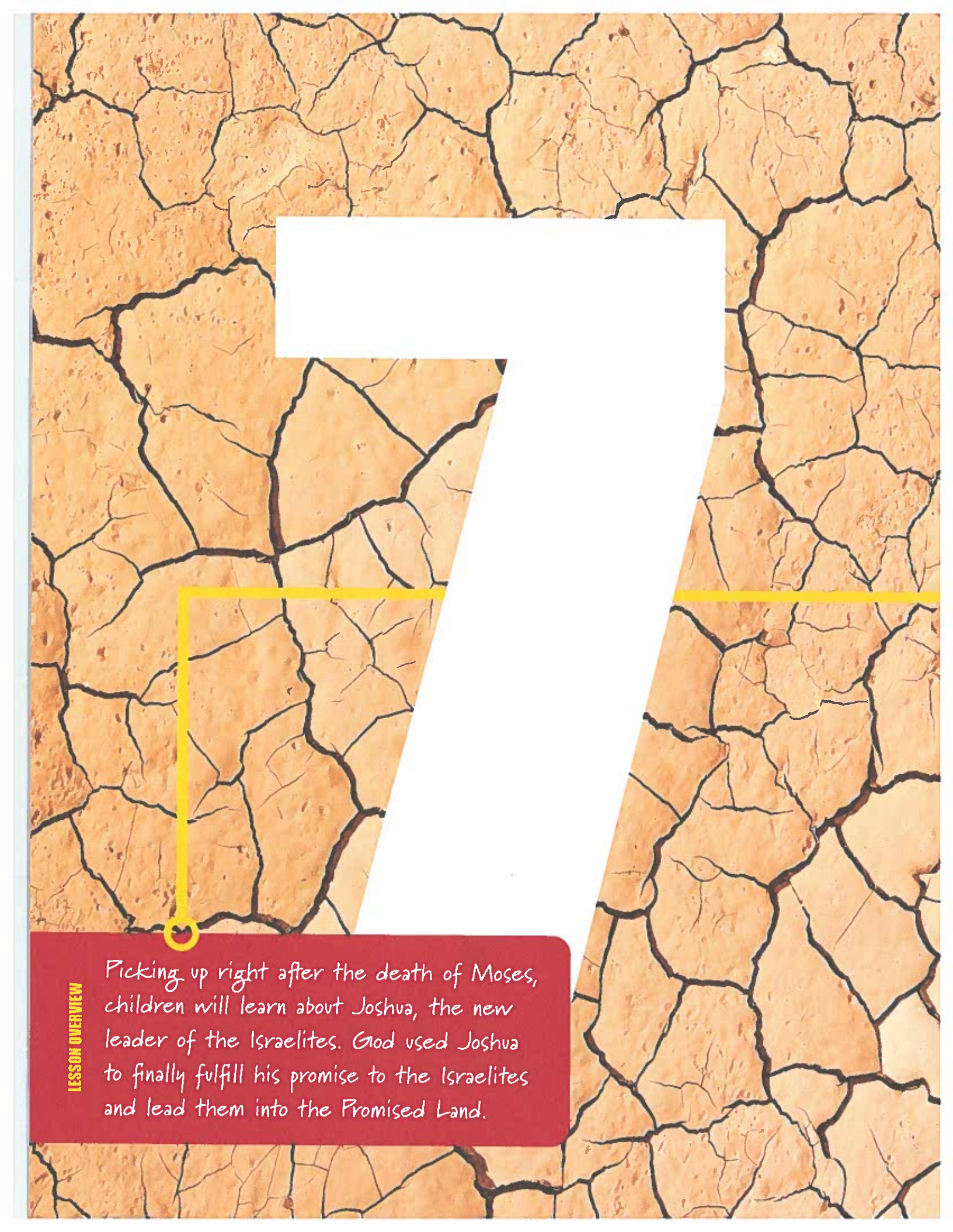
