9

Spy Service

Key References: Numbers 13; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 34, pp. 387-389; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 3, pp. 26-31; Our Beliefs nos. 8, 7, 17



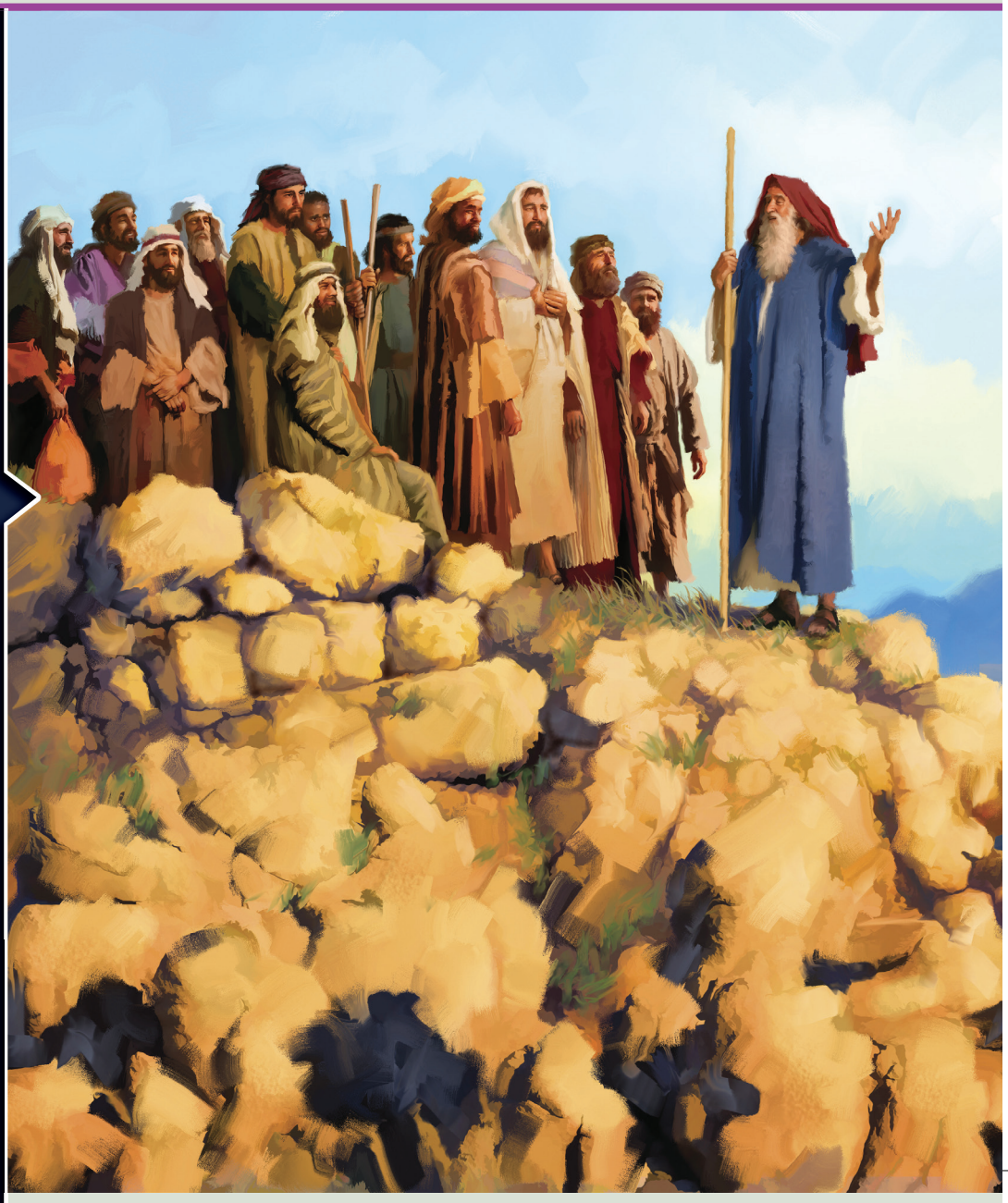












powertext

"Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, 'We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it' " (Numbers 13:30).

