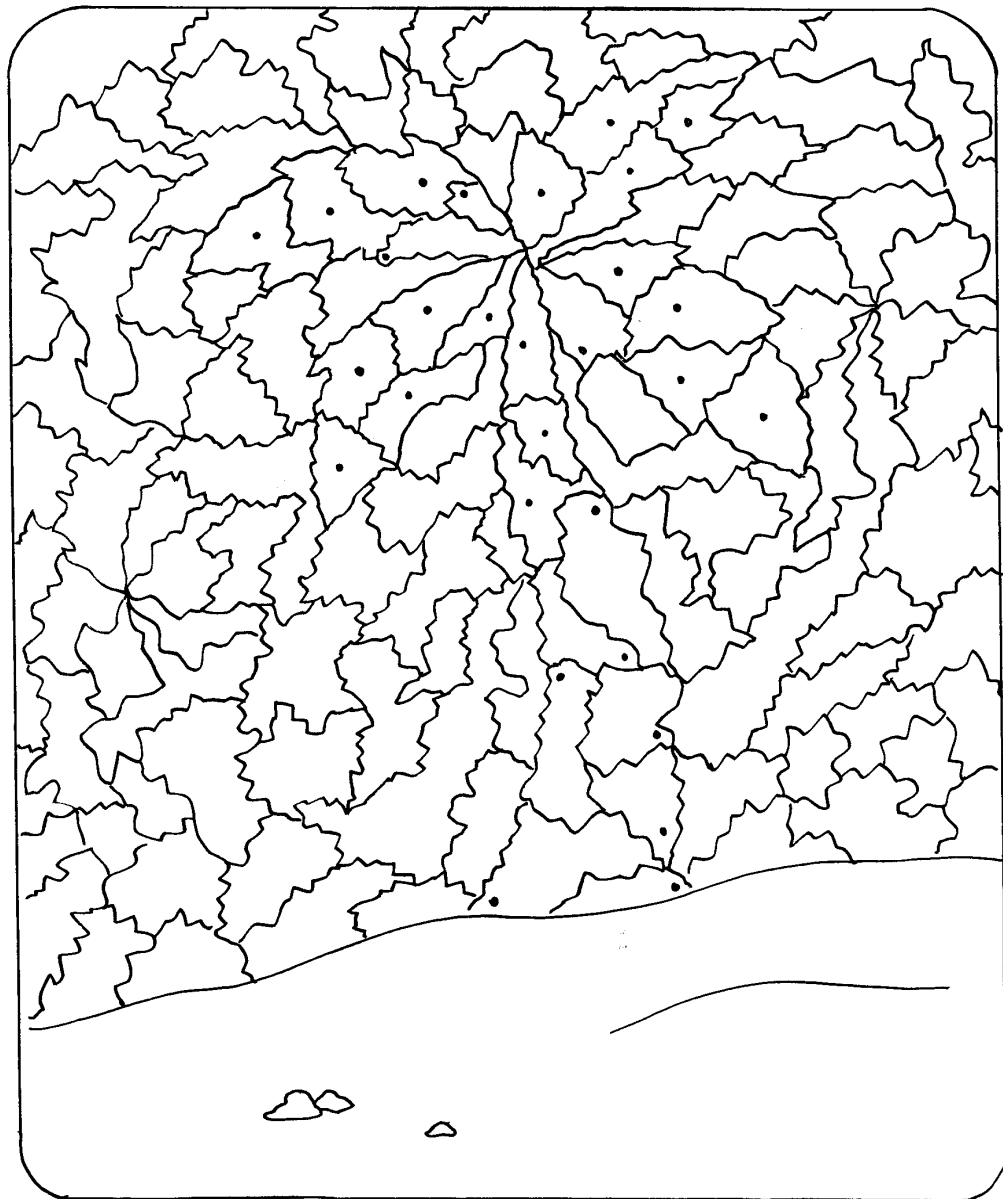


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## ACTIVITY SHEET 2

### THE OASIS

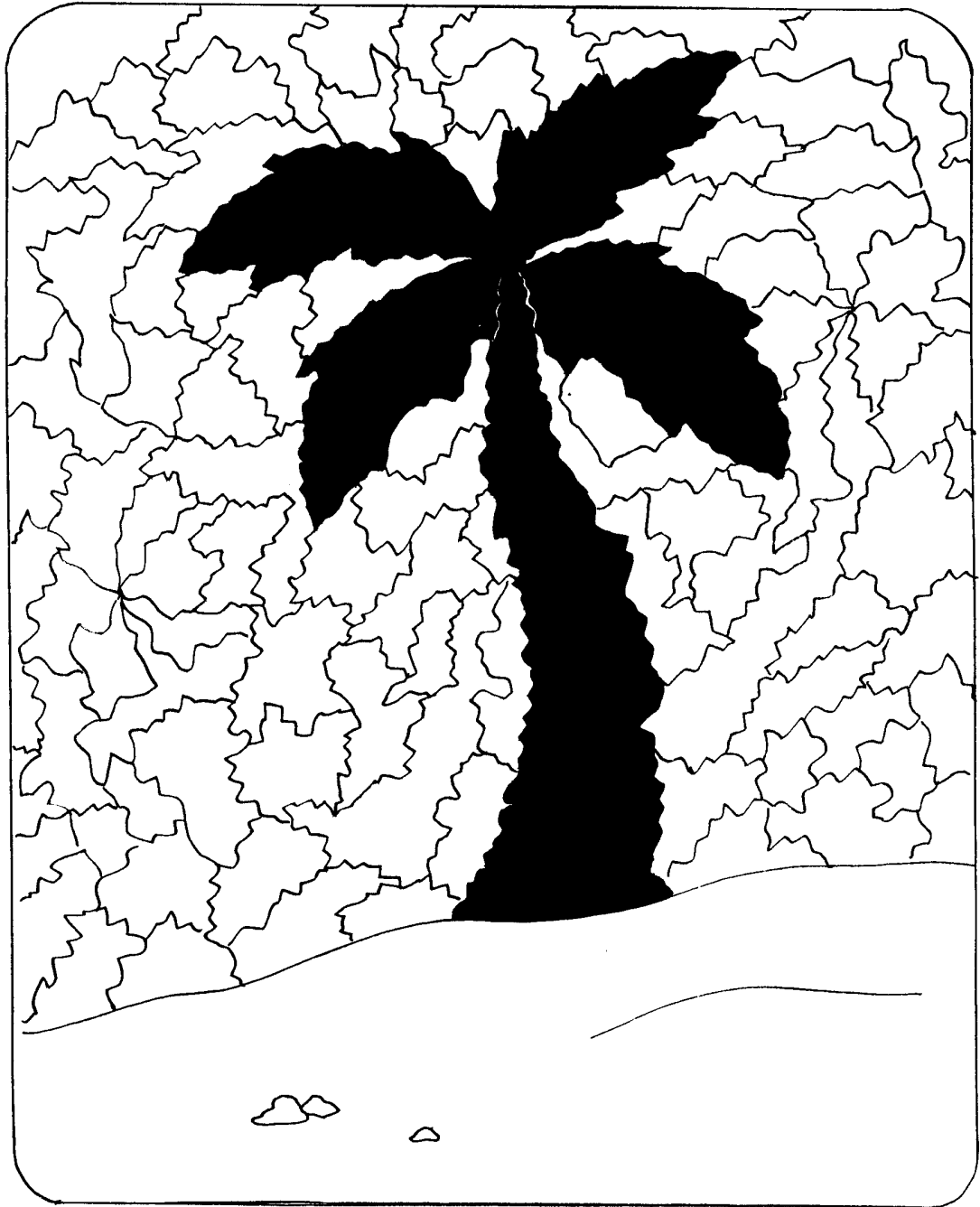
Color the parts of the picture that have a dot to find out what was one of the important elements that the Israelites used in the desert.