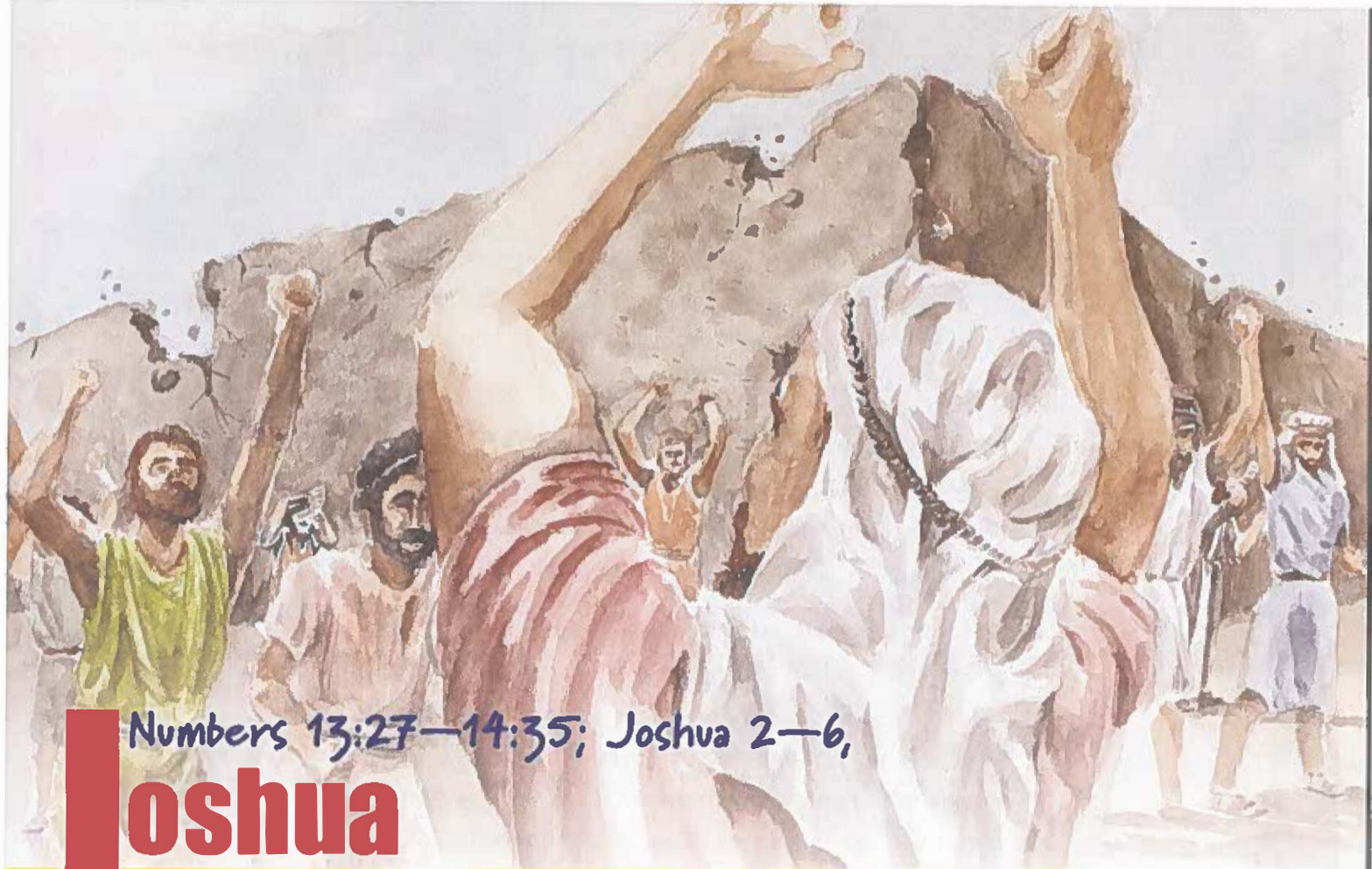