When have you felt called by God to do something that required you to be more brave than you felt? Maybe it was something small, but it still required courage on your part. Imagine being asked to be a spy.

Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 74.

powerpoint

We can face risks with courage when we serve God.

Moses studied the 12 men standing before him. He had selected them carefully—one from each of the 12 tribes. His craggy face suddenly crinkled into a smile. "It's time!" he exclaimed. His eyes shone. "And you 12 will be the first!"

Caleb took a deep breath. He could hardly believe that he was one of the chosen ones. He would be one of the very first Israelites to set foot in the land that the Lord had promised to give them. "Oh, thank You, Lord, for this great favor," he may have prayed silently.

All 12 men listened attentively to Moses' instructions, which sent them north, into the land of Canaan. He said to them, "Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? How is the soil?



9

Sunday

READ Read Numbers 13:1-20 and this week's story, "Spy Service."

SING Sing "You Are My Hiding Place" or another song.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to show you ways to serve Him, even if it involves taking a risk.

Monday

READ Read Numbers 13:21-25.

LIST List the names of the spies.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray that God would empower you to go wherever He asks you to go to serve Him in any capacity.

Tuesday

READ Read Numbers 13:26-33.

CREATE Make an acrostic for the word SERVE. Relate it to this week's lesson (example: E can stand for "Explored the land").

MAKE Make a picture symbol representing your service to God (such as a picture of two men carrying grapes on a pole).

REVIEW Review the power text.

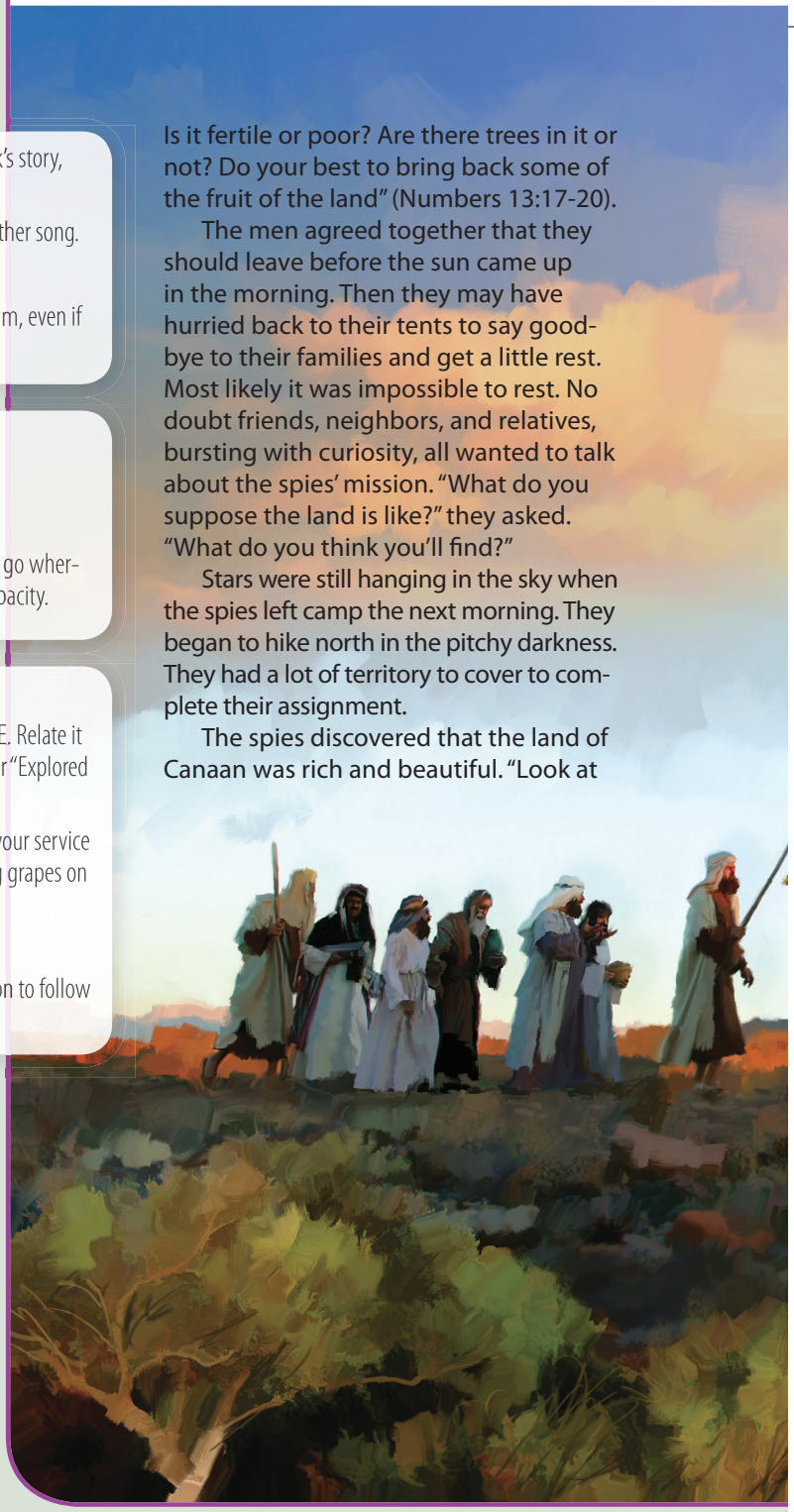
PRAY Ask God for courage and determination to follow Him wherever He leads.

Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land" (Numbers 13:17-20).

The men agreed together that they should leave before the sun came up in the morning. Then they may have hurried back to their tents to say goodbye to their families and get a little rest. Most likely it was impossible to rest. No doubt friends, neighbors, and relatives, bursting with curiosity, all wanted to talk about the spies' mission. "What do you suppose the land is like?" they asked. "What do you think you'll find?"

Stars were still hanging in the sky when the spies left camp the next morning. They began to hike north in the pitchy darkness. They had a lot of territory to cover to complete their assignment.

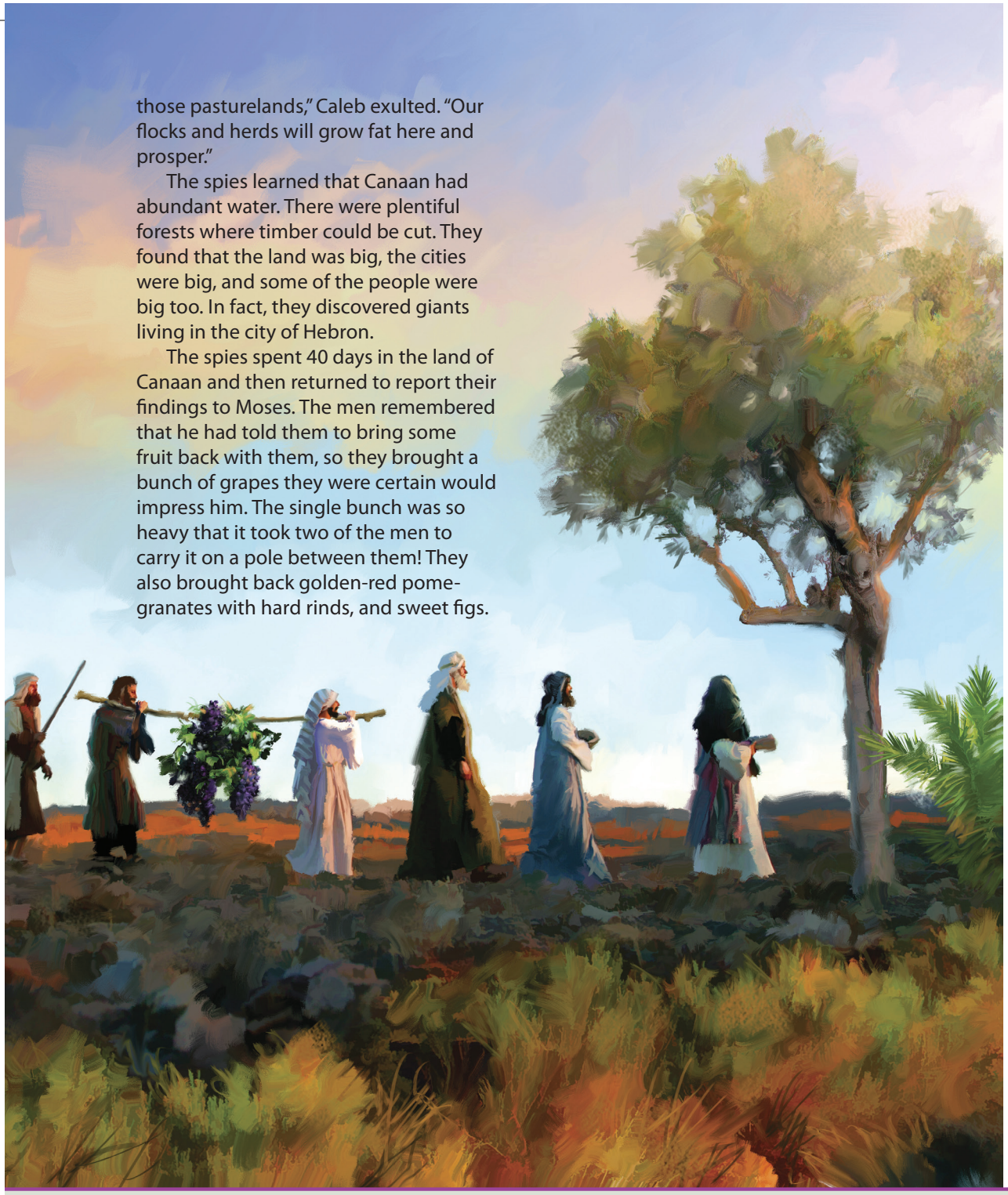
The spies discovered that the land of Canaan was rich and beautiful. "Look at



