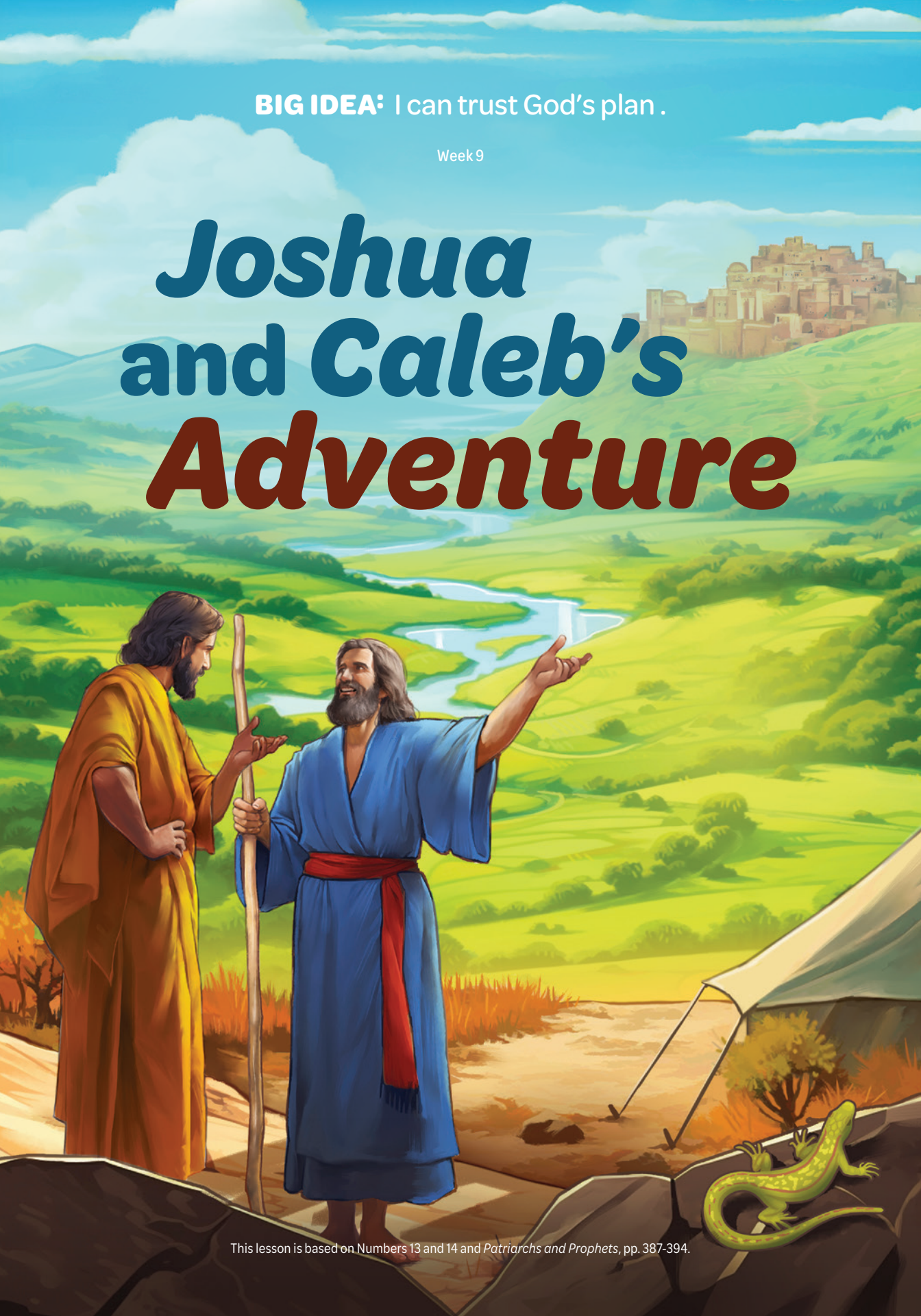
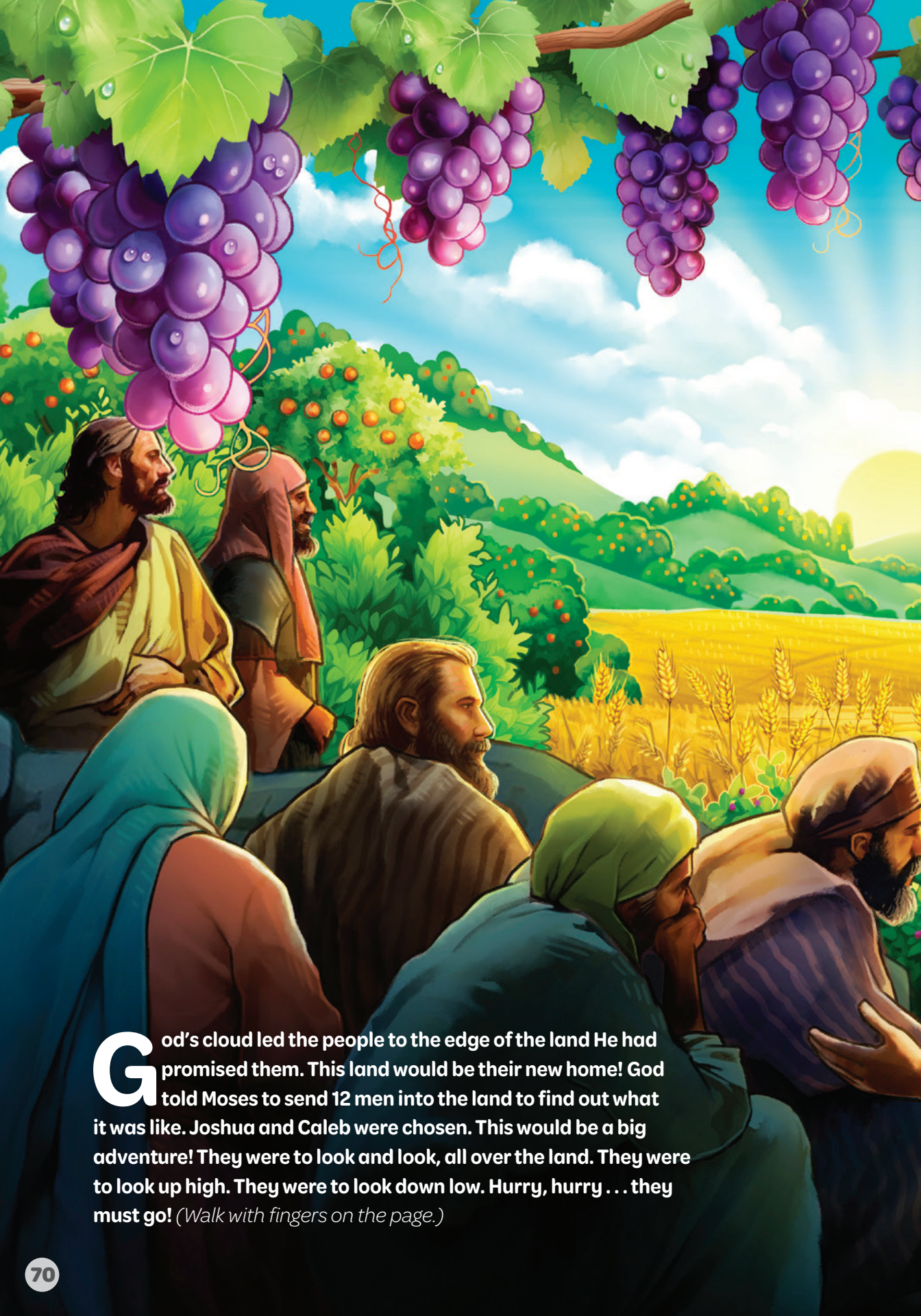
BIG IDEA: I can trust God's plan.

Week 9

Joshua and Caleb's Adventure



This lesson is based on Numbers 13 and 14 and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 387-394.

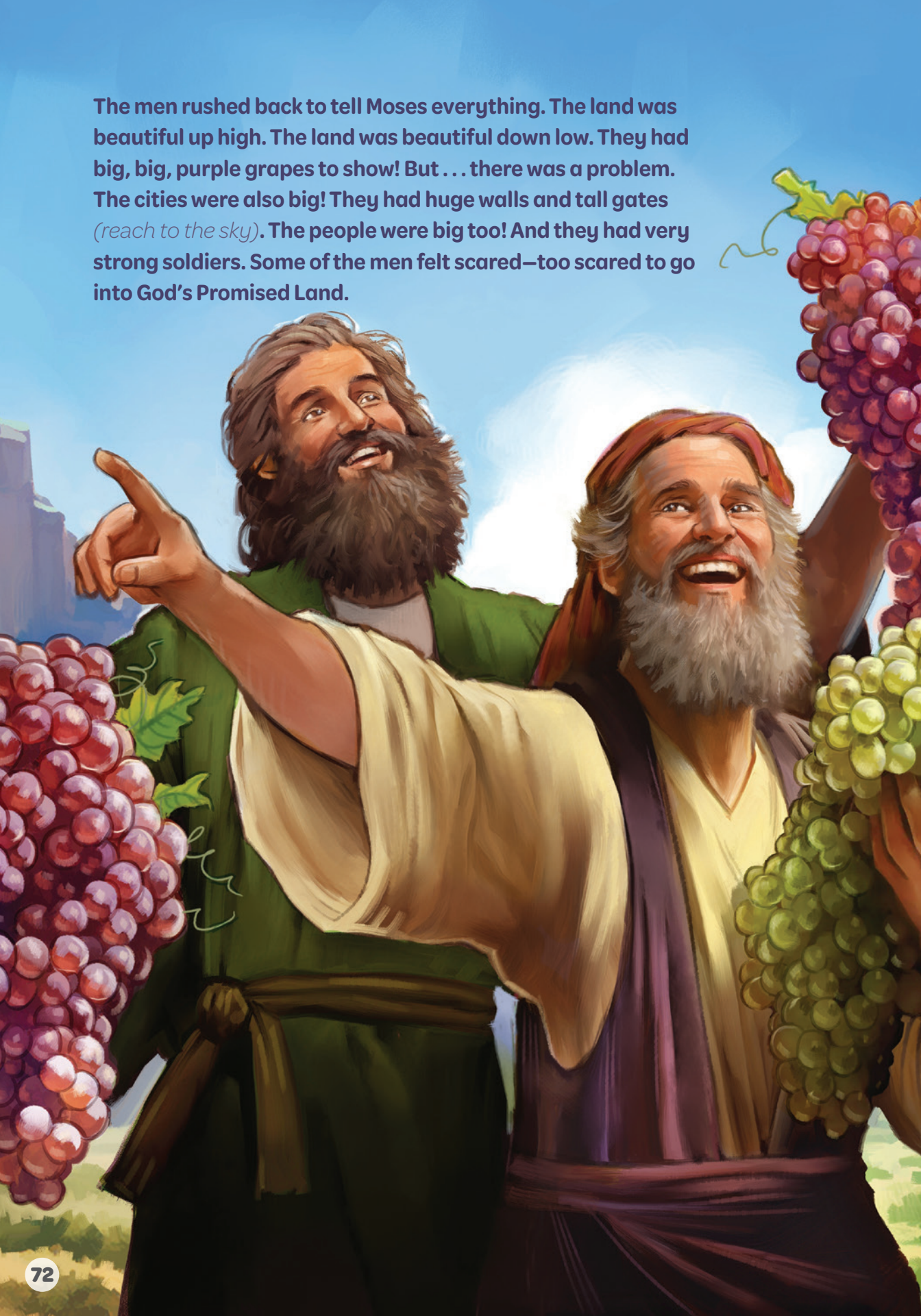


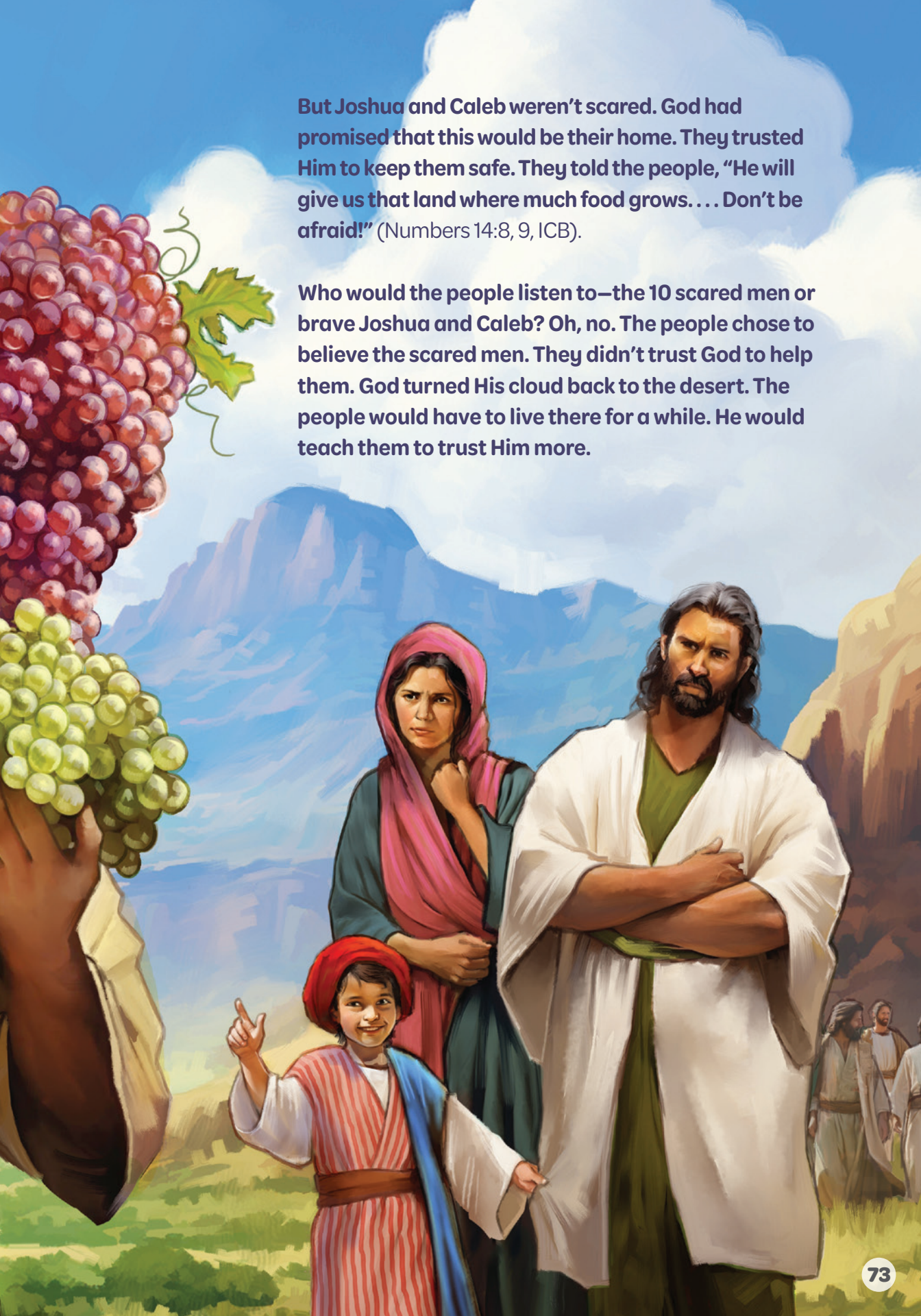
God's cloud led the people to the edge of the land He had promised them. This land would be their new home! God told Moses to send 12 men into the land to find out what it was like. Joshua and Caleb were chosen. This would be a big adventure! They were to look and look, all over the land. They were to look up high. They were to look down low. Hurry, hurry . . . they must go! *(Walk with fingers on the page.)*



The 12 men packed their bags and set off. *Walking, walking, walking. Looking, looking, looking.* Their eyes grew big. Their mouths opened in surprise *(look surprised)*. **Everything looked so beautiful! The grass was lush and green! The fields were golden with wheat. There was dark, rich soil. Shady green trees waved in the breeze. Water splished and splashed in rivers and ponds. And big purple, juicy grapes grew in the land!**

The men rushed back to tell Moses everything. The land was beautiful up high. The land was beautiful down low. They had big, big, purple grapes to show! But . . . there was a problem. The cities were also big! They had huge walls and tall gates *(reach to the sky)*. **The people were big too! And they had very strong soldiers. Some of the men felt scared—too scared to go into God's Promised Land.**





But Joshua and Caleb weren't scared. God had promised that this would be their home. They trusted Him to keep them safe. They told the people, "He will give us that land where much food grows. . . . Don't be afraid!" (Numbers 14:8, 9, ICB).

Who would the people listen to—the 10 scared men or brave Joshua and Caleb? Oh, no. The people chose to believe the scared men. They didn't trust God to help them. God turned His cloud back to the desert. The people would have to live there for a while. He would teach them to trust Him more.



God was so happy that Joshua and Caleb trusted Him, even when no one else did. God wants good things for you too! He wants you to trust Him with *everything*.

(Say together) **Thank You, God. I want to trust You always!**

play throughout the day

Create

Create a collage using natural objects of what you think the Promised Land would have looked like. Use grass to make fields and bark and leaves to make trees. God wanted to give His people good things. He wants to give us good things too. We can trust Him.

Discover

Give your child something plain, such as a cracker, plain bread, or rice, to eat. Then give your child some cut-up fruit if you can. Talk about how yummy it would have been for the Israelites to eat fruit. What a treat! Share how it took two men to carry one big, big bunch of grapes!

Explore

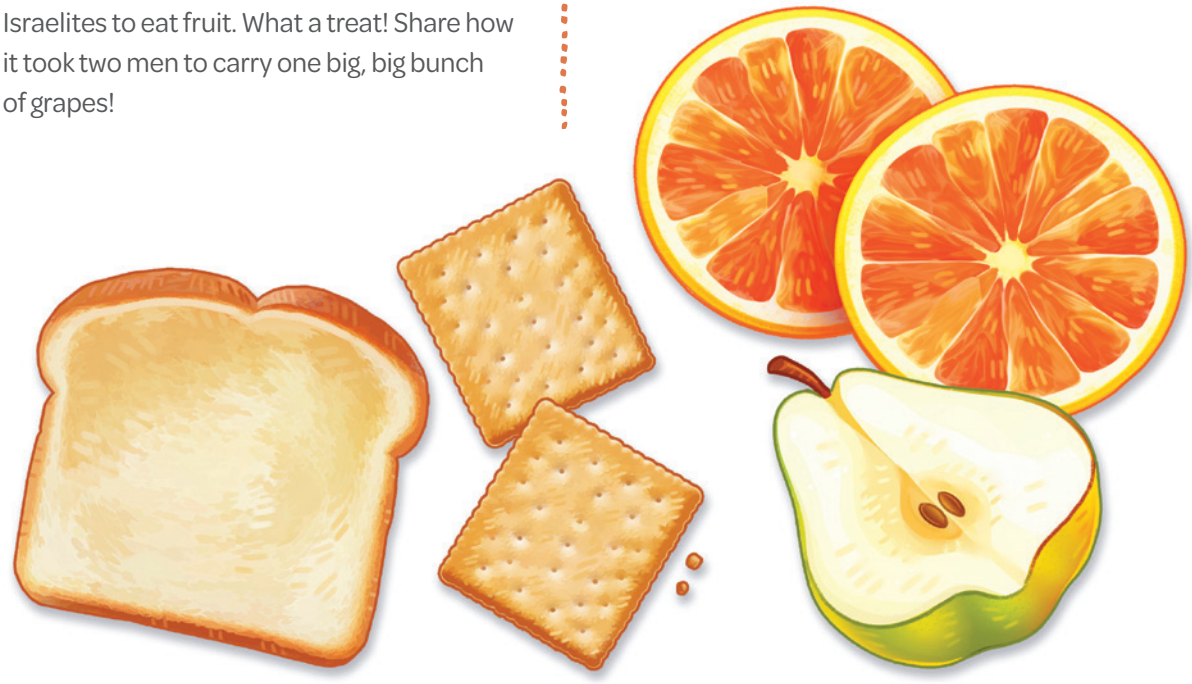
Walk around your home and find five things that God has given your family (e.g., food, water, clothes). Our God gives us good things! Thank God for these things in your family worships.

Connect

Play a game of hide-and-seek together. Share how the 12 men had to be quiet and careful when they went into the Promised Land! End the game with a surprise feast of fruit.

Prayer

Share how we want to be like Caleb and Joshua. We want to trust God. Ask God to help you trust Him today.



Extension weekly memory verse: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart" (Proverbs 3:5).

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

Isn't it amazing that all 12 spies had exactly the same experience in scouting out the land and yet they had such different responses to what they saw? Two men were filled with hope and excitement for the adventure ahead. They chose to have faith that God would fulfill His promise. The other 10 were determined to focus on the impossible, and were full of doubt and negativity. "In their unbelief they limited the power of God and distrusted the hand that had hitherto safely guided them" (Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 388).

It is not always easy to be positive and believe the best. In fact, sometimes it is downright hard! We might face problems with our marriage, our children, our health, finances, or work, and these things can seem as huge as the giants the spies glimpsed from afar. But God still leads us; we are never alone. When we trust Him, He will continue to move us forward.

God has amazing things planned for us—things that are far beyond our comprehension! He doesn't want us to be sidetracked by the problems Satan puts in our path. He wants us to be empowered to trust His leading and hand over any "giant" problems to Him. Joshua and Caleb assured the people, "The Lord is with us. Do not fear them" (Numbers 14:9).

As you go about your week this week, build your faith by telling others (especially your children) about the good things God has done, and is doing, in your life. May we spread positive and faith-filled messages of hope, just as Joshua and Caleb did!