LESSON OVERVIEW

Picking up right after the death of Moses, children will learn about Joshua, the new leader of the Israelites. God used Joshua to finally fulfill his promise to the Israelites and lead them into the Promised Land.



Numbers 13:27—14:35; Joshua 2—6, Joshua

Introduce It!

Time Line

1446–1406
B.C.

Key Events & People

Fall of Jericho;
Joshua, Rahab

Time Line Materials needed. (See p. 4.)

Begin the lesson in prayer. Select volunteers to thank God for always being a promise keeper.

Make a list with the children, of promises that God has kept (both in the Bible and their lives).

After 400 years of being slaves in Egypt, Moses led the Israelites out of bondage. Refer to timeline at 1446 B.C. In just a short while, God has provided for the Israelites in some amazing ways: the plagues, the parting of the Red Sea, leading them by pillars of cloud and fire, sending manna from heaven, and creating water from a rock. God has promised his people that he would deliver them to a land that he had for them. A land flowing with milk and honey. The Israelites, it seemed, quickly forgot the promises God made to them, and about his constant care of them.

Memory Verse

This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged For the LORD your God IS with you wherever you go.
Joshua 1:9

Tell It!

Choose a way to tell the story while reading the account from the Bible or telling it in your own words. Tell the story from

The Twelve Spies

If you moved to a new house, how would you choose which room is yours? Children respond. You'd explore the house to see all your options. The information you would discover would help you make the best decision.

When Moses and the Israelites neared the Promised Land of Canaan, they had to do some exploring, too. Moses sent out twelve scouts. When they returned, they had incredible news! Canaan was amazing. The fruit was huge! Two men had to tie a bunch of grapes to a giant stick and carry it between them. But there was a big problem, and the men were scared. Giants lived in Canaan, and there was a huge wall surrounding the city.

Ten of the twelve spies decided it was too risky to invade. These men, like most of the Israelites had quickly forgotten they had God on their side. But two spies, Caleb and Joshua, believed in God's power.

God was pleased with Caleb and Joshua, but he was angry with the rest of the Israelites. As punishment for their lack of faith, God did not let any of the Israelites of this generation enter the Promised Land, except for Caleb and Joshua. Because of their lack of trust, God sent the Israelites back to the desert to wander for forty years!

Optional Materials

inflated purple balloons arranged on a pole like a bunch of grapes (so large you need two people to carry it)

Rahab and the Spies

Move time line marker to 1406 B.C.

Fast forward to forty years later. God chose Joshua to lead the Israelites after Moses' death. Joshua sent two spies to check out the land of Jericho. The spies went into the city, but they had to hide for the night because the king of Jericho was looking for them. They met a woman



named Rahab, who agreed to help them hide in her house. Rahab hid the two spies on her roof. But why? Why would Rahab keep these two spies safe? They wanted to invade her homeland. Children respond.

Read Joshua 2:8-15.

Rahab saved the spies because she had heard the things God had done for his people. She believed in God. She helped the two spies escape from Jericho by helping them climb down the city wall using a red rope. The men promised Rahab that they would not harm her or her family when they invaded.

The Fall of Jericho

The land that God promised the Israelites was surrounded by a strong wall. But God did not leave the Israelites to figure out how to break the wall by themselves. He had a plan for the Israelites' victory. What was God's plan? Children respond.

Read Joshua 6:1-5.

What a crazy way to defeat a city's defenses! *"When the people heard the sound of the rams' horns, they shouted as loud as they could. Suddenly, the walls of Jericho collapsed, and the Israelites charged straight into the town and captured it. They completely destroyed everything in it with their swords"* (Joshua 6:20-21).

Though it was a little crazy, and not normally how you would bring down a wall, God's plan worked! The walls surrounding Jericho fell down! Joshua, through God's direction, led the Israelites into the land that had long been promised to them!

Pray It!

Dear God, thank you for always keeping your promises, even when things in life feel too big to handle. Help me to trust in your plan always. In Jesus' name, amen.





Apply It!

Choose any of these activities for your lesson. Use more than one if time allows. For any of these activities, discuss the **Talk about It!** questions on page 70 as time allows.

Show It!

Overview

Dractions

Conversation

Act It Out!

The Walls Came Tumbling Down

Overview

As a group, the children will act out the different roles the Israelites had while marching around the walls of Jericho before the walls fell.

