

# Lesson 6: Israel Rebels

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) Study Numbers 14 – Israelites rebel and ignore Caleb and Joshua’s faithful advice
  - 2) Discover the importance of letting God lead our lives instead of us trying to lead our own
  - 3) Do activities to understand that not only do we need to have faith in God, we need Him to take the lead
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## **Supplies:**

### **Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)**

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Word Maze – one per child

### **Optional:**

- 12 Spies Color Page – one per student
- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

### **Obstacle Course**

- Chairs
- Random objects to put as obstacles along path – blocks, stools, storage boxes, etc.
- Tables
- Blindfolds – one for every two students (Can use scarf, bandana, or sleep mask)

### **Butterfly Faith Craft**

- Butterfly Template 1 – one page for every student (can use construction or cardstock paper)
- Butterfly Template 2 – one page for every student (can use construction or cardstock paper)
- Scissors – one per student
- Fishing line or thin string/yarn – one 20 inch piece per student
- Glue stick – to share
- Felt or construction paper scrap pieces – enough for each child to have pieces to decorate butterfly wings

### **Snack:**

- |                                    |                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| - Grapes, Figs and/or Pomegranates | 1-4 pieces for each child |
| - Napkins for snack                | one per child             |
| - Juice or water and cup           | one per child             |
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### **Lesson:**

#### **1) Introduction to Lesson**

**2-5 minutes**

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week. Say to students: **Can anyone remember what we studied last week?** We studied that Moses sent 12 spies to go check out the land God had promised them. When they returned, 10 said it was too hard to take over, and only 2 said the Israelites should go and take the land.

**If you have your Bibles let’s find Numbers and turn there now.** (Have students share or hand out a Bible for those who need. And help any student having trouble find the passage.)

Today we are studying Numbers Chapter 14. We will see the continuation of this story and look at our need to not only have faith in God as we saw last week – but also have faith that God can and should lead our lives.

## 2) Numbers 14 – Israelites Rebel After the Spies Return

10 minutes

**Optional:** Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

**Can I get a volunteer to read Numbers 14:1-4?** Read Numbers 14:1-4.

**Remember last time we read that 10 of the 12 spies thought that the land God had promised them was too difficult to overtake because of the large people living in the land.**

**What were the Israelites response to this news?** They wanted to pick another leader and return to slavery in Egypt!

**Can I get another volunteer to read verses 5-9?**

**What was Moses, Joshua and Caleb's responses?** Fell face down, tore their clothes (which were signs of mourning a loss or repentance for a sin committed) They explained truthfully that God will let them take the land if they would only try!

**Can I get another two volunteers to read verses 10-18 and 19-25?**

**What was God's response?** He wanted to wipe them out completely and start over but Moses reminded Him of the other nation's opinion of God destroying His chosen nation.

**How many times did God say the Israelites rebelled and complained against Him?** 10 times! (verse 22)

**What do you think would happen if you complained to your parents about something 10 times?**

Let students answer – bottom line; they would not put up with it, nor would they be pleased.

**In verse 25, what did God say to do?** Go through the wilderness by the Red Sea because the Amalekites and Canaanites were in the valley.

\*For a break – do one of the optional activities before finishing the chapter. If students are still focused, you can continue on below and do the optional activities later.

## 3) Optional: Blind Walk Obstacle Course

5-10 minutes

Before class make sure you have the materials listed above to set up an obstacle course. Either set it up in the room or outside if able.

Make sure a clear path goes from the beginning of the course to the end.

Break the group into two teams. Blindfold members of the first team, then ask members of the second team to be the guide for one of the blindfolded students. As the pairs enter the obstacle course (one pair at a time) the blindfolded students walk behind their guides, placing their hands on the guide's shoulders. The guides lead each blindfolded student through the obstacle course – one pair at a time.

Then switch by blindfolding the other member of the pair. This time, when the students walk the obstacle course, the guides follow behind the blindfolded students, telling them where to go – no touching. In theory, this should be harder than the first round. (If time, quickly move some chairs/tables around after they are blindfolded to make the path different so they can't use their memory to help them through.)

