

Sunday school lesson – Upper Primary

BIG IDEA	Trust and obey God, even when its hard
Bible Reading	Numbers 13-14
Preparation	<p>Read Numbers 13 & 14 and Hebrews 3:7 - 4:11. The Israelites had made it to the verge of Canaan. God had been faithful, despite their constant complaints and rebellion. The Israelites now face a new challenge, the land is occupied by people that are stronger than they are, who live in fortified cities. Humanly speaking, they cannot possibly win. But God reiterates his promise to give them the land (Numbers 13:1). Joshua and Caleb believe this and are convinced that they will be victorious because God is on their side (Numbers 14:8-9). The rest of the Israelites however, balk at the difficulties, and once again complain against God and express their wish to return to Egypt. Hebrews 3 & 4 gives an insightful commentary on the situation. Both the Israelites and the Hebrews had heard and knew the truth about God. In some sense, they were part of God’s community of rescued people. But by turning away and being disobedient when life became hard, the Israelites revealed that their hearts were not committed to following God, and in the end, they missed out on entering God’s rest. The Hebrews were at risk of the same fate. Just being part of a church, or even professing faith, is not enough. Only those who endure to the end will be shown to be genuine believers. This passage is an encouragement to persevere through hardship – God’s rest awaits those who do. But also, a warning that if we make a practice of choosing easy disobedience over faithful obedience, we may miss out on God’s rest.</p> <p>Take home message: Choose to keep obeying God, even when it’s hard. He can be trusted to bring you through and to his eternal home.</p> <p>Prepare for “Getting Started”: Pictures of a wheelbarrow and Niagara Falls</p>
Getting Started	Talk about the story Charles Blondin (https://www.creativebiblestudy.com/Blondin-story.html). How could you tell if someone really believed he could do what he said?
Finding Out 1. The challenge and the promise (Exodus 13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What was the problem that the Israelites faced while they were in the desert? What did they say to God? How did God provide for them?</i> ➤ The Israelites kept travelling, and finally they made it across the desert and all the way to their new home, Canaan! <p>Read Numbers 13:1-2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What did God command Moses? What did God say he would do?</i> ➤ The spies spent 40 days travelling around the country of Canaan and then returned to report back to the other Israelites. <p>Read Numbers 13:26-27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What was the land like?</i> <p>Read Exodus 3:17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: How does this compare to what God said the land would be like?</i> ➤ God had kept his promise and brought them to their new home. It was exactly the way he said it would be. <p>Read Numbers 13:28-33</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What was the problem?</i>

<p>2. Response (Exodus 14:1-10)</p> <p>3. Judgement (Exodus 14:11-44)</p>	<p>➤ There were big strong people in the country, and they had big thick walls around their cities. The people of Canaan were stronger than the Israelites.</p> <p>Read Numbers 14:1-4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Q: How did the Israelites respond to the news brought back by the spies?</i>• <i>Q: Does this remind you about how the Israelites have responded to difficulty in the past?</i> <p>➤ Even though the Israelites had seen God overcome challenges and provide for them again and again in the past, they still doubted his ability to look after them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Q: What had God done to show his ability to look after them in the past?</i> <p>Read Numbers 14:5-9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Q: Why did Caleb and Joshua tell the people not to be afraid?</i> <p>➤ They knew that God was with them, and not with the Canaanites. Even though the Canaanites looked big and strong, they were nothing compared to God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Q: How do you think God felt about how the Israelites responded?</i> <p>Read Numbers 14:26-35</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Q: How were the Israelites punished for their rebellion against God?</i> <p>➤ How tragic! The Israelites had escaped from Egypt and gotten to the very border of their promised new home. But because they refused to trust God and obey him, they never got to enjoy their new home. Instead they spent the rest of their lives wandering around in the desert.</p> <p>➤ <i>Q: How would life have been different for them if they had chosen to trust that God? (Relate back to "Getting Started" discussion)</i></p>
<p>So What?</p>	<p>➤ The bible tells us that we can end up doing exactly the same thing.</p> <p>Read Hebrews 3:7-11</p> <p>➤ The Hebrew Christians were reminded here about what happened to their ancestors many years ago. They missed out on entering the promised land ("God's rest") because they had disobeyed God.</p> <p>Read Hebrews 3:12-13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Q: How can we be like the Israelites?</i> <p>➤ Remember that the Israelites had been rescued by God and seen what he was like and everything that he could do. They said they belonged to God's people, but when it became hard to follow God, they decided life would be better and easier not following him.</p> <p>➤ Even if we say we are following God, if we keep refusing to obey him and do what is right when its hard, we show that we are not true followers, and risk missing out on "God's rest" - getting to spend eternity with him.</p> <p>➤ Talk about situations that are hard to face as Christians.</p> <p>➤ In each situation you are faced with a choice (just like the Israelites had a choice at the edge of Canaan). You can believe that God is with you, and follow and obey him, even though its hard. God promises that if you do, you will enter his rest in the end. Or, you can believe the lie that life is easier and better if we don't have to obey and follow God, but you will miss out on entering God's rest.</p>
<p>Memory Verse</p>	<p><i>Matthew 28:20b</i> Surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.</p>

Sunday school lesson – Lower Primary

BIG IDEA	Trust and obey God, even when its hard
Bible Reading	Numbers 13-14
Preparation	<p>Read Numbers 13 & 14 and Hebrews 3:7 - 4:11. The Israelites had made it to the verge of Canaan. God had been faithful, despite their constant complaints and rebellion. The Israelites now face a new challenge, the land is occupied by people that are stronger than they are, who live in fortified cities. Humanly speaking, they cannot possibly win. But God reiterates his promise to give them the land (Numbers 13:1). Joshua and Caleb believe this and are convinced that they will be victorious because God is on their side (Numbers 14:8-9). The rest of the Israelites however, balk at the difficulties, and once again complain against God and express their wish to return to Egypt. Hebrews 3 & 4 gives an insightful commentary on the situation. Both the Israelites and the Hebrews had heard and knew the truth about God. In some sense, they were part of God’s community of rescued people. But by turning away and being disobedient when life became hard, the Israelites revealed that their hearts were not committed to following God, and in the end, they missed out on entering God’s rest. The Hebrews were at risk of the same fate. Just being part of a church, or even professing faith, is not enough. Only those who endure to the end will be shown to be genuine believers. This passage is an encouragement to persevere through hardship – God’s rest awaits those who do. But also, a warning that if we make a practice of choosing easy disobedience over faithful obedience, we may miss out on God’s rest.</p> <p>Take home message: Choose to keep obeying God, even when it’s hard. He can be trusted to bring you through and to his eternal home.</p> <p>Prepare for “Getting Started”: Pictures of a wheelbarrow and Niagara Falls</p>
Getting Started	Talk about the story Charles Blondin (https://www.creativebiblestudy.com/Blondin-story.html). How could you tell if someone really believed he could do what he said?
Finding Out 1. The challenge and the promise (Exodus 13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What was the problem that the Israelites faced while they were in the desert? What did they say to God? How did God provide for them?</i> ➤ The Israelites kept travelling, and finally they made it across the desert and all the way to their new home, Canaan! <p>Read Numbers 13:1-2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Q: What did God tell Moses to do?</i> ➤ Moses sent some men into their new country to find out what it was like. ➤ <i>Act out walking around to find out what was in the country. Comment on the food, the trees, the people. Note that the land is very beautiful, with lots of nice food. But the people are very big and strong.</i> ➤ Finally, after 40 days, they came back to report back to Moses and the people <p>Read Numbers 13:26-27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What was the land like?</i> • <i>Q: How do you think the Israelites felt about their new home?</i> ➤ But there was a problem!

<p>2. Response (Exodus 14:1-10)</p> <p>3. Judgement (Exodus 14:11-44)</p>	<p>Read Numbers 13:28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: <i>What was the problem?</i> • Q: <i>How do you think God's people felt about going into their new home now?</i> <p>Read Numbers 14:2-4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: <i>What did the Israelites say? What did they want to do?</i> • Q: <i>How does that remind you about how they had reacted in the past?</i> ➤ The Israelites said, "This is too hard! The people are too big and scary. There is no way that we can win. Let's go back to Egypt". ➤ They forgot that God was with them. And God is much bigger and stronger than anyone else. They didn't need to be afraid. • Q: <i>How had God shown that he was powerful and could look after them?</i> ➤ That is exactly what Caleb and Joshua said to them. Caleb and Joshua had been with the people who had explored the land. <p>Read Numbers 14:6-9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Q: <i>Do you think the people listened to Caleb and Joshua?</i> ➤ No. They wouldn't listen. They refused to go into their new home because they didn't believe that God was with them and could look after them. (Relate back to "Getting Started") discussion ➤ Q: <i>How do you think God felt about his people refusing to trust and obey him?</i> <p>Read Numbers 14:30-32</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Q: <i>How did God punish his people for not trusting him?</i> ➤ God told them that they would get what they wanted! None of them would be allowed to come in and enjoy their new home. Instead, they would have to go back to the desert and wander around in the desert for the rest of their lives. ➤ Q: <i>How do you think they felt about missing out on having a new home?</i> ➤ Q: <i>What would have happened if they had been brave and obeyed God and gone into the land with the big strong people?</i>
<p>So What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sometimes, following and obeying God can be hard. <i>Talk about ways it can be hard to follow and obey God.</i> ➤ But God promises to always be with you. You can be brave and obey him, because he is always with you, even when it's hard. • Q: <i>What happened to the Israelites when they decided that obeying God was too hard?</i> ➤ If we decide that obeying God is too hard, and its easier to live our lives they way we want to, then we will also miss out on the good things God promises to those who follow him. ➤ Pray that God would show us that he can help us to obey even when it's hard, and that even though following him can be hard, it is still the best way.
<p>Memory Verse</p>	<p><i>Matthew 28:20b</i> Surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.</p>

Sunday school lesson – Pre-School

BIG IDEA	Trust and obey God, even when its hard
Bible Reading	Numbers 13-14
Preparation	<p>Read Numbers 13 & 14 and Hebrews 3:7 - 4:11. The Israelites had made it to the verge of Canaan. God had been faithful, despite their constant complaints and rebellion. The Israelites now face a new challenge, the land is occupied by people that are stronger than they are, who live in fortified cities. Humanly speaking, they cannot possibly win. But God reiterates his promise to give them the land (Numbers 13:1). Joshua and Caleb believe this and are convinced that they will be victorious because God is on their side (Numbers 14:8-9). The rest of the Israelites however, balk at the difficulties, and once again complain against God and express their wish to return to Egypt. Hebrews 3 & 4 gives an insightful commentary on the situation. Both the Israelites and the Hebrews had heard and knew the truth about God. In some sense, they were part of God’s community of rescued people. But by turning away and being disobedient when life became hard, the Israelites revealed that their hearts were not committed to following God, and in the end, they missed out on entering God’s rest. The Hebrews were at risk of the same fate. Just being part of a church, or even professing faith, is not enough. Only those who endure to the end will be shown to be genuine believers. This passage is an encouragement to persevere through hardship – God’s rest awaits those who do. But also, a warning that if we make a practice of choosing easy disobedience over faithful obedience, we may miss out on God’s rest.</p> <p>Take home message: Choose to keep obeying God, even when it’s hard. He can be trusted to bring you through and to his eternal home.</p> <p>Prepare for “Getting Started”: Pictures to illustrate scenario – e.g. crossing a road.</p>
Getting Started	Talk about a situation that would be difficult and we can’t do by ourselves (e.g. crossing a busy road). What about if you have a grown up like your mum or dad with you, could you do it then? Talk about how some things we can’t do by ourselves but if we have someone bigger and stronger that we trust with us, then we can do it.
Finding Out 1. The challenge and the promise (Exodus 13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Remember the Israelites had escaped from Egypt and were travelling to the new home that God had promised them. But they had to travel through the desert • <i>Q: What did they say to God when they wanted more food?</i> • <i>Q: How did God provide food for them?</i> ➤ The Israelites kept travelling, and finally they made it across the desert and all the way to their new home, Canaan! <p>Read Numbers 13:2a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What did God tell Moses to do?</i> ➤ Moses sent some men into their new country to find out what it was like. He wanted to know what their cities were like, what food they ate, and what trees grew there. ➤ <i>Act out walking around to find out what was in the country. Comment on the food, the trees, the people. Note that the land is very beautiful, with lots of nice food. But the people are very big and strong.</i>

<p>2. Response (Exodus 14:1-10)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Finally, after 40 days, they came back to tell Moses and the people what the land was like. They told them it was a beautiful country with lots of lovely food. • <i>Q: How do you think God's people felt about their new home?</i> ➤ But there was a problem! The country was also full of big, strong, scary people. And their cities had big thick walls that you couldn't fight against. • <i>Q: How do you think God's people felt about going into their new home now?</i> <p>Read Numbers 14:4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What did God's people want to do?</i> ➤ God's people said, "This is too hard! The people are too big and scary. There is no way that we can win. Let's go back to Egypt". ➤ They forgot that God was with them. And God is much bigger and stronger than anyone else. They didn't need to be afraid. ➤ That is exactly what two people said to them. Caleb and Joshua had been with the people who had gone to explore the land. They said to the people, "Our new home is beautiful. It has lots of good food. God has promised that he will give us this land as our new home. God is with us and God is big and strong. We don't need to be afraid." • <i>Q: Do you think the people listened to Caleb and Joshua?</i> ➤ No. They wouldn't listen. They refused to go into their new home because they didn't believe that God would keep them safe.
<p>3. Judgement (Exodus 14:11-44)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: How do you think God felt about his people refusing to trust and obey him?</i> <p>Read Numbers 14:30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: How did God punish his people for not trusting him?</i> ➤ God told them that they would get what they wanted! None of them would be allowed to come in and enjoy their new home. Instead, they would have to go back to the desert and wander around in the desert for the rest of their lives. • <i>Q: How do you think they felt about missing out on having a new home?</i> • <i>Q: What would have happened if they had been brave and obeyed God and gone into the land with the big strong people?</i>
<p>So What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sometimes, following and obeying God can be hard. But God promises to always be with you. You can be brave and obey him, because he is always with you, even when it's hard. ➤ Talk about situations where it is hard to obey God and how God can help us (e.g. when parents tell you to do something you don't want to, or when you don't want to share) ➤ God knows it can be hard to follow and obey him, but he is big and strong, and can help us even when it's hard (relate back to "Getting Started" activity). ➤ Pray that we wouldn't be like the Israelites, who decided it was too hard to obey God, but instead that we would remember that God is big and strong and can be trusted, and that God would help us to obey.
<p>Memory Verse</p>	<p><i>Matthew 28:20b</i> Surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.</p>