Materials

party blowers
(1 per child)

boxes stacked to
resemble the wall
fake swords (optional)

Directions

1. Stack boxes in the middle of an open area to symbolize a wall around Jericho.
2. Pass out party blowers and fake swords to the children.
3. Children march around the wall six times (one time per day), blowing their trumpets (party blowers).
4. On the seventh time, the children will run around the wall seven times while blowing their trumpets (party blowers). After they give a loud yell while knocking the boxes down.

Conversation

The city of Jericho seemed like a perfect place, one God had promised to the Israelites. One of the problems was that the city was surrounded by a strong wall. God had a plan for the Israelites to take over the city. He told the Israelites to march around the city once each day for six days, blowing their trumpets. On the seventh day of marching, they were to march around the city seven times and give a loud shout after the trumpet blast. After they did this, the walls of Jericho fell down.

We had to knock our box wall down. When the Israelites shouted after the seventh march on the seventh day, the walls came tumbling down. God fulfilled his promise to the Israelites to give them the Promised Land!

Play It!

Sneaky Spies

Overview

Children try to sneak by a blindfolded giant and retrieve grapes (balls) to bring back to the start line.

Directions

1. Choose one child to be the giant. The giant will be blindfolded in the middle of the playing area, trying to tag any spies they can find.
2. The other children will sneak across the playing area, grab a grape (ball), and sneak back to the start line without being tagged by the giant.

Materials

blindfold
small balls





Conversation

Joshua and the other eleven spies went into the land of Canaan to scout it out. They went to see how the land was and what it was like. Moses even wanted them to bring back some fruit from the land. Just like our game had a giant in it, the land of Canaan had real giants! There were great things about the land that God had promised them, but because of the giants and the strong walls, the people were afraid to take the land. They did not trust God to keep his promise.

Craft It!

Shout It Out Shofar

Overview

Children decorate a shofar template with God's promises.

Preparation

Cut strips of construction paper or cardstock into 1x5 ½-inch strips.

Directions

1. Glue the shofar onto a piece of cardstock or construction paper.
2. With the pre-cut strips of paper, children write promises that God has made and kept.
3. Glue the promise strips on the paper like they are coming out of the shofar.

Alternate Idea

1. Children write promises that God made on a piece of paper.
2. Roll up the paper into a cone to resemble a shofar.
3. Children blow their new shofars.

Conversation

Trumpets, or shofars, can make a beautiful, but loud, noise! They can also be used to announce or introduce good news. We are using our shofars to shout out the promises that God has made and kept. He promised:

