



Date: _____
Series: God is Our Rescuer
Summer Year 2, Lesson 11

Trust the Rescuer for Victory

Take Home Point: *Be a winner! Trust God for victory. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Numbers 13 and 14. The 12 Spies

Key Verse: John 16:33, "In the world you'll have trouble. But cheer up! I have overcome the world."

We will help kids know:

- Ten of the 12 spies did not trust God for victory and only reported how strong the enemy seemed.
- Caleb and Joshua could see how God would give them the victory to capture the promised land.
- Even when the people were frightened and complained against God, he did not destroy them. He forgave them. The consequence of their sin, however, meant they could not occupy the promised land for 40 years.

We will help kids feel:

- Confident when they face their own bullies or feel like a loser.
- Secure in going to the Lord for forgiveness and new strength.

We will help kids do:

- Identify those bullies in life that push them around, making them feel like losers.
- Call upon Jesus who gives us power to do all things, even giving us a victory as our rescuer.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<p>Small Group Warm-Up</p> 	3	<p>Kids talk about what it feels like to be pushed around or to feel like a loser. They symbolize this “ganging up” by blowing the feather with air from a balloon into the losers’ square.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deflated balloon for each child • masking tape to make 12 inch square on floor per 3-4 children • feather for each group of children. These can be taken from a pillow or larger decorative feathers may be purchased from a novelty store. If feathers are not available, use something that floats in the air easily.
<p>Large Group</p> 	4 7 9 13 15	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: “Gordy’s Not a Loser.”—Gordy feels overwhelmed with his “balloonful” of problems.</p> <p>Dramatic Presentation: “The 12 Spies.”—the Bible event from Numbers 13 and 14 is done with audience participation.</p> <p>Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy’s Not a Loser” –Gordy learns to trust Jesus with his problems because Jesus overcame the world.</p> <p>Appendices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy • large inflated balloon • “Reports from the 12 Spies” copied and cut (Appendices) • a pole with a cluster of grapes attached to it. (See page 9 of script for directions in making.) • needle • twelve Old Testament costumes for children (<i>optional</i>)
<p>Small Group Application</p> 	4	<p>Children learn that things they fear become small when Jesus is brought into the picture: <i>*Be a winner! Trust God for victory.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • several extra balloons if some broke in warm-up • permanent markers • tape squares from Warm-Up will be used again

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Supplies: one feather for every three or four children, 12-inch square made of masking tape on the floor, a deflated balloon for each child

Point to the 12" x 12" masking tape square on the floor as you begin.

See this square? It looks like an ordinary square, but it is not. It is the LOSERS' square. This square is for people who lose. It is for those who feel picked on or who feel like they can't win at anything. Have you ever felt like you have visited that square?

Place a feather beside the square.

This feather will represent you.

Inflate your balloon and let out its air directed at the feather to blow the feather into the square.

Whenever you feel like you can't win, it would be like this feather landing in the LOSERS' square. I think we have all felt like that before. Can you give me an example of when you felt like you just couldn't win?

Wait for responses. Continue to draw out discussion by sharing your own experience and continuing with further questions.

Think of things that seem so big and powerful that they make us feel like we could never win. They might make us feel small or make us feel like losers. I would like you to think of one of the big problems that seems to push you around.

As each child shares a problem, pass him the feather.

After the discussion give each child a balloon. Then make "loser" squares for every three to four children and give each group a small feather.

Your job is to let the air out of your balloon, either fast or slow, so you push your feather into the box. This is sometimes what it feels like when big or scary things push us around. It makes us feel like we are in the LOSERS' box.

Let children take turns blowing their feathers into the box. You may encourage the kids to "gang up" on one feather at a time.

In the Bible event today, we will hear how the children of Israel were afraid of some people who were like big bullies. They felt like losers; like they were pushed around.

I wonder what God wants us to do when we feel like losers or when we feel pushed around? Today we will learn how to **be a winner!*
Trust God for victory!

