

*Get Ready!***Preparing For Leadership**

By: Nikki Green

**Text**

Exodus 17:18-6, Numbers 13, 14:26-45, Joshua 1

**Key Quest Verse**

“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” Deuteronomy 31:8 (NIV)

**Bible Background**

The Israelites had been held in Egypt for 400 years as slaves. Moses led them out of Egypt and to freedom and toward the land promised by God to them ... a land flowing with milk and honey. The Israelites traveled and almost entered the Promised Land but did not trust in God and were disobedient in conquering Canaan as He had commanded them to. God condemned Israel to wander in the desert for 40 years. No adult that had been disobedient to God in not conquering Canaan would enter the Promised Land. All those that left Egypt would be dead and only those children who had heard the stories would be allowed to follow Joshua and enter what God had promised Abraham and his people the Israelites. Moses was one hundred and twenty years old and climbed to the top of Mount Nebo. God pointed across to the Promised Land and Moses knew he would not lead the Israelites there. The leadership was turned over to Joshua in front of all the Israelite people ... Joshua's name originally was Hoshea (Numbers 13:16) but Moses changed it. We can compare Joshua to David: both went into the land of giants and trusted God that they would be protected, both were military leaders; Joshua taking possession of the land God promised his people and David reconquering it. This great leader would accomplish what Moses did not. Joshua is one of the greatest military leaders of all times. He was Moses' assistant and then his successor. His basic training was living with Moses-experiencing first hand what it meant to lead God's people. He led the Israelites into the Promised Land.

*Get Ready!***Lesson Quest**

God is with me. He is an encourager, He is loving and loyal, and He wants me to feel secure. I can be strong and brave with God on my side.

**What I want my students to:**

**Know:** God is with me and will never leave me.

**Feel:** Courage and safety with God.

**Do:** Trust God.

**Leader's Devotion**

Numbers 11:28 tells us Joshua had been Moses' aide since youth. What an awesome upbringing. Attending "The Moses Academy of Great Leaders" was a gift among gifts. God certainly knew what He was doing. Joshua's background and rearing reminds me of Moses' early life. Moses was given a start in the Pharaoh's palace, where he learned how to take charge and lead people. After he spent forty years of learning and leading as a royal Egyptian, he had to learn how to survive in a desert atmosphere as a shepherd. Moses was married and lived as a shepherd the next forty years of his life. After God called him at the burning bush, he had to use every skill he could muster. He had to apply his intelligence, strong-will, faith, and leadership to get the Israelites out of Egypt. Once they rebelled and were sentenced to forty years of wandering in the desert, he had to use his shepherding skills once more. The education God was giving him in the role of leadership was a lot of on the job training. That training never ended, it was simply passed to Joshua. God equipped Moses for the life he would lead, just as He prepared Joshua for his future endeavors. What a blessing to see two great leaders of the Bible work together for the good of God's people.



# Get Set!

## Option A

### POWER HOUR

**Materials:** Working outlet, a ping-pong ball, hairdryer (plug in and set it aside)

**Procedure:** Who can tell me what God's power is called? It is called the Holy Spirit. God has given His power to many people in the Bible to do great things. The Bible describes Joshua as a man with God's Spirit. (Numbers 27:18). I have a hairdryer with me today. This hairdryer can produce a lot of power. Let's pretend the hairdryer is God and the power it generates is the Holy Spirit. Show ping-pong ball. This will represent a man. Our man will have God pouring His Holy Spirit onto him. Turn the hairdryer on high and place the ball on the current of air. The ball will hover there. **Look at the power holding this man (our ball) up. You'll notice he is getting a bit of a bumpy ride.** The ball will bounce on the air current. Turn your hairdryer slightly from side to side, the ball will follow. **See how God is staying with him. Now if we turn too far away from God, guess what will happen?** Turn your hairdryer to the side. The ball will fall. Turn hairdryer off. **Life isn't always a smooth ride. There are many bumps in our roads. We must stay as close to God as possible though, or we will fall, just as our ball fell. When we are baptized we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2: 38). God distributes it according to His will (Hebrews 1:4). I think Joshua was given a mega dose!**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY



*Get Set!*

**Option B**

---

**Materials:** One 1-liter plastic bottle with tight fitting cap, pitcher of very warm water, bowl of ice water, and an empty pitcher.

