
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 13, Bible Truth 2

The Case of the Really Bad Remember-ers Exodus 5-15,19-20,24; Numbers 13-14; Joshua 1-5

(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)

1. "It's time to go into the Promised Land," Moses told the people of Israel. But the people were scared. What if big enemies lived there? They could have trusted the LORD and remembered how He beat their other enemies. But instead, they sent out spies to check out the land.

2. Joshua, Caleb, and ten others were chosen to spy out the land. "Spy out the people. What are they like? What are their cities like? Spy out the land, too. Does it have trees? Is it good for farming?" Moses told them. "Be brave and bring us back some fruit," he said.

3. Off sneaked the spies into the Promised Land. What a good land it was! What delicious fruit they found! The men cut off a huge branch of grapes to carry back to Moses and the people. It was so big that it took two men to carry it. Yes, the land the LORD was giving them was very good.

4. But that's not all that was big in the Promised Land. There were fierce, giant people who lived in strong, walled cities and worshipped fake gods. They could easily beat the people of Israel and keep them out of the Promised Land. Oh, no!

5. The spies went back and told Moses and the people what they saw. "The land is beautiful and good, just as the LORD said," ten of the spies said. "But there are lots of enemies and they are too big for us. We shouldn't even try to take the land. If we do, we will all die!" they said.

6. The ten spies were bad remember-ers. They forgot the LORD and His promise to drive out their enemies. The people forgot, too. "GRRR" they were so angry with the LORD and Moses. Moses and Aaron bowed down and prayed for the people, begging Him to have mercy on His sinful people.

7. Then, Joshua and Caleb, the other, two spies, stood up and encouraged the people to remember the LORD and trust His promises. HE could beat these enemies. No one was too strong for Him!

8. But the people wouldn't listen. They picked up stones to throw at Moses and Aaron to kill them. Suddenly, the glory of the LORD appeared, and the LORD said, "You will wander in the wilderness for forty years, grow old, and die. Instead, I will take your children into the Promised Land."

9. So, Moses led the people out into the wilderness once more. All the adults died, except Joshua and Caleb, the two faithful spies. All the children grew up and became adults. The LORD made Joshua their new leader. At last, it was time to go into the Promised Land.

10. Once more, spies were sent out. Once more, they brought news of good fruit and fierce enemies. But THIS time, they remembered the LORD. "The people are mighty, their cities, strong, but they are scared of the LORD," the spies said. "The LORD has surely given us this land!"

11. "Yes! I will go before you. I'll fight your enemies. You'll even cross the Jordan River on dry ground," the LORD promised. This time, the people trusted and believed. So, as the priests stepped out into the river, carrying the Ark, the LORD held back the waters and made a path on dry ground.

12. When everyone was safely across, the LORD had the people take twelve river stones and stack them up. "These stones will help you remember Me, the one, true God who brought you into Canaan on dry ground," He said. Then, the people bowed down and worshipped the LORD.

13. Yes, there was a land of fierce enemies to face in the Promised Land. But this time, the people would remember the LORD and trust in His promises. He would help them defeat their enemies. He would give them this beautiful Promised Land. And the LORD did just that, just as He promised.