those pasturelands," Caleb exulted. "Our flocks and herds will grow fat here and prosper."

The spies learned that Canaan had abundant water. There were plentiful forests where timber could be cut. They found that the land was big, the cities were big, and some of the people were big too. In fact, they discovered giants living in the city of Hebron.

The spies spent 40 days in the land of Canaan and then returned to report their findings to Moses. The men remembered that he had told them to bring some fruit back with them, so they brought a bunch of grapes they were certain would impress him. The single bunch was so heavy that it took two of the men to carry it on a pole between them! They also brought back golden-red pomegranates with hard rinds, and sweet figs.



Wednesday

READ Read Deuteronomy 1:19-32.

THINK Think about your feelings when you are called to do something that involves taking a risk.

SERVE Do a service project that takes you out of your comfort zone.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray that God will give you peace when asked to serve Him.

Thursday

READ Read Joshua 14:7, 8.

REFLECT In your Bible study journal, write about any concerns you may have about taking risks for God.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you discover where and how He wants you to serve Him.

Friday

READ Read Psalm 28:7.

ACT With your family, act out the Bible story during worship tonight.

DISCUSS Talk about the risks involved in being a spy. Talk about the risks involved in being a Christian in some parts of the world. Consider how the benefits of being a Christian far outweigh the potential dangers Christians face in certain societies when they stand up for their beliefs.

SHARE Share the power text with your family.