Fill the 1-liter bottle with very warm water. **Let's pretend this bottle is a man. I've just filled him full of faith. That faith is in God and the power He has. Now the man is becoming afraid. Let's dump out his faith.** Pour the warm water into your empty pitcher. Twist the cap back on the bottle. **Have you ever been afraid and started to shake. When I work with ice water too long, I start to shake. Let's put our man in the ice water and see what happens.** The bottle collapses. **The Lord commanded Moses to send twelve spies to explore the land of Canaan. God said He would give this land to them. After seeing the giants and luscious food in Canaan, the spies brought back their reports. Two spies named Joshua and Caleb brought back their report about the great land. They had tremendous faith and were ready for battle. Ten of the spies came back with a different report. They were afraid of the giants and did not believe they could win a battle against this city. Their faith collapsed just like our bottle. We need to have the faith of Joshua and Caleb.**

**GO TO THE BIBLE STORY**

**Get Set!****Bible Story**

**Materials:** One vase with water, an artificial flower, and a real flower

See my beautiful flowers? Who can tell me any differences between these two flowers? Pause for their observations. **Both are sitting in water, but one is fake. Like our artificial flower, some Christians are fake. They look like real Christians. They go to church on Sundays, but God can look at them and tell the difference.** Have a volunteer come forward to smell both flowers. **How does the real flower smell? What about the artificial flower?** Now have someone feel the petals of each flower. **Do they feel different? Does one feel softer than the other? Which one feels stiff? Real Christians are like our real flower. They are standing in God's living water. They look like Christians by coming to church every Sunday. They also spend their week serving and pleasing God. They are not dead like our fake flowers. They are very much alive and will receive eternal life.**

We are going to learn about two *very real* men of God. Moses and Joshua were far from fake. Moses was given an enormous responsibility. God put him in charge of leading His people out of Egypt and slavery. They had been in Egypt over 400 years. He was to take them to the land God had promised them, a land flowing with milk and honey (Ex. 3:8). Moses appointed a personal aide. This position went to Hoshea, son of Nun. Moses changed Hoshea's name to Joshua (Num. 13:16). Joshua means "the Lord saves". Joshua was a military man with a great loyalty to Moses and God. He was perfect for this position. Soon after the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, a group of "bad guys" called Amalekites attacked them. Moses told Joshua to choose men and go fight them. Moses told him, he would stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in his hands. Joshua went to battle as he was ordered. Moses, Aaron (Moses' brother), and a man named Hur went to the top of the hill. Moses lifted his hand, just as he had done to part the Red Sea. This time, however, he had to keep his hands held high. As long as Moses held his hands up, the Israelites were winning. Whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites would start winning. As Moses grew tired, Aaron and Hur placed a stone under him as a seat. Then the two men stood on either side of Moses and helped hold his hands up. At sunset Joshua and his army won.

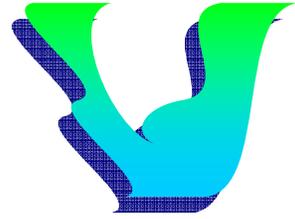
Joshua accompanied Moses part way up Mount Sinai, when Moses went up to get the Ten Commandments. Joshua was not involved in the worship of the golden calf. He was still part way up the Mountain of God, waiting for Moses to return to him when that was going on. Joshua didn't realize it, but he was in training to be the next leader of the Israelites. God was preparing him for his future job by letting him work closely with the current leader. Moses had a tent outside the camp, called the "tent of meeting." Anyone wishing to inquire of the Lord would go there. Whenever Moses went into this tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while God would speak to Moses. When Moses had finished speaking with God, he would leave the tent, but Joshua did not leave the tent. Moses may have given his aide the responsibility of guarding the tent at all times.