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ACTIVITY SHEET 2

ANSWER



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## ACTIVITY SHEET 3

### A MEMORIAL

After 40 years in the desert the Israelites crossed the Jordan River and entered the promised land. To commemorate that moment and the miracle that God had performed, they built an altar as a memorial to God's faithfulness. (Joshua 4:24)



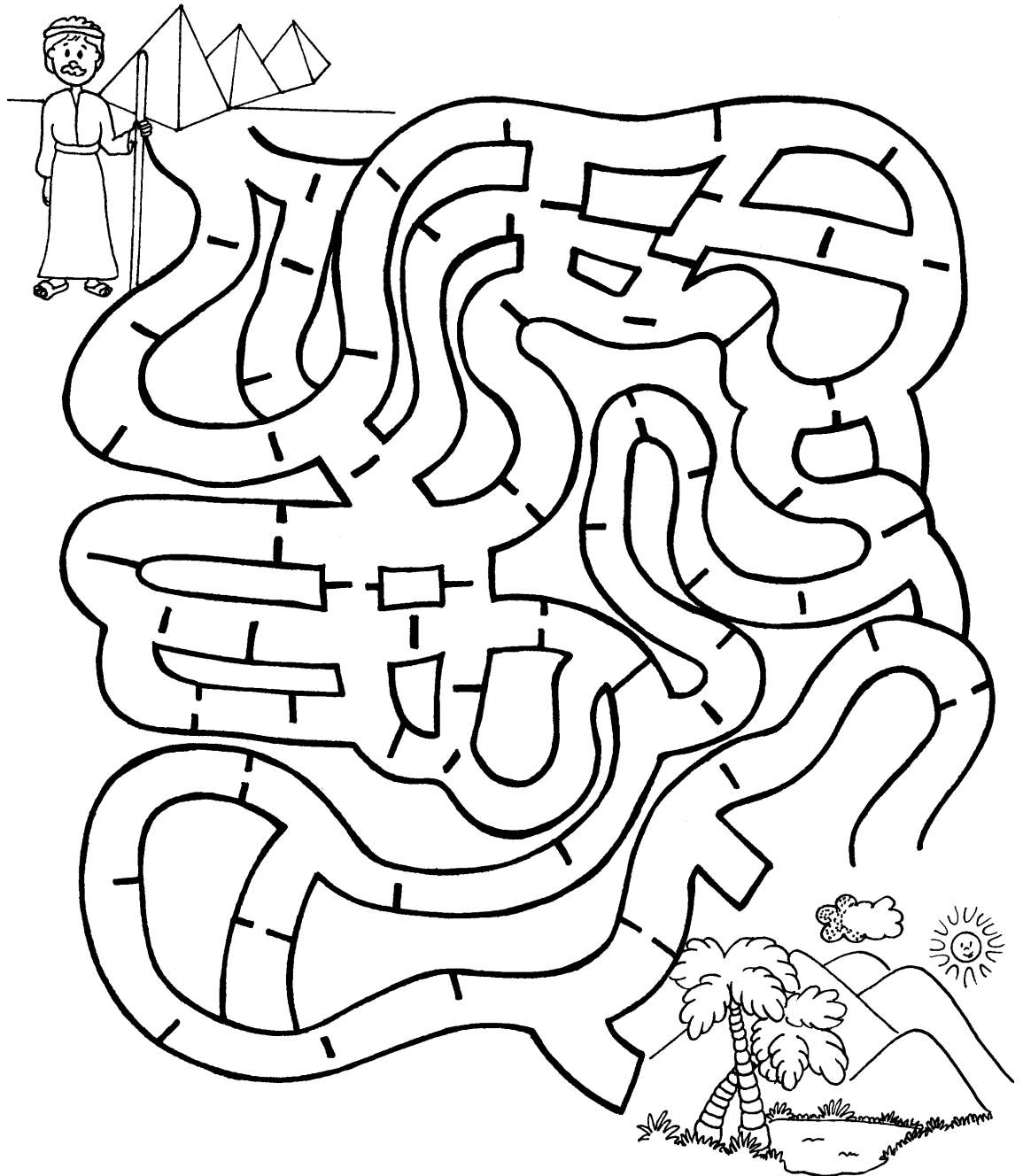


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## ACTIVITY SHEET 4

### COVERT MISSION

Moses sent 12 spies to observe the promised land and come back with a report. Help the spy to get to the promised land.



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ILLUSTRATION

JOSHUA AND THE PROMISED LAND

