



Photo: World Outreach Church

## LESSON OBJECTIVE

In Bible times, God's children lived in "the land of milk and honey" that God had promised to them.

Today we need to learn about Israel and God's people by educating ourselves and trusting in the truth of His Word, the Bible.



## MEMORY VERSE

*Guide me in your truth  
and teach me, for you are  
God my Savior...*

PSALM 25:5

# Israel

## The Land of Milk and Honey

*For grades K-5*

## Let's Play Telephone!

Before the children arrive, print a half dozen "messages" on index cards with tongue-twisters, or other silly messages. Make sure you have two sets of cards.

As the children come in, divide them into two teams and have them sit in two lines.

### Introduction

We're going to play a game called "Telephone." The object of the game is to pass along a silly message the clearest!

The first person in each line will whisper the message to the second person, who will then pass along what he or she heard to the next person, and so on. We'll see which team comes closest to passing along the original message!

### What Did We Learn?

Wow! We got some pretty mixed-up messages, didn't we?

It's fun sharing silly messages, but when we have an important message to share, we need to make sure everyone can understand what we're saying, and that the information we're sharing is true.

Knowing the truth is very important! God wants us to know the facts and the truth about His land and His people so we can help educate others about Israel, too! It's like our Telephone game. God tells us, and then we can tell others!

**Here are some sample messages you could use:**

Twelve twins twirled  
twelve twigs.

Five frantic frogs fled  
from fifty fierce fishes.

Bake big batches of  
bitter brown bread.

She sells seashells  
by the seashore.

A big black bug bit  
the big black bear.

Four furious friends  
fought for the phone.

Our Bible story today takes place when the children of Israel were still in the desert. Moses wanted to know more information about the land God promised to Abraham. He sent 12 spies into the land to find out information. Let's find out what happened when the spies returned and gave their reports to Moses.

## Bible Story—God's People Return (Numbers 13 & 14)

God told Moses, *"Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, the land I am giving to the Israelites"* (Numbers 13:2). So, Moses chose one man from each of the 12 tribes of Israel and gave them these instructions:

*"Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land"* (NUMBERS 13:17–20).

This would be good information for the people to learn about their new home, right?

So the spies set out and explored the land, about 500 miles from south to north and back again. When they reached the valley of Eshkol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. It was so big and so heavy that two men had to carry it on a pole between them!



After 40 days, the 12 spies came back to Moses with their report. First, they gave Moses and the people the good news: *"We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit"* (NUMBERS 13:27).

Then they shared the bad news: *"But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are*

*fortified and very large"* (NUMBERS 13:28). They told Moses and the people that there was no way the Israelites could defeat these powerful armies and conquer these strong cities.

Only one of the spies spoke up at first. One of the 12 spies named Caleb tried to encourage the people, saying, *"We should go and take possession of the land. We can do it!"*

But ten of the spies were too afraid. They told the Israelites, *"We can't attack these people. It can't be done. They are stronger than us, they are bigger than us. We look like grasshoppers to them."* All the people believed the 10 spies and began to cry and moan, *"Oh, why did we ever leave Egypt? Why is the Lord taking us to this land only to have us die in battle? We should go back to Egypt!"*

Only two of the spies, Caleb and his friend Joshua, stood for the truth, and told the people of Israel: *"The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them."* (NUMBERS 14:7-9).

But the people refused to listen to Caleb and Joshua. And do you know what happened next?

As punishment for not trusting Him, God sent The Chosen People back into the wilderness to wander for another 40 years. And not one of the people who were alive during this story was allowed to enter the land 40 years later—none of them except for Caleb and Joshua! Caleb and Joshua were the only two who had educated themselves about the land, who knew the truth, who shared the truth, and who trusted in God to keep His promises.



# Talk About It!

**What can we learn from the story of the 12 spies to help us learn the truth about Israel and share it?**

- Caleb and Joshua teach us to have the courage to speak the truth, and be willing to stand up against the crowd in order to do so.
- When we share the facts about Israel, we must speak from a place of love. We must try to be as gentle and kind as we can when we want others to hear what we are saying.



**What happened when Caleb and Joshua were willing to stand up for the truth and trust God?**

Because these men were willing to stand up for the truth, God was able to use them to further His plan for His children and for the world. Caleb and Joshua were the only two men from the Israelites who left Egypt with Moses to enter the Promised Land. God appointed Joshua to lead His children into the Promised Land, and Joshua conquered Jericho and many other cities with God's help. When we are courageous and stand for the truth, God can use us as well to help His children, Israel. Who knows what God will be able to accomplish through us?



## Apply It! (5 minutes)

We learned from our Bible story that it's important to educate ourselves and learn the truth about Israel, and then have the courage to stand up and share that truth with others.

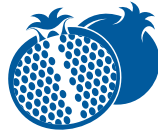
This is still important today. One of the biggest threats that Israel and the Jewish people face is the many lies that are spread about them. You can help them by learning—and sharing—the truth. By doing that, you stand with Israel!

Let's make some cards with fun facts about Israel on them. Share these cards with your family and friends. Then challenge yourself during the week to discover more about God's Holy Land, Israel, that you can share with others.





Over 1 million notes  
are left in the Western Wall each  
year—including the thousands  
of prayers from friends of Israel  
brought by The Fellowship.



Israelis eat  
**more fruits  
and veggies**  
per person than any other  
country in the world!



The average Israeli  
eats more than  
**20 pints of  
ice cream**  
each year!



Israel is the only country  
in the Middle East where the  
**number of Christians  
is increasing.**



**The cell phone**  
was developed in Israel!



More than  
**9 million people**  
**speak Hebrew**  
around the world.



Israel  
is half  
the size  
of Lake  
Michigan!



Israelis eat  
**24 million  
sufganiyot (donuts)**  
during the eight days  
(& nights) of *Hanukkah*!



Israel is the only  
country to have  
**more trees**  
than it did 50 years ago.



Israel just reached  
**10 million people**  
—a long way from the  
800,000 Israelis who founded  
the country in 1948!



The Dead Sea in Israel is  
**the lowest spot  
on earth**  
at more than 1,400 feet  
below sea level!



**One-third of Israelis  
are immigrants**  
who came to the Holy Land  
from 100 different countries.