**Get Set!****Bible Story**

The Israelites were getting close to Canaan land, the first area God was promising to give. God told Moses to send twelve men to Canaan land. They were to bring back a report of the land. The twelve men chosen were all leaders; there was one from each of the twelve tribes of Israel. Joshua was among the chosen to explore the land. These twelve men spied on the land of Canaan for forty days. The spies cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. The grapes were huge; they had to place them on a pole between two men for the trip back to camp. They also brought pomegranates and figs to show Moses. When the men arrived back at camp, they began telling Moses about the land they had explored. They told him it surely was a land flowing with milk and honey. They showed him the awesome food the land had produced. Then some of the men began telling Moses that the people who lived there were giants. They looked like grasshoppers compared to the Canaanites, they told Moses. They told him how large and well fortified the city was. Caleb and Joshua, two of the spies, were ready to go take over the land. Ten of the spies did not believe they could win against these giants. The ten spies who didn't trust God to give them this land began stirring up trouble in the camp. Moses, Aaron, Caleb, and Joshua stood in front of the whole assembly of Israelites and tried to tell them to trust God to give them this land. The people of Israel were talking about stoning these four men of God. God became furious with the unbelievers in the camp. He punished them for their disbelief and unfaithfulness. All of the Israelites would wander in the desert for the next forty years – one year for each of the forty days the men explored the land of Canaan. God then told them that no one twenty years old or more would enter the Promised Land except for Joshua and Caleb. Moses had once called the Israelites a stiff-necked, wicked people after they had been caught worshipping the golden calf. I think some of them could fall in that category now. Does our fake flower and its stiffness remind you of “fake” believers like these?

After many deaths and forty long years, Moses laid his hands on Joshua and announced to the whole assembly of Israelites that he would succeed Moses in leading the people. Moses told them, “I am now a hundred and twenty years old and I am no longer able to lead you.” (Deut. 31:2) Moses wanted to at least look at the land God had promised his people. God allowed him to climb up Mount Nebo and look across at the land. After seeing the land, Moses died. God buried him on Mount Nebo and no one knows where his grave is to this day.

After Moses died, God said to Joshua, “Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them.” (Joshua 1:6) God gave Joshua orders and much encouragement. Just as He was with Moses, He would now be with Joshua. Joshua had the perfect preparation for this job. God allowed him to work beside one of the greatest leaders of all time. His on the job training was just what he needed to live out his next adventure. Joshua didn't have anything fake about him; he was the real deal! Hold up real flower.

**Go!****Victory From God****GAME**

**Materials:** Watch with a second hand (optional), and students with strong arms!

**Quest Connection**

We're going to have a victory contest. Has anyone ever seen the big sign for victory? Make a V with your arms.

**Procedure:** Have children stand up. Show them with your arms. **Arms up! Let's see who can hold their arms in this position the longest. They have to stay in a V, don't let them fall. No scratching noses!** (Optional: Time them for more excitement). **While we compete for the strongest arms, let me tell you of a time this sign truly meant Victory.**

**Close**

Joshua was Moses' aide. God was preparing him to eventually lead the Israelites. Some bad guys (called the Amalekites) attacked God's people, and Moses sent Joshua to lead the battle against them. As Joshua fought the war with his hands, Moses fought with his hands in a different way from on top of a hill. As long as Moses kept his hands raised to the Lord, the Israelites would win. When Moses' hands would fall, God's people would begin to lose. As Moses grew tired, his hands would droop. Eventually Moses' men put a stone under him, for him to sit on. Two men then, held Moses' hands up. They helped hold his hands up until sunset when they ultimately had Victory! Congratulate the winner. (Exodus 17:8-16)

**Go!****Reflect Radiance****SCIENCE**

**Materials:** Compact mirror, working flashlight, and dark room.

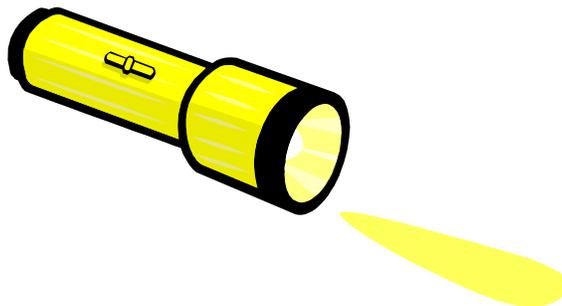
**Quest Connection**

When people don't know or trust in God, they are in the dark. Their fears can begin to creep up and they often feel alone. God created the light. We know the glory of God gives off so much light that in the Kingdom there will be no need for the sun or moon. (Rev. 21:23). When Moses came down from Mount Sinai from getting the Ten Commandments, he did not realize his face was radiant with light because he had spoken with the Lord. (Exodus 34:29). Could you imagine being so close to God that your face actually "lit up"? We should all strive to trust God and be near to him.

