



WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

I can trust God.

THE BIBLE

Joshua and Caleb in the Promised Land:
Numbers 13:2-14:9; (Matthew 6:25-34)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | "No Matter How I Feel"

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play [this video](#) and encourage the kids to sing along with you.
- It's okay to feel sad, afraid, or angry sometimes. But just like this song says, we have to trust God no matter what we might be feeling!

ACTIVITY | Listen and Draw 2.0

- Welcome back! This is our second week of Epic, where we are learning about the epic adventures of God's people in the wilderness. Let's play a game to get started.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Divide the group into two groups, or several small groups. Call one person from each small group up front and show them a picture that is hidden from view (you could choose images of comic book superheroes such as Wonder Woman, Iron Man, Storm, Hulk, etc.). Tell them to return to the group and describe what they saw while the rest of their group tries to draw it. When finished, ask the kids to compare their pictures. If possible, let each group see pictures from another group as well.*
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *For kids with visual impairments, ensure that the pictures are printed large enough (such as 11" x 17" paper) that they can see clearly.*
- **Did you notice each person described the picture differently?** We don't all see things the same way!



ACTIVITY | Top Secret

- Let's play another game that shows us how we look at things differently.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive, make a "Top Secret" folder and toilet paper tube binoculars. One at a time, give each kid the binoculars to look through and then open the folder, naming a fruit for the kid to find. Close the folder between each turn.*
- **Was it hard to find the fruit when you could only look through the lenses of the binoculars?**

STORY | Differing Points of View

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell a story about a time you remembered something in a different way than someone else.*
- People don't see the world the same way. We all see the world through a specific point of view or lens.
- Today, we are going to hear a story about how twelve different spies saw things in different ways. We are going to see how trusting God made a difference in what they saw.

THE BIG IDEA | I can trust God.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Write the Big Idea on a poster board. Cover the poster with sand. Ask two volunteers to gently lift the poster and tilt it so the sand falls into a large tray, revealing the Big Idea.*

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

VIDEO | Epic, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's [teaching video](#).*

SCRIPTURE | Numbers 13:2-14:9

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Summarize the Bible story in Numbers 13:2-14:9 similar to the following:*
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** *Before sharing the Bible story, ask kids: "What would your Promised Land look like? Would it be Disney World? A candy shop? All the chocolate pudding in the world?" Have kids talk about it or even draw it if time allows.*
- God's people had come to the edge of the land God promised them, which was called Canaan or the Promised Land. Moses picked twelve people, one from each tribe of Israel, to go and spy out the land. "What is the land like? What are the people like? How do they live? Bring back some of the fruit of the land," Moses told them.
- So, the twelve spies went into Canaan to see what the land was like. They gathered up fruit – grapes, pomegranates, and figs – and carried them back to their own people. They stood before Moses and all the people and gave their report.
- "The land is indeed full of fruit," the spies reported. "It flows with milk and honey." That means the land was full of all kinds of good things! "But," the spies continued, "the



EPIC I WEEK 2 ELEMENTARY LESSON

people are powerful and the cities are strong and large.” Caleb and Joshua spoke up, “We should go and take over the land. We can do it!” But the other spies argued, “No! The people are too powerful! We would surely lose.”

- Caleb and Joshua trusted God. They knew God had promised they would live in this wonderful land and they continued to try to convince the people to trust God and go where they had been sent.

QUESTION | Things That Worry or Scare Us

- Most of the spies were afraid to move into the Promised Land because they were afraid of the people there. **Have you been afraid of something or someone?**
- Sometimes, we get worried around people who are different from us. **Have you ever been worried around someone just because they were different?**

OBJECT LESSON | Two Lenses

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Prepare two magnifying glasses, one labeled "worry" and the other labeled "trust."*
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *For kids with learning disabilities, you may need to spend more time talking about this metaphor. With input from the group, provide plenty of examples, then return to this metaphor later (i.e. during prayer time or small group discussion) to reinforce the concept.*
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** *Have kids help you come up with a situation that might cause worry. Ask them what their response would look like using both lenses.*
- Earlier we talked about how people look at things through different lenses. That just means that everyone sees things differently. Like in today's story!
- *(Hold up the "worry" lens)* The ten spies looked at the Promised Land through the magnifying glass of "worry," so all they could see was how hard and scary entering the land might be.
- *(Hold up the "trust" lens)* But Caleb and Joshua looked at the Promised Land through the magnifying glass of "trust," so all they saw was how God would take care of them!
- **Which magnifying glass do you want to use more in your life? Why?**

SCRIPTURE | Matthew 6:25-34

- Let's see what Jesus had to say about trust and worry.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Find Matthew 6:25-34 in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it together.*
- **What things do you worry about?**
- **How can you learn to trust God instead of worrying?**

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

ACTIVITY | Fruits of the Land

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Share a snack of grapes, figs and/or pomegranates as you recall what you have learned today (Or you could use fruit snacks).*



- The Promised Land was flowing with goodies even better than these! God always follows through on the promises made to us. That's why I can say without a doubt – I can trust God!

ACTIVITY | Stomp Out Your Worries

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a blown up balloon. Pass around a permanent marker and tell them to write something they are worried about on their balloon. Give each person a chance to share their worry, if they want. Say the Big Idea together, then have each kid say, "I can trust God!" as they stomp on their balloon to pop it. Work together to pick up and discard the balloon pieces. For a quieter alternative, ask the kids to write down their worries on an index card, then tear them up while saying the Big Idea together.
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** If you have kids with limited mobility due to physical disabilities, consider using the quieter alternative provided. Or you can provide bubbles to the kids and have them blow bubbles and watch their worries "pop" as they say, "I can trust God!"

PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Take a moment and give kids a "[Bat card](#)" (or an index card in the shape of a heart), where they can write their worries or concerns. During the prayer time, let them hold up their card like a "bat signal." You can have the kids call out their prayers, or you can go around and collect them during the prayer time.
- Dear God, it is too easy for us to look at the world through the magnifying glass of worry instead of the magnifying glass of trust. Help us to remember we can trust You when we worry about these things: (Pause to allow the kids to call out their worries). Thank You for being with us always.

MEMORY VERSE | Decode the Verse

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid the memory verse printable. Show them how to use the decoder to reveal the memory verse. Pass around the decoder and say the verse together as each kid finds it. You may choose to have the kids write it down as they are decoding the message.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- Why were the twelve spies sent to Canaan before the Israelites?
- Why was Caleb and Joshua's report so different from the other spies' reports?
- Whose reports honored God?
- Read Matthew 6:34. What does this verse mean to you?
- What is one worry you can trust God with?
- Can you think of a time you trusted God with a difficult thing in your life?
- What can help you remember to trust God?



ACTIVITY | Secret Message

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a sheet of white paper and ask them to write, "I can trust God" by dipping a paintbrush in a half baking soda/half water mixture. Tell the kids to paint over the entire surface of the paper with grape juice concentrate to reveal the Big Idea!

MEMORY VERSE | 1 Samuel 12:24 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Introduce kids to this month's memory verse, teaching them the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided.