

Lesson 3: Promised Land

“The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”

Genesis 17:8

Connect:

Welcome the kids as they enter the room. *(you may want to have music playing in the background).*

Write these questions on the board and encourage them to tell 2-3 people in the room.

What is one of your favorite sports to play or watch?

What is one of your favorite things to eat?

After they have had a chance to connect for a minute or two, remind them that we are here to connect with God through the power of His Holy Spirit and His Word.

Invite one child to come up and pray for the Holy Spirit to come and encounter us today through the reading of God’s word.

‘Holy Spirit, we invite you to come, and be with us today. We need your presence. Speak to us through your Word. Make yourself known to us. In Jesus’ name, Amen. ‘

Intro:

Imagine watching a football game, but this time the players on one side are the Israelites (God’s people). On the other side you have the Canaanites.

(draw a visual on the board of the football field and two teams)

Now imagine God saying to the Israelites, “You see that other end zone? That’s the Land I have prepared for You. Just defeat the other team and you can have it”

What would you do?

Would you want to go after the land?

If God prepared it for His people, it must be good, right?

But first they would have to go through the enemy to reach it. And the enemy was bigger and stronger than they were.

Knowing this, would you still want to go after that land?

In today’s lesson we are going to find out what God’s people did when faced with a decision like this.

Lesson 3: Promised Land

Bible Study

Number 13: 1-3, 17-33 (you can either read the passage beforehand, or as you guide them through the questions below)

God tells Moses: “ Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel. “

What is the promise of God in this passage? (v.2)

(He is giving the land of Canaan to the people of Israel) God had promised the Israelites a good spacious land flowing with milk and honey (meaning fruitful/plentiful). He promised this in Exodus 3:8, Lev. 20:24, and of course in Numbers.

Moses sends twelve men, one from each tribe, as God had instructed.

Why do you think God wanted them to send spies to check out the land?

(He wanted to most likely build their morale by showing them the quality of the land)

What did Moses tell them to find out about the Land of Canaan? (Read v.17-20)

Make a list on the board:

Strong or Weak people

Big or Small population

Good or Bad land

Big or Small cities (camps or strongholds)

Rich or Poor

Trees or No Trees

Fruitful?

From this list of things, we can see that Moses was thinking like a military leader. He was trying to determine, “Will we be strong enough to take them?”

But remember, God said he would **give** the land to them.

So, The 12 spies report back and tell the story of what they had seen... **(Read v. 25-29)**

What did the spies find out? (you can circle things on the board)

Good, fruitful land, strong people, big cities, fortified—(well defended, large walls), sons of Anak (descendants of giants)

Now from a military perspective, things don't look so good. The people are stronger, are well defended, are big in number.... (doubt is probably setting in)

So, what did Caleb do? (Read v..30)

He quieted the people and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”

WOW! Caleb sounds confident. Where do you think his confidence comes from? (God)

Lesson 3: Promised Land

Bible Study

But what did the other spies say? (v. 31-33)

They said the people were stronger so we could not defeat them. So, they reported some things to scare the people.

The land devours its inhabitants, very tall people: giants/Nephilim, we were like grasshoppers to them.

Do you think it worked?

Yes, the people were very scared, they didn't want to go into the land of Canaan. They wanted to choose a new leader and to go back to Egypt (which meant slavery). They must've been scared to choose slavery over freedom.

Read Numbers 14: 6-10

Joshua and Caleb plead with the people to help them see the promise.

- The land is exceedingly good, it flows with milk and honey
- If the Lord delights in us he will bring us into the land and give it to us.
- Don't rebel against God and don't be afraid----Their protection is gone, but God is with us!

What do you notice about Joshua and Caleb?

Brave, courageous, have faith

What do you notice about the other spies?

Scared, fearful, lack of faith

What gave Joshua and Caleb the ability to be brave and courageous and have faith?

Joshua and Caleb kept their eyes on the promise of God. This was a promise made to Abraham in Genesis 17:8 "The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you."

They saw the good land and celebrated because God promised to give it to them! They were able to envision the promise taking place, which helped them maintain faith in the process. They didn't look at the tall numerous people and get discouraged, because their eyes were on God and His promise. HE WOULD DO IT! GOD WOULD FULFILL HIS PROMISE TO THEM!

If we look at the other spies and the people of Israel, we see that they lost focus. Instead of believing for the promise God gave them, they saw what was before them with their physical eyes and lost faith. They doubted God could ever bring about the promise, they thought it was a lost cause. And so, they were overcome with fear.

Lesson 3: Promised Land

Going Deeper in the Word

Can you envision the promises of God happening?

(his promise to return, to put an end to the devil and all wickedness and sin, to have no more sickness and death, No more tears, to have Joy forevermore)

How do you think doing this helps us walk in faith?

It helps us see the goal at the end of the race. It helps us focus on God and see what He wants us to see, and not get distracted by what the enemy wants us to see.

When we see the victory, we walk in victory!

Do you know what God did to the Israelites for not obeying him?

Read Numbers 14: 20-25

The people had to wander the wilderness until the generation that rebelled and disobeyed him had passed away. For 40 years they wandered the wilderness. Once that generation had passed away, God gave the land to the children of those who had disobeyed Him. He fulfilled His promise! A promise that could've been fulfilled immediately, got put on pause for 40 years because of the people's disobedience and rebellion towards God.

WOW! God takes disobedience seriously, but thankfully He also takes His promises seriously. He always keeps His Promises!

Prayer:

Pass out a small piece of paper to each child. Have them write down any fears they have and fold up the piece of paper. Tell them, that as we pray, we will be giving our fears over to God and setting our hearts and minds on the promises of God.

Father God, Thank You for Your promises! It is so good to know that you always keep your promises. I don't want to live in fear, so today I give my fears to you. (have the kids come forward and place their fears in a basket or trash can.) Help me to be more like Joshua and Caleb. I want to stay focused on your promises and have great faith and great courage to obey you on this journey. I pray that my family will be able to see the victory that is already theirs in Christ Jesus and be able to walk in that victory! Holy Spirit come in power and remove any doubt in me. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Lesson 3: Promised Land

Encounter Time

1. Prayer

Intercede for the lost: Today we are going to pray for those that don't know Jesus as their personal Savior. Think of anyone you know, (friend, family member, teacher, etc.), that you don't think knows the Lord as their personal savior.

When you have thought of a name or two, write their names on the whiteboard. Spend time while you write and after you write to ask the Lord to reveal Jesus as the Son of God to them.

You may want to have this small prayer written on the white board to help guide and direct kids of how to pray.

Lord, I give (name your friends/family members) to you. I want him/her to know how good You are God. Reveal yourself as the Son of God, the Savior of the world. Draw them to you and bring them to salvation. In Jesus' name, Amen.

2. Praise

Play the song that we learned last week. (*Let them sing with you*) Then, play it again, but this time, tell them while we are singing the song we are going to write or draw a love letter to God:

Tell Him why you love Him, how much you love Him, etc.

Or draw a picture of your love for Him.

Have a table set up that has paper (pre-folded) and pencils/crayons/etc. Let them come up as the Spirit leads them to write or draw.

If you have time when they are done, you can ask if anyone would like to share what they wrote or drew, as a testimony of God's love. When we share our testimony of Jesus, we are praising God!

Allow for a few kids to come up and share what they wrote.

Lesson 3: Promised Land

Encounter Time

3. Prophecy

Today, we are going to listen to God's voice and prophecy over someone else. Remember---we are asking God to share His heart for that person with us, and then in turn sharing it with that person. (God's words are meant to encourage, so if you think that it won't encourage them, then don't share it) Before starting, pray that all other voices be silent, and we would only hear the Holy Spirit speak to us.

Choose one child to sit in the middle. Have all of the other kids come around that child and reach out their hands (we have the two-finger rule---lightly place two fingers on their shoulder or arm.) Now, have them close their eyes and wait on the Lord. Lead a prayer asking for the Holy Spirit to show us how he loves that person.

Wait on the Lord! (it's good to play soft instrumental music in the background) When you receive something, share with the child (and interpretation), encourage others to share what they saw or heard--even if it doesn't make sense to them—Tell them we are learning to hear God's voice so it's good to try and maybe what doesn't make sense to them, will make sense to someone else.

Help guide the kids by interpreting pictures (if the Holy Spirit shows you) or saying-I'm not sure what that means, or if it was from God.

Then, pray over the child the encouraging words that were shared during this time and bless them.

(We have had many times where a word was confirmed by two or more kids. Once we had a child say they didn't think what they saw meant anything, but I had them share anyway. They saw a horse that was very strong running through a field. The girl we were praying for, and her sister lit up when she heard this. (Her favorite animal was a horse and she felt so loved by God when she realized that He really knew her) The child who shared this lit up as well, because they realized that God spoke to them! You never know how God will use what He shares to minister to individual hearts.)

4. Power

Just like the Israelites were rebellious towards God, many people today suffer from a rebellious spirit. If we are constantly fighting against God, we miss out on the good things He has for us. The Israelites missed out on 40 years of living in a land that provided good and plentiful food for them. All because they rebelled against God. Although they rebelled, God was merciful, but they didn't experience the plentiful harvests and abundance they would've if they had obeyed the Lord.

Have you ever rebelled against your parents, or against God? Do you want to be free of that rebellious spirit? Today we are asking the Holy Spirit to come with Power and deliver us from a spirit of rebellion.

Set up a table with 4 different bowls. Label the bowls: Teachers, Parents, God, Other. In each bowl have small pieces of water-soluble paper that have the names (teachers, Parents, God) written on them (for Other, leave blank and let the kids write it on the paper themselves). You can buy a pack of water-soluble /dissolving paper on www.amazon.com.

Have a large water bowl in the middle of the room. Tell the kids to ask God to forgive them for their rebellious behavior and confess that they don't want to live that way anymore. Spend time with the Lord asking Him to reveal anything else to them that they should confess. Then when ready, they can put the paper in the water bowl and watch it dissolve, just like the rebellious spirit disappearing from their life by the power of the Holy Spirit working in them. Ask the Holy Spirit to come and fill the empty space left by the removal of the enemies work in our life.

Lesson 3: Promised Land

Take it Home

TIME WITH GOD

Use this as a 5-minute family devotion around the dinner table, or you can use it in your personal alone time with God.

Day 1: Read- Psalm 135:12 *“And He gave their land as an inheritance, an inheritance to his people Israel.”*

What is an inheritance? An inheritance is something belonging to you that can be passed down through the generations. God gave this land to the nation of Israel to be passed down through the generations. They were to inherit the rights of ownership to the property throughout the generations, because it was ordained by God in the covenant. Do you have an inheritance? Did your parents have an inheritance? We usually take what God blessed us with in this life and pass it down to our kids to bless them in this life. Whether big or small, inheritance is meant to be a blessing.

Prayer: Thank you Lord for the inheritance that I have been blessed with in this life and in eternity!

Day 2: Read- Psalm 37:4 *“Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.”*

Have you ever thought about what it means to take delight in the Lord? Well, to delight in something means that it brings you great pleasure and joy. Do you find joy in the Lord? Do you enjoy spending time with God? This is a question we all need to ask ourselves. If the answer is no, then we need to ask why? God wants to fulfill every desire in your heart and mind. If this hasn't happened in your life, then tell the Lord that you want that type of relationship with Him.

Prayer: Lord, I want every desire of my heart to be fulfilled in you. I want to know you; I want to delight in you. I want to look forward to spending time with you! I'm asking you to breathe new life in me by Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 3: Read- Jeremiah 29:12 *“Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.”*

Have you ever wondered if God hears your prayers? Well, this passage answers that question. He said when you call on Him, when you speak to Him, He will listen to you! Wow! Jesus, on his throne in heaven, listens to us when we call on His name. That makes something very clear to me---**My Prayers Matter To God!** He pays attention, he hears, he cares, we matter, and our words matter. There is power when we pray for others, because we know Jesus hears us! He knows our heart and concerns. Sometimes it feels like no one listens to us, because we're children, but God says He listens to us---and that's all that matters. Prayer: Lord, thank you for hearing me. Thank you for listening to me when no one else would. Thanks for being my best friend, and heavenly father. Teach me to hear from you as well. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 4: Read- Psalm 145:9 *“The Lord is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made.”*

What does it mean to have compassion? It means to feel someone else pain and want to take steps to relieve their suffering. (to suffer together) If someone was sick, Jesus saw their suffering, he felt their pain, and wanted to relieve it ---so He healed them. God loves His creation; He cares deeply for it. Because of this, He has compassion for all he has made, wanting to take their suffering away. I don't know about you, but that's the kind of friend I want to hang around. Someone who loves me and cares about me so much that He would want to make the wrong things right in my life. Prayer: Lord, I want you to make the wrong things right in my life. I know things won't be perfect until you come back, but I pray that you show your compassion to us even now. Heal the sick, Ease the suffering. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 3: Promised Land

Take it Home

(continued)

TIME WITH GOD

Use this as a 5-minute family devotion around the dinner table, or you can use it in your personal alone time with God.

Day 5: Read- Nahum 1:7 “The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him...”

What does refuge mean? A refuge is a shelter or protection from danger. Thankfully, it says here that the Lord has made Himself a shelter and place of protection for us. When we are scared, we can turn to Him to care for us, protect us, watch over us. Like a good father, He keeps us safe in His arms.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for keeping me safe in times of trouble. I want to feel your embrace, your peace, your protection over me. I ask that you would come and just squeeze me with your loving embrace even now! Wash over me with Your peace. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Notes:

“The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”

Genesis 17:8