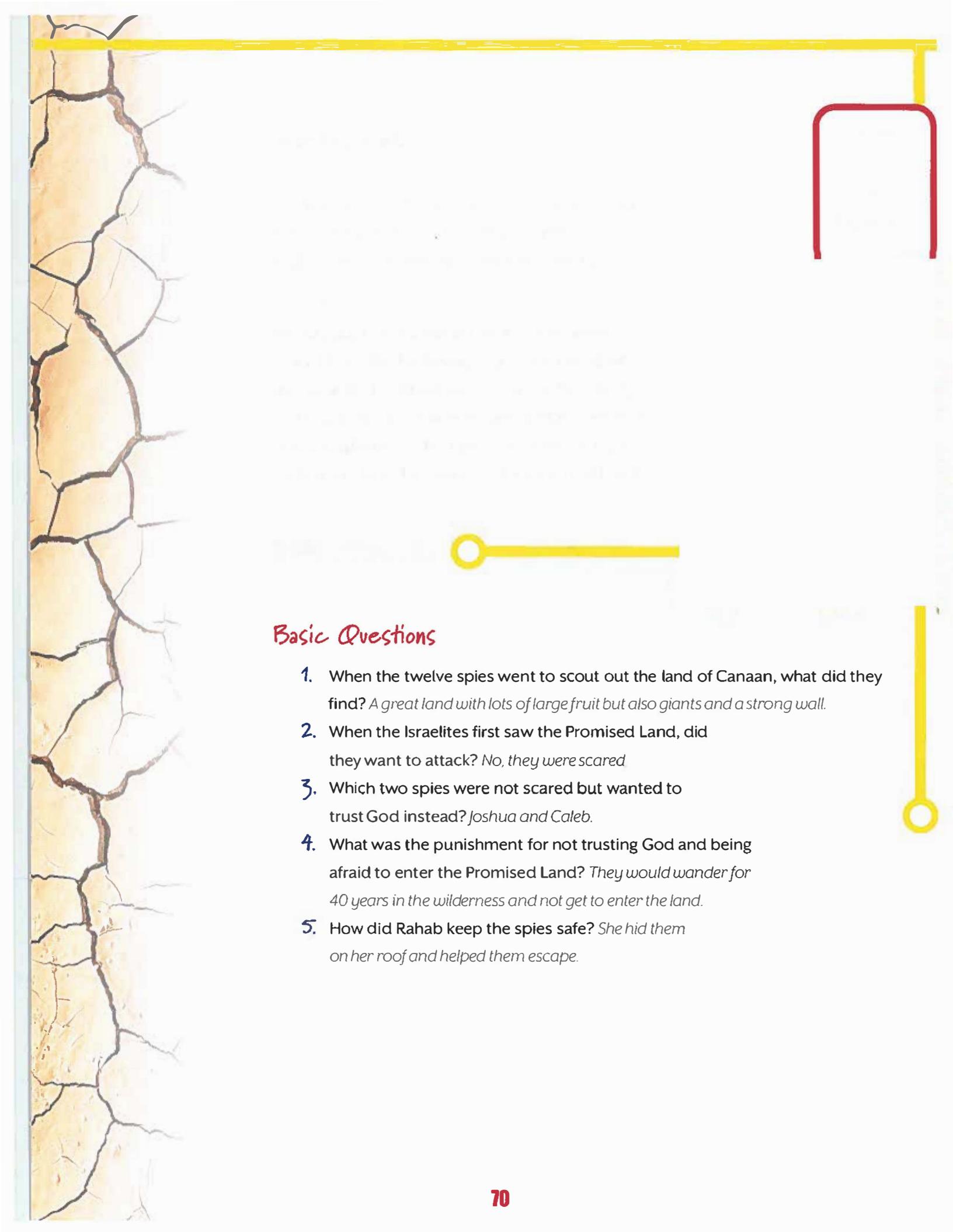
- A new land to the Israelites
- The strong walls of Jericho would fall down

What other promises did he make? Children respond. Great examples. We know that God kept his promises to the Israelites. And we know that he is still a promise keeper today!

Materials

shofar template
construction paper
or cardstock
ruler
scissors
glue
crayons or markers





Basic Questions

1. When the twelve spies went to scout out the land of Canaan, what did they find? *A great land with lots of large fruit but also giants and a strong wall.*
2. When the Israelites first saw the Promised Land, did they want to attack? *No, they were scared.*
3. Which two spies were not scared but wanted to trust God instead? *Joshua and Caleb.*
4. What was the punishment for not trusting God and being afraid to enter the Promised Land? *They would wander for 40 years in the wilderness and not get to enter the land.*
5. How did Rahab keep the spies safe? *She hid them on her roof and helped them escape.*

6. Why did Rahab keep the spies safe? *She had heard about what God had done for the Israelites and she believed in God.*
7. What did the spies promise to Rahab in return for her helping them? *They promised to remember her and to keep Rahab and her family safe when they took over.*
8. What was God's plan for bringing down the wall around Jericho? *To march around the walls once per day for seven days and seven times on the seventh day. On the seventh time around, they would blow trumpets, shout, and the walls would fall down.*
9. What promise was fulfilled? *The Israelites conquered the Promised Land.*

Go Further

1. It took a long time for God's promise of a new land to actually happen. Does that mean God forgot about his promise? Why or why not?
2. If things are taking a long time in our lives, does that mean God has forgotten us? Why or why not?

Wrap It Up!

Refer to the time line.

The Israelites finally arrived in the land God promised them! Their forty-year punishment was over, and this new generation of Israelites was about to begin their lives in Canaan. God's promise was fulfilled! This promise started over 600 years before with Abraham. God promised Abraham that his descendants would be a mighty nation with a land of their own. God was talking about the Israelites. As Joshua led them into the Promised Land, we see the fulfillment of the promise that God made to Abraham.

