

**Story Time: Read the story to the children:**

**Lesson 49: THE TWELVE SPIES**

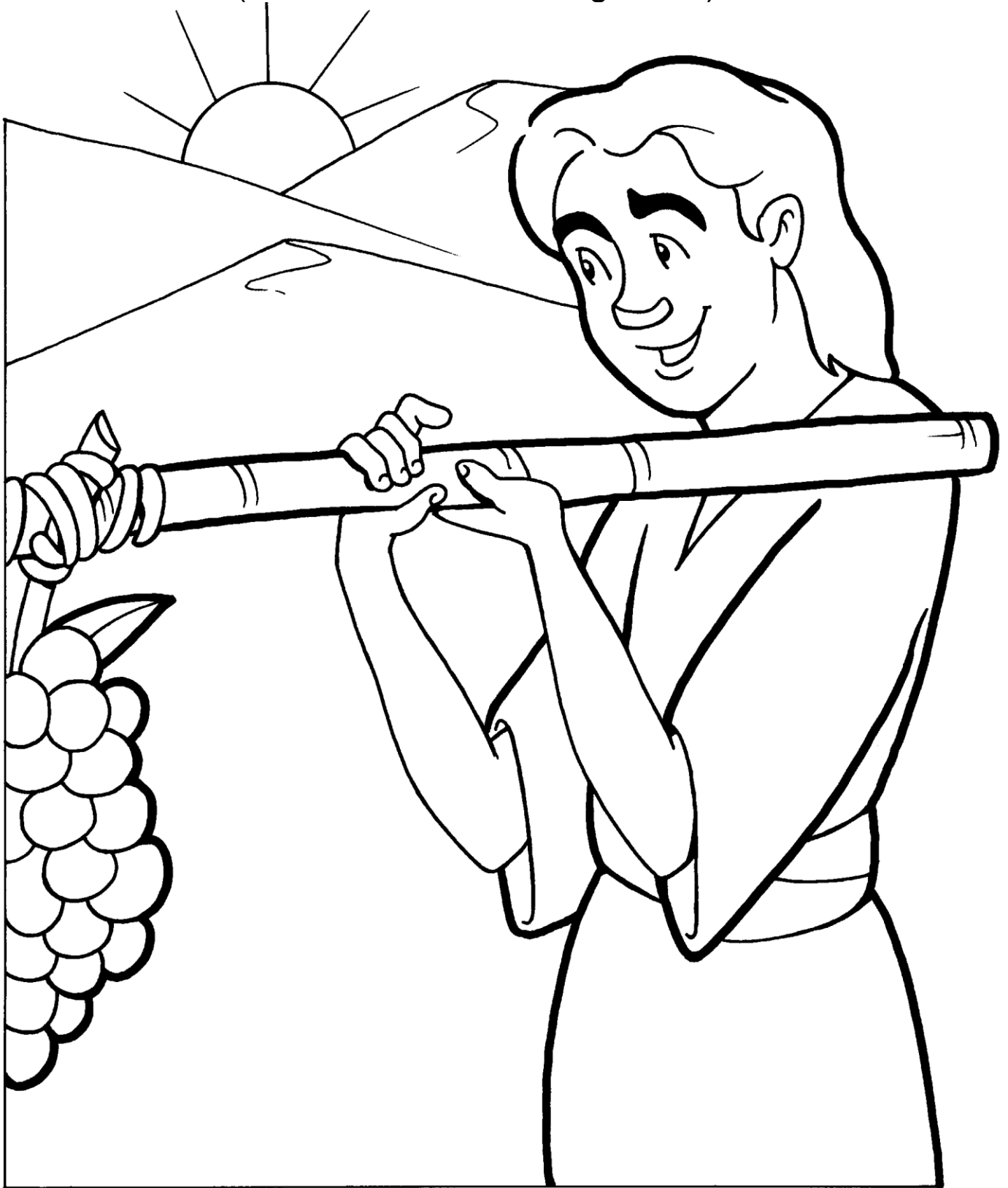
**NUMBERS 13:1 through 14:9**

The LORD said to Moses, "Choose a leader from each tribe and send them into Canaan to explore the land I am giving you." So Moses sent twelve tribal leaders from Israel's camp in the Paran Desert with orders to explore the land of Canaan. And here are their names: Shammua son of Zaccur from the tribe of Reuben, Shaphat son of Hori from the tribe of Simeon, Caleb son of Jephunneh from the tribe of Judah, Igal son of Joseph from the tribe of Issachar, Joshua son of Nun from the tribe of Ephraim, Palti son of Raphu from the tribe of Benjamin, Gaddiel son of Sodi from the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddi son of Susi from the tribe of Manasseh, Ammiel son of Gemalli from the tribe of Dan, Sethur son of Michael from the tribe of Asher, Nahbi son of Vophsi from the tribe of Naphtali, and Geuel son of Machi from the tribe of Gad. Before Moses sent them into Canaan, he said: After you go through the Southern Desert of Canaan, continue north into the hill country and find out what those regions are like. Be sure to remember how many people live there, how strong they are, and if they live in open towns or walled cities. See if the land is good for growing crops and find out what kinds of trees grow there. It's time for the grapes to ripen, so try to bring back some of the fruit that grows there. The twelve men left to explore Canaan from the Zin Desert in the south all the way to the town of Rehob near Lebo-Hamath in the north. As they went through the Southern Desert, they came to the town of Hebron, which was seven years older than the Egyptian town of Zoan. In Hebron, they saw the three Anakim clans of Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi. The Anakim were giants - sons of the giant named Anak. When they got to the Valley of Eshcol (which means Bunch Valley), they cut off a branch with such a huge bunch of grapes, that it took two men to carry it on a pole. That's why the place was called "Bunch Valley". Along with the grapes, they also took back pomegranates and figs. After exploring the land of Canaan for forty days, the twelve men returned to Kadesh in the Paran Desert and told Moses, Aaron, and the people what they had seen. They showed them the fruit and said: Look at this fruit! The land we explored is rich with milk and honey. But the people who live there are strong, and their cities are large and walled. We even saw the three Anakim clans. Besides that, the Amalekites live in the Southern Desert; the Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites are in the hill country; and the Canaanites live along the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River.