Once all have had a turn being blindfolded say:

**If you had to go through the obstacle course one more time, which way would you rather do it – with your guide in front or in back? Why?**

**Of course it is easier with your guide in front. Yet, even having experienced that reality physically, we struggle with the idea of letting God be in the lead, we struggle not to speed past God's leadership. Instead of the Israelites, let's pray that the obstacles we encounter teach us that it is better to live with God leading us, then us trying to go against or ahead of His leadership. The choice though is yours.**

#### 4) Optional Butterfly Faith Craft

10-15 minutes

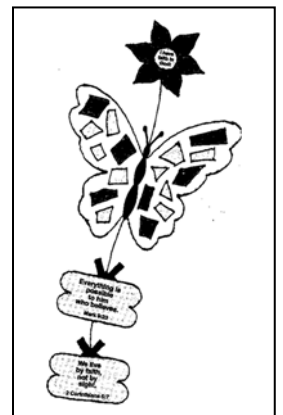
Hand out one page of each template to each child along with scissors.

Have children cut out the shapes and show them how to place one end of the fishing line between two joined flowers and glue the flowers together to secure the halves. Next, show how to join the butterfly body to the back of the large butterfly with wings with the line in between 4 inches down from the flowers. Finally join further down the line the two verses at the bottom (See picture to the right for the layout).

Allow the students to glue felt or construction scrap pieces to both sides of the butterfly's wings. If time let students color the flowers and verses.

Ensure that you read each verse and phrase aloud!

Talk about how they can hang this in their room to remember to have faith in God and let Him lead their life every day!



#### 5) Optional Tandem Bike Poem and Questions

10-15 minutes

Say to students; **I am going to read a poem from an unknown author. Once I am done, I am going to ask you a few questions.**

##### A Tandem Ride With God

I used to think of God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things I did wrong, so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die. He was out there, sort of like a president. I recognized His picture when I saw it, but I didn't really know Him.

But later on, when I met Jesus, it seemed as though life was rather like a bike, but it was a tandem bike, and I noticed that Jesus was in the back helping me pedal. I didn't know just when it was He suggested we change, but life has not been the same since I took the back-seat to Jesus, my Lord. He makes life exciting. When I had control, I thought I knew the way. It was rather boring, but predictable. It was the shortest distance between two points.

But when He took the lead, He knew delightful long cuts, up mountains, and through rocky places and at break-through speeds; it was all I could do to hang on! Even though it often looked like madness, He said, "Pedal!" I was worried and anxious and asked, "Where are you taking me?" He laughed and didn't answer and I started to learn to trust. I forgot my boring life and entered into adventure. And when I'd say, "I'm scared", He'd lean back and touch my hand.

He took me to people with gifts that I needed, gifts of help, acceptance and joy. They gave me their gifts to take on my journey, our journey, my Lord's and mine. And we were off again. He said, "Give the gifts

away; they're extra baggage, too much weight." So I did, to the people we met, and I found in giving I received, and still our burden was light.

I did not trust Him, at first, in control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it, but He knows bike secrets, knows how to make it bend to take sharp corners, jump to clear high rocks, fly to shorten scary passages. And I am learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places, and I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful constant companion, Jesus.

And when I'm sure I just can't do any more, He just smiles and says... "Pedal."

### Discussion Questions:

**Think about the following question and choose from one of the four possible answers.**

**When the Israelites were in the desert – imagine they were on a tandem bike with God; decide where were they sitting?**

- 1) In the back with God in the front.
- 2) In the front, with God in the back.
- 3) Switching places depending on the condition of the road.
- 4) In the front, and not sure where God even was.

**Where should they have been on the bike?** In the back with God in the front and trusting his directions including taking over the land He had promised them.

**Now, if you and God were on a tandem bike riding through life, where would you be? Think of the answer quietly in your head.**

- 1) In the back with God in the front.
- 2) In the front, with God in the back.
- 3) Switching places depending on the condition of the road.
- 4) In the front, and not sure where God even is.

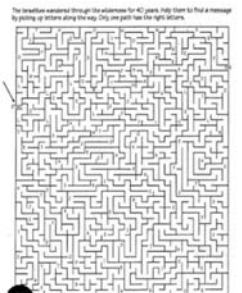
**Now think, where would you like to be knowing that God is the better navigator and better able to lead?**

### 6) Word Maze

5-10 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child with pencils. Have them try and find their way through the maze in a way that the letters they come across make sense into a phrase that shows what the Israelites should have believed when they were travelling in the desert. For students too young to read/write – just have them try and make their way through the maze – read the answer for them when everyone is done.

**Answer: Love the Lord Your God with a Pure Heart**



### 7) Israelites Are Punished

15 minutes

Ask for volunteers to read **Numbers 14:26-35**.