**Procedure:** Sit children in a circle. Turn the lights off. Show your flashlight. **God is our flashlight today. My goal is to be the mirror that reflects God's light and shines into the darkness.** Shine the light into your mirror and reflect it toward a dark corner. **We want to shine Him onto other Christians as encouragement also.** Begin reflecting the light onto each student. **Like Moses I want to radiate with a light that could only come from God.** Say each student's name as you shine (reflect) the light onto them.

**Close**

This light doesn't originate from me, but from God. Our job is to reflect God's light onto others. We can try to mirror Moses, but the only human ever perfect and without sin was Jesus. Mirror Him and make God want to smile into that mirror of yours. Let's all strive to reflect radiance.



**Go!****Fear Factor****GAME**

**Materials:** Blindfold, mouse traps, Jell-O, paper plates, spoons, diapers, water, masking tape, and chairs.

**Preparation:** Make Jell-O and place a little bit on a paper plate. Fill a few diapers with water and loosely close them. Set a few mousetraps (you can tie them open with fishing line or string if you like). Place tape across two chairs so that someone will be able to crawl under tape bridge without touching it. Set these items up in an obstacle course/maze. Lay masking tape as a path for the child to follow. Place obstacle items beside the path for them to avoid. Place a few things on the tape path. Have a hidden plate of Jell-O and a spoon at the end of the course.

**Quest Connection**

**What do you guys think of this “FEAR FACTOR” path? Who thinks they could make it through the course without getting snapped by a mousetrap, dirty from wet diapers, or slimed with Jell-O? The real Fear Factor here is, whom can you trust? I need a volunteer.**

**Procedure:** Choose one person. **Now, you must choose a person you trust to be your guide. You will be blindfolded and your guide will give you directions.** Have the class stand by and watch. Blindfold and stand your volunteer at the beginning of the path. The guide may move wherever needed. **Go!** Keep your class silent until the volunteer is half way through the course. Half way through, tell the class to start helping with directions. After a few minutes of chaos, ask them to be quiet again and leave the directions to the “guide.” Once the volunteer gets to the end, say **open wide, I have one last fear for you to overcome. Do you trust me?** Feed them a spoon full of Jell-O. Take the blindfold off and congratulate the volunteer and guide.

**Close**

We will face many obstacles and fears during our lifetimes. Joshua had to travel from Egypt as a slave, to a 40-year wandering in the desert. He was then put in charge of leading God's people into war, and a new land. He had quite a path to follow. We all know who his guide was, don't we? God. When he listened to God, his path seemed uncomplicated. When the people around him decided fear was a factor, life became more chaotic for Joshua. They didn't want to enter the Promised Land, and that led to a 40-year obstacle course. Don't let fear be a factor in your life. Trust God!

*Go!***Good Sport Report****GAME**

**Materials:** Watch with a second hand, index cards and a pen.

**Preparation:** Put one word from our story on each index card. Examples: Joshua, Moses, grapes, giants, spies, grasshoppers, hands, stone, Promised Land, Caleb, report, war.

**Quest Connection**

**Procedure:** Choose 2 (outgoing) team leaders, who will be the ones answering questions. Split your class in half and assign them to a team leader, or you could have boys versus girls. Hand each team leader a stack of cards. Every card must have a different word. Have each leader take turns holding their top card toward their team. Time them for 30 seconds. The leader can only ask “yes” and “no” questions. They may ask as many questions as they like, but their teammates can only answer “yes” or “no”. Once their time is up, the other team takes a turn. If they answer right, they can flip to the next card. If they can’t get it, they can say, “pass”. The team who’s leader gets the most right, wins.

**Close**

We’ve learned a lot from Joshua’s leadership, but the main thing we’ve been taught is to trust God in our daily lives.

**Go!**



### I Spy

#### ARTS/CRAFTS

**Materials:** Two toilet paper rolls per child, string, black construction paper, scissors, and tape.

**Preparation:** Cut string to approximately 40 inches for each child. If time permits, precut black paper to 4 ½ x 6 inches, two for each child.

If unable to do this craft for each student, you could make one and still play the “I Spy Game.”

### Quest Connection

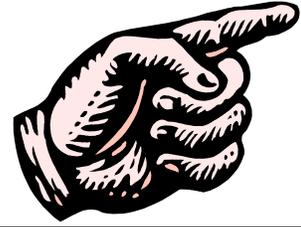
**Procedure:** Have children tape black paper around toilet paper rolls. Next they must tape them together, applying a small piece of tape to the inside of both, on each end. Put string through each roll and tie ends together to form a neck strap.

