Several years ago, my husband and I went on a mission trip to Haiti where our church supports an orphan village. Each plane we boarded was smaller than the last, and my faith seemed to follow a similar pattern! This was the first time I had flown internationally, and I was totally out of my comfort zone. By the time we landed, I was a total wreck! The language, armed soldiers, poverty, smell, devastation, and sense of darkness were overwhelming. I yearned to catch the next plane back home! I felt trapped, and every aspect of the week ahead seemed daunting. I didn’t think I could survive seven days! I faced a crisis of belief.

Please read Numbers 13:1-33; 14:6-9, where the Israelites faced a mighty test of faith. God had promised to give them Canaan, but it would not come on a silver platter. God wanted to show them His power, His presence, and His provision as they claimed the land. They would have to fight but would not be alone. God’s command to scout out the land would give the spies the opportunity to literally touch, taste, smell, and see firsthand why it was called the promised land, a land “flowing with milk and honey” (Num. 13:27). In their journey they saw the beauty and the beasts. The fruits were amazing, but the men were like giants. They believed the land would devour them. Everyone in the group except for Caleb and Joshua lost his focus. God knew that they would see the giants and the large cities. But He wanted them to believe He was bigger than what their eyes could see. God wanted them to believe they served a God who could—and would conquer. Yet sadly, that day the majority ruled, and the people did not go into the promised land. Many Israelites died, and the rest wandered in the wilderness for forty years. But Caleb and Joshua were rewarded for their faith. At the end of the forty years, Joshua led the tribes into the promised land. Caleb became a conquering warrior.

Months before our Haiti trip, God had burdened me to go and teach our precious orphans about Him. With His words, “go and teach” on my heart, I made the necessary preparations. These involved a passport, shots, pills, packing, and praying! His words drove my preparation. Yet when I began to face the “giants” after the trip began, I lost focus of why I was there and of the One who had sent me. God led me to Haiti for more than the children; He wanted to show me He was big enough! Every moment I prayed, because I couldn’t make it without Him. The experience with the children was beautiful, but the lessons of God’s faithfulness, protection, and grace were equally wonderful. I left Haiti with a sense of calmness and peace, knowing my God was able. Joshua said, “The LORD is with us. Don’t be afraid of them!” (Num. 14:9). Fears will come, our faith will be tested, but our God is bigger than the giants. They are as grasshoppers to Him.
Center Time
Home Living Center: Role Play
• Small rocking chair, sink and stove unit and small table and chairs; plastic dishes, child pots and pans; pretend food items; doll, doll bed, and doll accessories
• Optional: Bring some grapes from home. Also bring figs and pomegranates for the children to taste.

What to Do:
Be sure to post an allergy alert sign for parents if serving the fruit. Home living items naturally encourage children to act out roles and activities they observe at home. Encourage children to use the food items to prepare a pretend meal.

Link to the Bible Story:
Use both real and pretend foods to explain that in today’s Bible story, Moses chose 12 men to spy out the land God would give them. Express that the men found the land to be full of grapes, figs, and pomegranates—express that the land was beautiful. Express that the men brought some of the fruits back for the people to see and enjoy.

Art Center:
Stamping a Fruit Picture

Supplies:
• White construction paper
• Sponges in the shapes of fruits (or use real apples), washable tempera paint, paper plates

What to Do:
Print the Bible phrase, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding.” Proverbs 3:5, on each paper. Cut sponges into fruit shapes or cut the apples in half. Invite preschoolers to press the sponges or apples into the paint and then on their papers to make fruit prints.

Link to the Bible Story:
As preschoolers work, talk about the Bible story for today. Express that Moses sent out 12 spies to look over the land God would give His people. The spies found all kinds of fruits, trees, rivers, and large cities with thick walls all around. Comment that Moses sent 12 spies to spy out the land. Explain that these pictures are pictures of today’s Bible story. Comment to children these pictures are not real but are intended to help children remember Bible stories.

Block Center:
Build with Blocks

Supplies:
Wooden blocks

What to Do:
Provide a small carpet in a corner of the room away from the traffic flow. If possible, blocks are best located in a window. Provide a small carpet for the people to sit on while building. Discuss the shapes of blocks.

Bible Learning Center:
Comparing Size

Supplies:
• Copies of Activity Page: Comparing, “Which One is Bigger?” (Reproducible)
• Washable markers or crayons

What to Do:
Preschoolers should be introduced to look at the pictures in each row and circle the bigger picture. Express children these pictures are not real but are intended to help children imagine the size of objects. Discuss the shapes of the objects in each row with children.

Link to the Bible Story:
Express to children these are pictures from today’s Bible story. Comment that Moses sent 12 men to spy out the land God wanted to give the Israelites. Explain that the Israelites were afraid because of the thick walls and the tall people they saw. Invite children to build a wall with the blocks. Talk about the thick walls built around the cities in the land God wanted to give His people. Express that the thick walls would keep the Israelites from going into the land God had promised them. Give children opportunities to share what they have learned about the Bible story.

