



Mustard Seed Children's Summary for 9 August 2009
Released on Wednesday, August 5, 2009

"Afraid to Follow God"

Lesson Text: Numbers 14:1-12

Background Scripture: Numbers 14:1-25

Memory Verse: "If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us" (Numbers 14:8).

Numbers 14:1-12

1 And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.

2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!

3 And wherefore hath the Lord brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

4 And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.

5 Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

6 And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:

7 And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.

8 If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.

9 Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defense is departed from them, and the Lord is with us: fear them not.

10 But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.

11 And the Lord said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have showed among them?

12 I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Encourage the children that they should never be afraid to obey God.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. God will never tell us to do something that is not good; it is always safe to obey Him.
2. The people of Israel were afraid because they believed a lie, which did not come from God.
3. We should never be afraid to obey the Lord; He can always take care of us.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For *Helping to Remember*, bring a paper plate for each child, magazines for cutting pictures, safety scissors (blunt tip), glue, and crayons.

Make a copy of the *Fill-in-the-Blanks* lesson activity for each child. This activity will allow them to review key facts from the lesson and the memory verse.

TEACHER'S NOTES:

Time: about 1443 B.C.

Place: Kadesh

In this week's lesson the people of Israel have reached the edge of the Promised Land. As the lesson opens, they have received a frightening report from the scouts who went in ahead to look over the situation.

The people became afraid and began to imagine silly things. They wished they had died in the desert and wanted to retrace their steps and return to Egypt.

Even though Joshua and Caleb argued that the land was good and that they were well able to take it, the fear remained. The people did not believe the good witnesses. They wanted to stone them.

God told Moses that when the people allowed fear to overwhelm them and keep them from obeying Him, they were in reality rejecting Him. God was very angry with Israel for this.

By acting out of fear, they allowed fear a bigger place than the promises of God. They became controlled by fear rather than by faith in God and His word. Soon they even became afraid to obey the God who had shown Himself to be faithful to His promises and to them.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

Have you ever known what you should do, but you were just afraid to do it? Maybe you were afraid someone would laugh at you. Maybe you were afraid it would not turn out right.

You remember that after they left Egypt, the people of Israel went through a desert. God was leading them to the Promised Land.

TELLING THE LESSON:

Finally the Israelites got to the edge of the land God had promised them. They sent twelve men in to look it over. Some of those men saw some very big people (giants) in the land. They became afraid. They forgot that God had told them He would give them the land. They thought more about their fear than they did about God's promises. So when they came back, they gave a bad report about the land.

When the people of Israel heard that report, they all became frightened too. Again they began to cry and complain. They said such foolish things! They wished they had died in the desert. They wanted to turn around and go back to Egypt. Since their hearts were filled with fear, everything they said was nonsense.

There were two men out of the twelve who believed God. They were Joshua and Caleb. They gave a good report. They said it was a good land. The people would be able to take it because God would give it to them. They reminded the people that God was with them.

Those who said they could not take the land were showing a lack of faith. God had told them to take it; so of course they were able to do it.

The people's hearts were already filled with fear from listening to the false report. When Joshua and Caleb gave the true report, they found it hard to listen. Instead, they wanted to kill Joshua and Caleb with stones. Now, how would that help? Oh, how fear can mess up our thinking!

Just then the light that showed the glory of God appeared in the place of worship in the camp. God must have wanted everyone to know He was speaking. He told Moses that in being afraid to obey, the people were really rejecting Him, the Lord. God was very angry with them. He had told them what to do. It was a good gift He wanted to give them.

They were standing on the edge of it, but they were afraid to go in and take it. God had helped them in so many ways, and still they were afraid to follow Him.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

Does God ever tell us to do something that is not good? No, of course not! God is good; so what He tells us to do has to be right and good too. We can always trust God to tell us the right things to do.

When He tells us what to do, we do not need to be afraid. He will be with us and help us. He will give us strength. He will take care of us. When God tells us what to do, the only thing left is to obey. If we refuse to trust Him and we do not obey, we may miss out on a great blessing He had planned for us. That would be terrible indeed!