**God had Moses and Joshua both send spies to the land they would soon conquer. Many times we think spying is a bad thing, but this was something God planned for His people. Let’s play the old “I spy with my little eye” game with a twist.**

**Game:** Children can hang their binoculars around their necks, then form a circle. The teacher will need a pair of binoculars as well. This spy game will not focus on objects around the room, but people. Try to focus on something unique about a person’s background or personality, if you are able. For instance, “I spy with my binoculars ... someone who owns a brown dog.” You may have to give several hints. You can always go to their characteristics, or appearance as well. You could spy their eye color, the color they are wearing, their considerate attitude, their helpful personality, etc. The fun part will be using your binoculars to stare at someone other than whom you are spying on. After a while, you could look at the person you are spying on, and confuse everyone. The teacher should start and take several turns to show how this new version will be played. Then let the students take turns. Whoever guesses correctly will be the next to spy.

### Close

**The spying in our game concentrated on “good spying”. This spying pleases God. He wants us to know and appreciate each other. Keep your binoculars hunting for other’s admirable characteristics and personalities.**

**Go!****Follow the Leader****MEMORY WORK****Materials:** None**Quest Connection**

In this game you will follow the leader, just like the Israelites followed Moses, and then Joshua. Let's practice making decisions as a leader just like Moses and Joshua had to do.

**Procedure:** Have everyone sit in a circle facing each other. I will start, then we will move like a clock around the circle until I have to follow my own motion. The next leader is the person to my left. You can do anything silly or goofy for people to follow, but you must remain seated, and you must say the memory verse. For example, you could hold your nose and recite the verse. You could recite the verse using fish lips. You could sing the verse. You could snap your fingers or clap as you say the verse. After everyone gets a turn as leader, you are done.

**Tip:** You may want to shorten this verse for the game.

**Close**

Was it hard to think of some way to lead the others? Leadership is not always easy, knowing which way to go and what decisions to make. But God is there to help us lead others to His Son, just like He was there to guide Moses and Joshua.