Block Center:
Build with Blocks

Supplies:
Wooden blocks

What to Do:
Provide a small carpet in a corner of the room away from the traffic flow. If possible, blocks are best located in a window. Provide a small carpet for the people to sit on while building. Discuss the shapes of blocks.

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Block Center:
Build with Blocks

Supplies:
Wooden blocks

What to Do:
Provide a small carpet in a corner of the room away from the traffic flow. If possible, blocks are best located in a window. Provide a small carpet for the people to sit on while building. Discuss the shapes of blocks.

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Puzzle Center:
Work Puzzles

Supplies:
• Offer a variety of non-fantasy wooden or cardboard puzzles for children to work.

What to Do:
Invite preschoolers to work puzzles. Encourage children to give guidance rather than working the puzzle for the child. Express that puzzles challenge the child’s brain. Invite children to look for opportunities in conversation to say the Bible phrase or to briefly tell the Bible story.
Today's story is from the third part; God chose a
special people.

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Introduction

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Introduction

Today's story is from the third part; God chose a

special people.
Snack Time
Be sure to wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Say a thank-you prayer to God for the snack.
When snack time has ended, encourage preschoolers to help with cleaning up.

Dismiss children as parents arrive. Be sure to follow the security procedures of the church. When snack time has ended, parents should be encouraged to help the children with cleaning up.

Game Time / Dismissal
I Spy

Supplies:
- Teaching Picture, "Joshua Explored the Promised Land" (Reproducible)

What to Do:
1. Play the game. "I Spy" using the teaching picture. Choose something in the picture to describe. Begin the game by saying, “I spy something that is…” Describe the object by its color, shape, or purpose. Have children guess what you are describing. Next, broaden the game to the classroom. Give children the opportunity to describe an object that is visible in the classroom. Give children the opportunity to describe an object that is visible in the classroom.

Remind children that in today’s Bible story, Moses sent out 12 spies to look over the land. Even though they were afraid, Joshua knew the land was theirs. Have children describe what they would have done if they were afraid. Comment that even though the men were afraid, Joshua knew God would help them take the land.

Dismiss children as parents arrive. Be sure to follow the security procedures of the church.

Craft Time: Spy Glass Bible Phrase

Supplies:
- Copies of "Spyglass Bible Phrase" (Reproducible, 1 copy for every 2 children)
- Crayons or markers
- Colored construction paper or empty paper towel tubes – 1 per child
- Glue
- Stickers – non-fantasy

What to Do:
1. Cut out each spyglass. If empty paper towel tubes are not available, make cylinders from the construction paper. Children should color their spy glasses and decorate them with stickers. Glue or paste each spyglass to the paper towel tube or cylinder. Children should color their spy glasses and decorate them with stickers. Glue or paste each spyglass to the paper towel tube or cylinder.

Link to the Bible Story: Review the Bible phrase with the children. Remind children that Joshua believed God would help the people to claim the land God wanted to give them. Even though they might be afraid, they can pray and ask God for courage to do the right thing, even if it is hard. Talk about things we might not want to do because they seem too frightening or too hard, such as: going to a new school, flying on an airplane, going to bed without a nightlight, etc.

Pray with the children: "Thank you, God, for believing in us and helping us to do the right thing, even if it is hard."
Optional: Fruit tray of figs, grapes, and pomgranates

Additional Craft Materials
- Colored construction paper
- Non-tacky stickers
- White construction paper
- Fruit-shaped sponges or real apples
- Paper plates for paint

Additional Art Materials
- Coloring Page: "Joshua Exploraed the Promised Land"
  Parent Page (1 copy per child)
  Cardstock (1 copy per class)
  White construction paper
- Teaching Picture: "Joshua Explores the Promised Land" (1 copy per class)
- "Spiritual Bible Phrases" (1 copy for every 2 children, cardstock recommended)
- Activity Page: "Comparing: Which One is Bigger?" (1 copy per child)

Reproductions

Standard Equipment
- CD Players/Chirstian Learning Center
- Tables and chairs for the children
- Storage shelf for blocks
- Play foam letters
- Small container for block area
- Small table and chairs
- Play dishes/food and pans
- Sinks, sink unit
- Baby doll (soft, plastic)
- Doll bed
- Small cars and trucks
- Set of wooden blocks
- Assorted wooden/wooden blocks and puzzles
- Small beanbag for Bible story time
- Bible

Resources and Supplies

Lesson 2: Joshua Explored the Promised Land

Old Testament Unit 2: Joshua

Hour A
Activity Page: Comparing “Which One is Bigger?”
Instructions: Copy 1 sheet per child. Use a marker or crayon to circle the object in each row that is the biggest.
Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5.
God’s Unfolding Story Cube

Instructions: Cut out on dotted lines, fold on solid lines. Glue or tape to form a cube.
Rely on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not