### Discussion Questions:

**In verse 19 Moses asks the Lord to forgive the Israelites sin of rebelling. What was God's response in verse 20?** He pardoned them – did not hold it against them.

**Sometimes we rebel against God out of fear or peer pressure. Can we ask God to forgive us if and when we do sin? Yes!**

**Now look at what we just read, although God readily forgave the people when Moses asked Him to, they still had to face the consequences of their lack of faith – they were forgiven, but still had to pay the price. Their lack of faith kept them from seeing the promises God fulfilled – they never set foot in the Promised Land.**

**Who did get to go to the Promised Land eventually?** Joshua, Caleb and all those under 20 years of age, God said would be allowed to enter.

**How long did God say they had to wander in the wilderness first?** Another 38 years for a total of 40 years – one year for every day they spied in the land of Canaan.

**What would happen to all the unfaithful Israelites who were 20 years and over?** They would die wandering in the desert over the next 38 years.

**What can we learn from this today?** God will punish the unfaithful. Lack of faith hinders our growth and ability to be useful to God in His purpose for our lives. We can learn from the Israelites and not repeat their mistakes. We will make mistakes and God will forgive us when we are baptized and remain faithful, but we will still have to face the consequences of our actions. God holds us accountable for sins of the nation, church and group we are apart of if we go along and do not take a stand against them. Just like the whole of Israel was held accountable, except for the two men who stood against the sin and those 19 years and under who were considered too young to be considered a part of the group, we too need to make sure that we not only know what sin is, but take a stand against it so we are not held accountable for the sins that different groups we belong to make!

**Remembering what we learned two weeks ago, in taking a stand we need to make sure we do not speak against the people, but against the sin.**

**What different groups do you belong to?** Sports teams, library clubs, classroom, Sunday class, church, friends, country, etc.

**What are ways we might be held accountable for the sins of the group we belong to if we don't stand up?** Let students give suggestions. Example might be: if friends want to steal and you don't stand up against them and you are caught in the store with them, even though you did not steal – you could be held accountable for theft!

**How can we be more like Joshua and Caleb?** Let students answer.

Finish reading the rest of the chapter **Numbers 14:36-45**.

**Discussion Questions:**

**What happened to the 10 men who reported badly against going into the Promised Land?** God killed them with a plague.

**What did the Israelites decide to do after God had stated clearly what He wanted and had decided against them?** They decided to try and take the land anyway.

**What was Moses response?** He tried to stop them saying truthfully that the Lord would not be with them if they tried.

**What was the consequence of their disobedience again?** They were driven back and could not enter the Promised Land.

## 8) Optional: 12 Spies Color Page

5 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child with crayons and color the page.  
Discuss questions while they color if able.



## 9) Optional - Snack: Grapes, Pomegranates, and or Figs

Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water or juice. Explain that: **Today we studied that the Promised Land was full of figs, grapes and pomegranates that the spies brought back to show the Israelites and that even with all this food and the fact that the land was full of good things - the Israelites doubted as to whether they should go. As we eat this fruit - let's remember that God provides us with all good things - like this wonderful fruit. But, we have to have faith to trust God that not only He can provide us with everything - but that we need to live up to our end and do what God asks us to do and let Him lead our lives!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands.

Discuss any questions while snacking. See if students can remember the names of the two faithful men and the fruit they all brought back.

## 10) Optional - Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you. An example:

### 12 Men Went to Spy on Canaan

Twelve men went to spy on Canaan,  
Ten were bad and two were good.

What did they see when they spied on Canaan?

Ten were bad and two were good.

Some saw the giants strong and tall

Some saw grapes in clusters fall

Some saw that God was in it all

'Cause ten were bad and two were good.

(Then sing it faster each time.)

## 11) Close in prayer

\*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

**Dear God, thank you for the events in the Bible that help us learn how we should be. Thank you that we can learn how to stand up against others as Caleb and Joshua did. Help us to be more like these men of faith who trusted in You. Help us also to let you lead our lives as we know that this is the best way we can be safe, successful, and purposeful in our lives. We thank You for Jesus, who came and died for our sins and who teaches us how to live in accordance with Your good will. Help us this week as we go to school and home. Help us to remember to pray and to study Your Word this week. We pray for those who are sick or traveling that they will return to us soon. Comfort and guide those in need. And it is in Jesus' name we pray, Amen!**

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!