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Let the children find, cut out, and glue (or draw) pictures that show fear on one side of their paper plate and that show confidence on the other. Have them print "Yes" on the confidence side and "No" on the fear side.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us" (Numbers 14:8).

These are the words that Joshua and Caleb told the people when they reported the good things they had seen in the Promised Land. Although others were afraid to go forward and obey God, these men knew that when they obeyed God, He would help them do what He asked them to do.

If the Lord was happy with them, He would bring them into the land He had promised them.

Caleb and Joshua wanted to encourage the people with their words. They wanted to help the people obey God, but the people did not obey because they had already let fear fill their hearts.

CONCLUSION:

We would do well to learn from Israel's mistakes (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:11). A lack of faith is plainly rebellion against the Lord. God is looking for a people who will believe Him regardless of circumstances or what others may say. Faith is an absolute essential for the Christian. We needed faith to believe the gospel message and be saved. Why, then, is it so hard to trust God for other things? If we can trust Him for eternity, why can we not trust Him for our earthly life as well?

If Israel could only have kept in mind their bondage in Egypt and the miracles God had performed for them, perhaps it would have been easier to trust Him to fulfill the promise concerning the land. Israel should have been looking ahead to the land of

Canaan instead of backward toward Egypt. When God promises to do something, we can rest assured that He will do it.

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, we thank You for always taking care of us. Thank You for helping us through the challenges we face. Help us to not be afraid to follow and obey Your Word. May we always trust and have faith in You and Your promises, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "Disobeying God's Command" and tells how Moses would be punished for not obeying God. Study Numbers 20:1-13.

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The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books

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FILL IN THE BLANKS

"Afraid to Follow God" (Numbers 14:1-12)

1. The people saw the fruit the spies brought back, but they were _____ to follow God.
2. The people blamed _____ and _____ for their situation. (v. 2)
3. They thought it would be better for them to return to _____. (v. 3)
4. Moses and Aaron fell on their _____ before all the people. (v. 5)
5. _____ and _____ tore their clothes and tried to get the people to follow God. (v. 6)
6. Joshua and Caleb described the land as an "exceeding _____". (v. 7)
7. The land was good and flowed with milk and _____. (v. 8)
8. The Lord would bring the people to the _____ and give it to them. (v. 8)
9. The people should not have been afraid because the _____ was with them. (v. 9)
10. The _____ of the Lord appeared in the place of worship before all of the people. (v. 10)

Fill in the blanks of the verse below with the correct letters or numbers from the following code:

A = 1	B = 2	C = 3	D = 4	E = 5	F = 6	G = 7	H = 8	I = 9
J = 10	K = 11	L = 12	M = 13	N = 14	O = 15	P = 16	Q = 17	R = 18
S = 19	T = 20	U = 21	V = 22	W = 23	X = 24	Y = 25	Z = 26	

_____ 9-6 _____ 20-8-5 _____ 12-15-18-4 _____ 4-5-12-9-7-8-20 _____ 9-14 _____ 21-19

_____ 20-8-5-14 _____ 8-5 _____ 23-9-12-12 _____ 2-18-9-14-7 _____ 21-19 _____ 9-14-20-15

_____ 20-8-9-19 _____ 12-1-14-4 _____ 1-14-4 _____ 7-9-22-5 _____ 9-20 _____ 21-19

_____ 14-21-13-2-5-18-19 _____ :
N:H

Answer Key:

FILL IN THE BLANKS

"Afraid to Follow God" (Numbers 14:1-12)

- 1 afraid
- 2 Moses, Aaron
- 3 Egypt
- 4 faces
- 5 Joshua, Caleb
- 6 good land
- 7 honey
- 8 land
- 9 Lord
- 10 glory

Decoded:

"If the Lord delight in us, then He will bring us into this land, and give it us" (Numbers 14:8)