# Were you prepared?

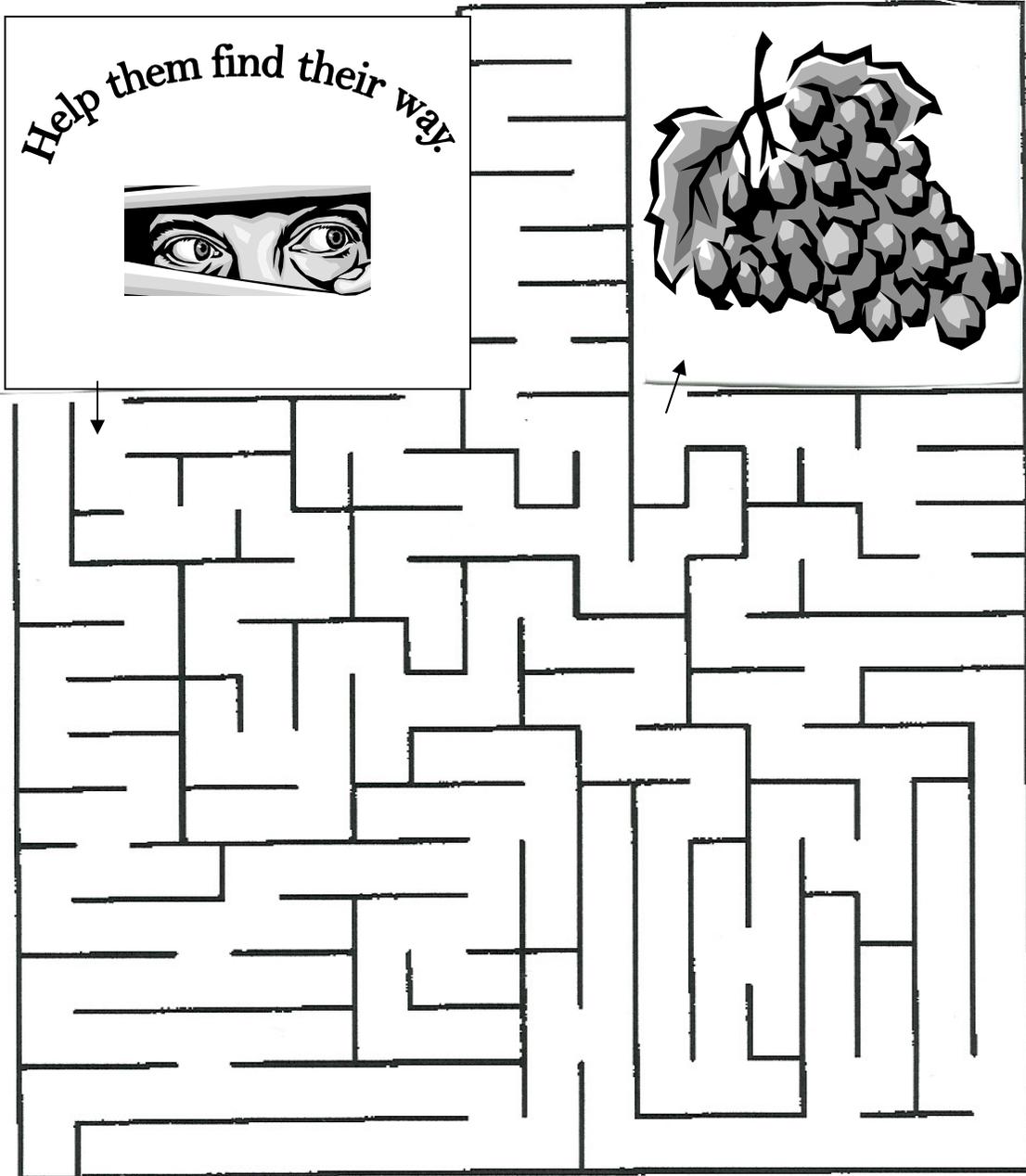
|                  |                                |                     |
|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Went on vacation | Went to a wedding              | Went camping        |
| Went on a picnic | Stayed overnight with a friend | Went swimming       |
| Played a sport   | Went to a birthday party       | Helped make cookies |
| Went to church   | Went to school                 | Had a friend over   |

## Scavenger Hunt

Goal: Get as many classmates to sign in your boxes as possible. Your teacher may set a timer for five minutes. Try to get each person in your class to put their name in at least one box. Your teacher can sign her (or his) name too.

After the game ends, talk about how you prepare for each activity on this page. In our story, Joshua also had to be prepared. God expected him to lead his people into the land He had promised them. He had to prepare to be a leader, and prepare for battle.