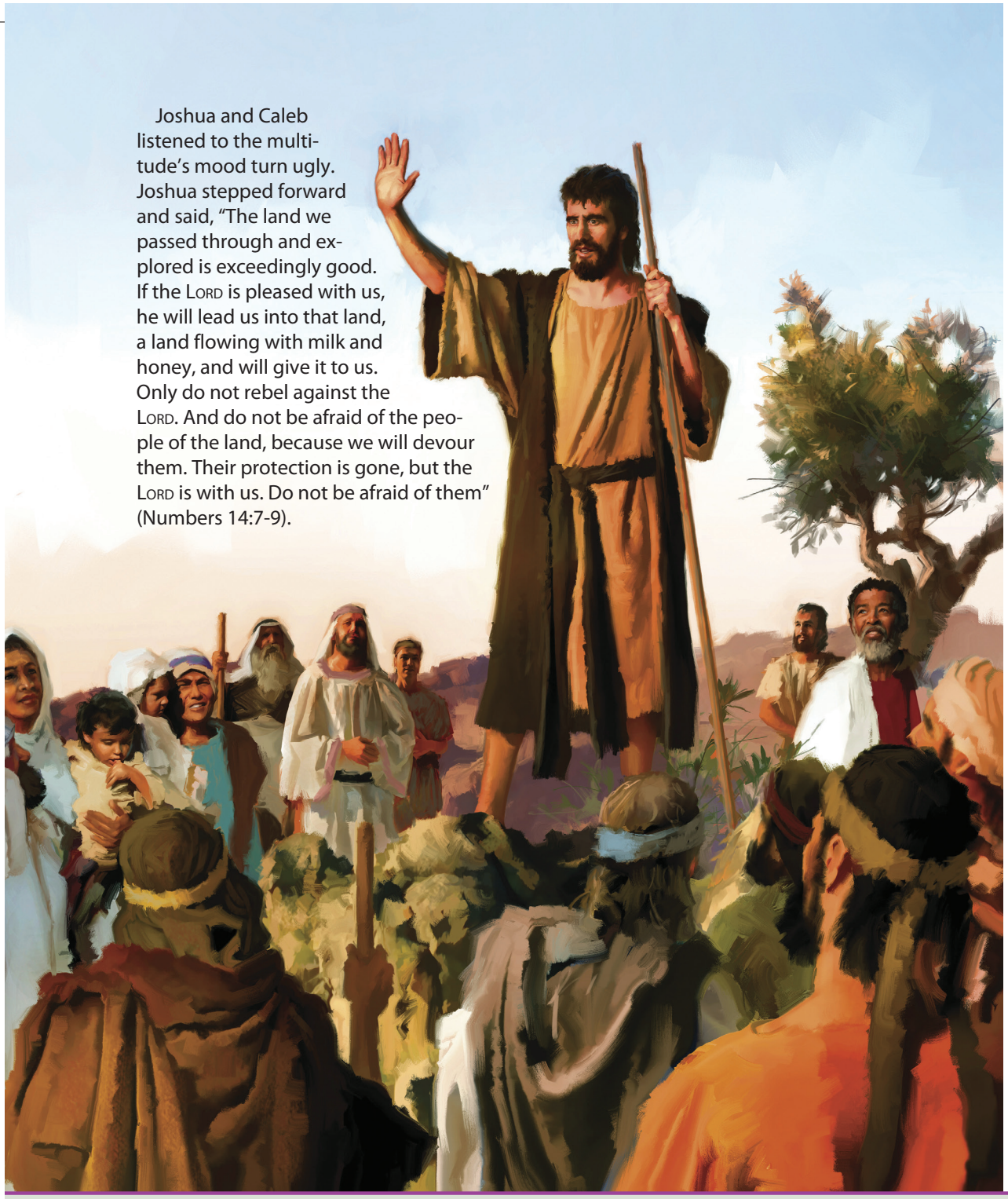
PRAY Thank God for using you to serve Him.

The whole camp gathered to hear the spies' report. "It's a rich and fertile land!" Shammua began. "Just look at this fruit!"

"The people of Canaan are incredibly powerful," Nahbi jumped in. "They live in large, well-fortified cities. They are prepared to defend themselves and their homes. And some of the people living in the land are actually giants!"

The entire camp had been listening carefully to the spies' report. They were awed by the fruit the spies had returned with. But at the news of well-guarded cities and powerful people (not to mention giants!), they began to mutter, and murmur, and complain. "Why did Moses bring us out here to die?" they wailed.





Joshua and Caleb listened to the multitude's mood turn ugly. Joshua stepped forward and said, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them" (Numbers 14:7-9).

PUZZLE

9

TRUST IN JESUS

Instructions: Start at the yellow square and fit this Bible verse in the grid, one letter to a square. Lay the letters in the grid in a straight line (either forward, backward, up, down, or diagonally), changing direction only between words. Keep the first letter of one word adjacent to (next to) the last letter of the previous word. Do not put a letter in a dark-green square. Finish at the blue square.

"**Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame" (Romans 10:11).**