Caleb calmed down the crowd and said, "Let's go and take the land. I know we can do it!" But the other men replied, "Those people are much too strong for us." Then they started spreading rumors and saying, "We won't be able to grow anything in that soil. And the people are like giants. In fact, we saw the giants, called the Nephilim, and also called the Anakim, who are the sons of Anak, of the giants. They were so big that we felt as small as grasshoppers."

After the Israelites heard the report from the twelve men who had explored Canaan, the people cried all night and complained to Moses and Aaron, "We wish we had died in Egypt or somewhere out here in the desert! Is the LORD leading us into Canaan, just to have us killed and our women and children captured? We'd be better off in Egypt." Then they said to one another, "Let's choose our own leader and go back to Egypt." Moses and Aaron bowed down to pray in front of the crowd. Joshua and Caleb tore their clothes in sorrow and said: We saw the land ourselves, and it's very good. If we obey the LORD, he will surely give us that land rich with milk and honey. So don't rebel against the LORD. We have no reason to be afraid of the people who live there. The LORD is on our side, and they won't stand a chance against us!

**49. THE TWELVE SPIES**  
(NUMBERS 13:1 through 14:9)



“And they came to the valley of Eshcol and cut from there a branch with one cluster of grapes. And they carried it between two men upon a staff, and some of the pomegranates and of the figs.”

**NUMBERS 13:23**

## **49. THE TWELVE SPIES**

(NUMBERS 13:1 through 14:9)

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

***"If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.'"***

**NUMBERS 14:8**

### **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. The LORD told Moses to choose one leader from each tribe of Israel to go into Canaan and explore it. TRUE or FALSE
2. Moses would not send the men in there, even though the LORD commanded him to. TRUE or FALSE
3. The twelve men stayed in Canaan for two days. TRUE or FALSE
4. They found a bunch of grapes so big that it was as big as a house, and only giants could carry it. TRUE or FALSE
5. They saw descendants of a giant named Anak in Canaan. TRUE or FALSE

### **ANSWER THE QUESTIONS**

1. What kind of fruit did the men find in Canaan that was so big? How many men did it take to carry one bunch?
2. How many men believed in the LORD's promise, and said that the Israelites were able to take the land and possess it?
3. What did the other men say about seeing the descendants of the giants (the Anakim) there? What did they say it made them feel like?
4. Were the Israelites happy and excited to go into the land? What did they do? What did they say?
5. If the LORD is on your side, can anyone be too strong to stop you? Would the Israelites have been able to go in and take control of the land of Canaan if the LORD was on their side?

## 49. THE TWELVE SPIES

(NUMBERS 13:1-14:9)

D Y L J Y L A I O A T J A W P  
D O M K S C D E L I G H T S I  
Z L L G A T Z T B F D T Y P Y  
Z I E N R P N A H F T I U R F  
M A A B J A E A F T D A Q N B  
O A Q I E U S L I Q Q A U K B  
N V D C T R A S V G C U Q B P  
W C S N A T M U H S U E T C P  
H G Q C A L D B H O E N H D Y  
Q A R T N L E Z I S P I T W F  
I L V A L N W B O H O P P K O  
L O P C P O Q Z N A J J E S J  
H Z B J A E R N H U K Q T R W  
H O N E Y D S D I U S M R I S  
T M Q W S R M K U T M N R E S

CALEB  
CANAA  
DELIGHTS  
FRUIT

GIANTS  
GRAPES  
GRASSHOPPERS  
HONEY

JOSHUA  
LAND  
LORD

MILK  
REBEL  
SPIES

## 49. THE TWELVE SPIES (CRAFT)

### Materials:

- Paper tube (paper towel or gift wrap)
- Construction paper
- scotch tape
- OPTIONAL: clear plastic wrap
- OPTIONAL: stickers for decorating

### Instructions:

- OPTIONAL: Take a small square of plastic wrap and cover one end of the paper tube. Secure the plastic wrap with tape. This is the glass lens for your spyglass. Don't worry if it is not neat because you will be covering the edges of the plastic wrap in the next step.
- Cover the outside of your paper tube with construction paper. (You choose the colors) Add a narrow strip of yellow around the end that has the glass (plastic wrap).
- OPTIONAL: You may like to decorate your spyglass with stickers.



**PRAYER** Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to trust in the Lord no matter what the circumstances. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.