# What did the twelve spies find?



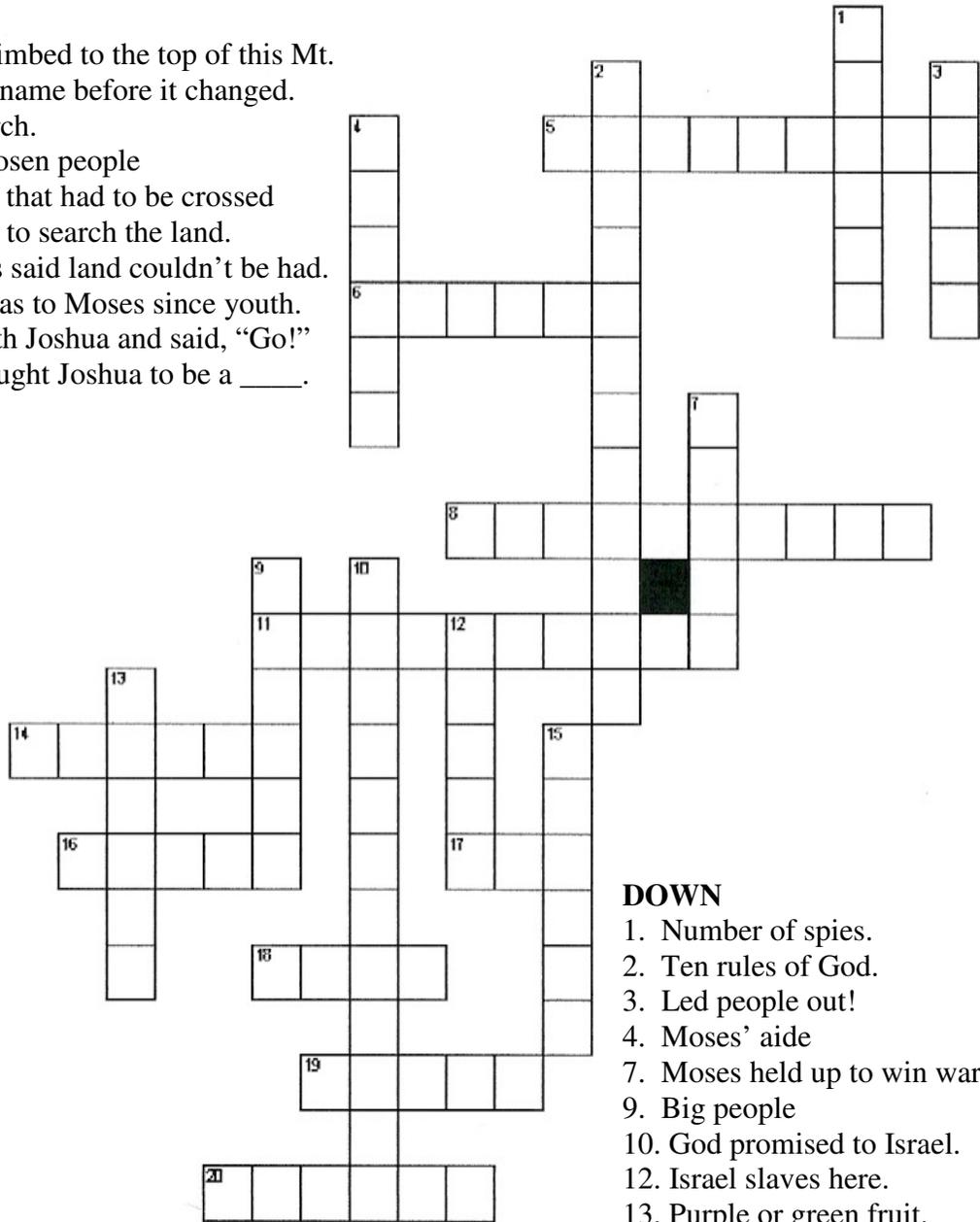
Number of good spies? \_\_\_\_\_

Number of bad spies? \_\_\_\_\_

# How well do you know Joshua?

## ACROSS

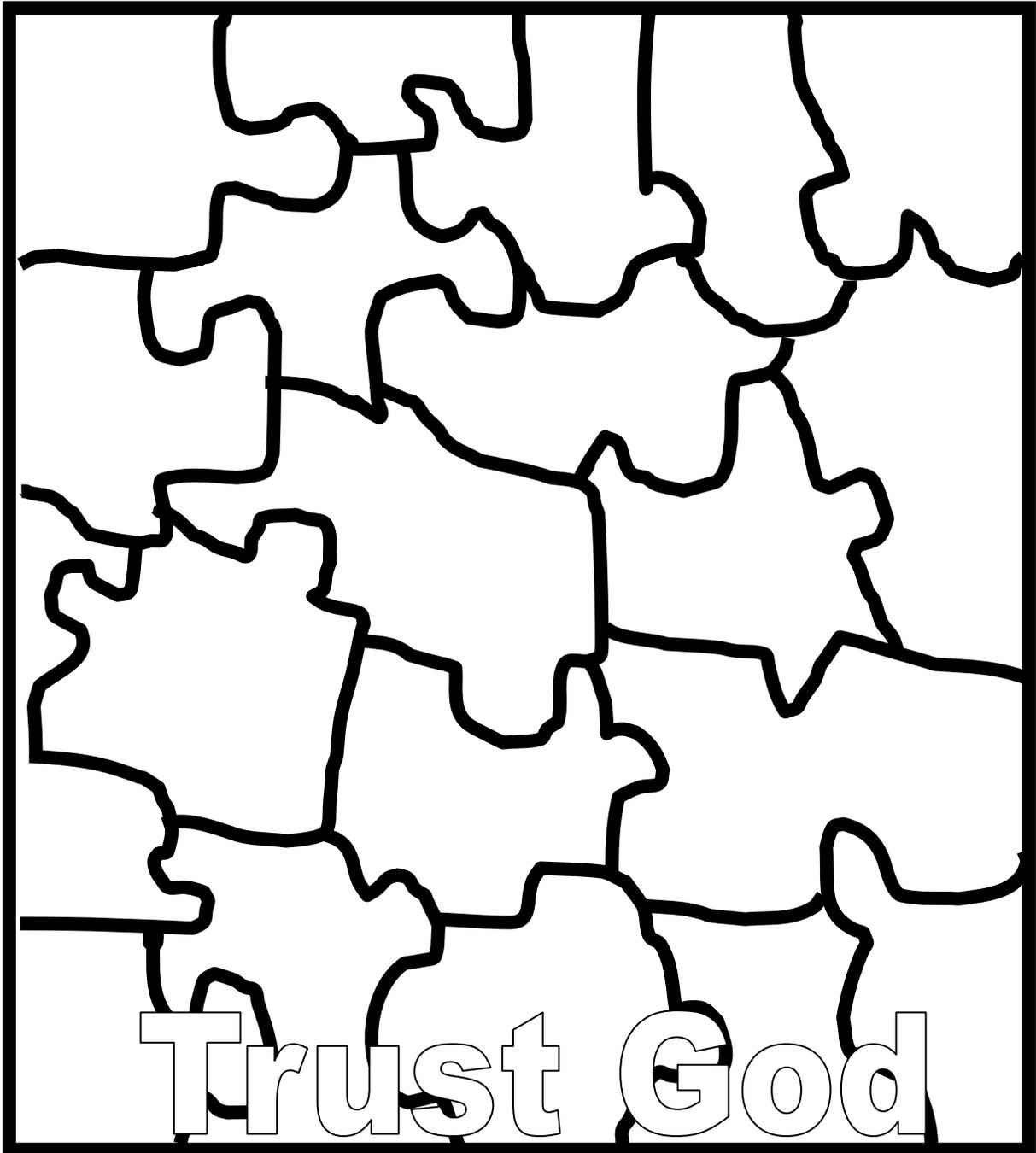
5. Moses climbed to the top of this Mt.
6. Joshua's name before it changed.
8. Tent church.
11. God's chosen people
14. The river that had to be crossed
16. Men sent to search the land.
17. # of spies said land couldn't be had.
18. Joshua was to Moses since youth.
19. Spied with Joshua and said, "Go!"
20. Moses taught Joshua to be a \_\_\_\_.



## DOWN

1. Number of spies.
2. Ten rules of God.
3. Led people out!
4. Moses' aide
7. Moses held up to win war.
9. Big people
10. God promised to Israel.
12. Israel slaves here.
13. Purple or green fruit.
15. Also known as Promised Land.

# Your Personal Puzzle



Draw and color a giant on your puzzle. Draw a little man beside him.  
Cut your puzzle apart and keep pieces in zipper top baggie.

# WORD SEARCH

J C D V S B Z S C Z S Y A R P  
M O S E S P R V T R E D A E L  
M U R H O X I E M N P Q G T V  
U R A D K T M E J L A T Z R Y  
T A T I A Y N O S H R I K U Z  
C G X Q K N S H Z B G Z G S N  
U E I E A H R K N S C E P T O  
Q S V S U B Z I I P Q T W Q R  
E A Y A N G T N V I Y G I Q N  
C R G W N S A U X E B E Y N L  
E M I O X N R I Q K R C B D Z  
A P R O M I S E D L A N D O Z  
N T J P Z F J S X L K K X G M  
S F O C A M K S E B Z D F Y K  
X B D X P S A B T R A B J E R

CALEB  
GOD  
JOSHUA  
OBEY  
SPIES

COURAGE  
GRAPES  
LEADER  
PRAY  
STRONG

GIANTS  
JORDANRIVER  
MOSES  
PROMISEDLAND  
TRUST

**J-Just O-Obedient S-Spy H-Honest U-Usable A-Assistant**

**What does your first name stand for?  
Write all the letters from your first name.  
Write your letters top to bottom.**

**Write words that describe you, beside your letters.**

**Journal Page**

# Answers to Crossword Puzzle

## ACROSS

5. Mount Nebo
6. Hoshea
8. Tabernacle
11. Israelites
14. Jordan
16. spies
17. ten
18. aide
19. Caleb
20. leader

## DOWN

1. Twelve
2. Commandments
3. Moses
4. Joshua
7. hands
9. giants
10. Promised Land
12. Egypt
13. grapes