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy’s Not a Loser”—Gordy feels overwhelmed with his “balloonful” of problems.

Dramatic Presentation: “The 12 Spies”—The Bible event from Numbers 13 and 14 is done with audience participation.

Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy’s Not a Loser”—Gordy learns to trust Jesus with his problems because Jesus overcame the world.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Numbers 13 & 14 in their Bibles.

What was the 12 spies’ mission? *(Numbers 13:17-20. They were to check out the land.)*

How many spies gave a bad report? *(Ten.)*

What were they afraid of? *(Numbers 13:27-32. The people were too strong and too big.)*

What were the names of the two spies who gave a good report?
(Numbers 14:6. Caleb and Joshua.)

Why were Caleb and Joshua confident that the people could take the land? *(Numbers 14:7-9. They believed the Lord was with them and he was more powerful and strong than the Canaanites.)*

How did the people rebel against God? *(Numbers 14:1-4. They whined and complained about God and would not follow Joshua and Caleb.)*

What did Moses do when God was angry and thought about destroying them all? *(Numbers 14:17-20. He prayed for the people.)*

What was their punishment? *(Numbers 14:26-35. They would not get to see the Promised Land and they would die in the desert.)*

How many days were the spies gone? *(Numbers 13:25. Forty days.)*

How many years would the people have to wander in the desert?
(Forty years.)

Who would be allowed to enter the promised land? *(Numbers 14:29-31. Joshua and Caleb and those younger than 20 years of age.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

What do you think was the worst mistake the people of Israel made?

Why do you think Caleb and Joshua thought the people of Israel could take the land? *(They had seen and remembered the wonderful miracles God had done for his people in the past. They had faith that God would take care of them.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Have the children think about something that is scary for them. Examples might be failed attempts in school or sports, family problems, sickness, worries, or trauma.

These are like giants that keep us from living in the promised land. God has a promised land for all of us in our hearts. It's a promised land filled with his joy and love.

After kids have thought about some of the giants that keep them from living in a promised land, have them draw or write this giant on their balloon. To do this, have them work in pairs. One will blow up his balloon and have his partner hold the nozzle so the air can't get out. Then he can write or draw one or more of these giants with permanent marker on the balloon. .

After all kids have written on their balloons, have them go to their groups of three or four from the warm-up activity. Encourage the kids to sit around the LOSERS' square and talk about what keeps them afraid or feeling like a loser. Then have kids let the air out of their balloons while still holding on to them. Say:

See how small the writing has become. Maybe there is a way those things that push us around can become not so scary.

Then have the kids pull the tape from the floor and make a cross instead of a square. Continue with the following.

Have you ever been like Joshua and Caleb and taken a risk for God?

What risk do you want to take in your Christian life?

What do you need from God and your Christian friends to give you the courage to take that risk for God?

Jesus said he has won for us a promised land. He said in John 16:33, *"In the world you'll have trouble. But cheer up! I have overcome the world."*

Jesus beat our enemies...sin, death, and the power of the devil when he came and gave his life on the cross. When we believe that, even though there are big things that bully us around, we can think about Jesus. He tells us to trust him for a victory. He can take those problems and make them small like a balloon losing its air.

To remind us of how he does that, each group can take its feather and balloons as it did before and play the same game. This time see how close you can land the feather to the cross. This is just like us learning to trust Jesus for victory even when things push us around. Remember you can **Be a winner! Trust God for victory.*

Closing Prayer:

Have each child inflate his balloon and pray God would give a victory over the giant that pushes him around. If deflating the balloon one at a time is too distracting, all can deflate their balloons at one time after the prayers.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Gordy's Not a Loser Puppet Presentation

In advance of the large group presentation, assign parts to 12 children, giving each a slip of paper with his/her line (see appendix). The children should be able to read this loudly and clearly. It is most helpful to have a microphone ready for them so they can easily be heard. All 12 spies will be called up during the puppet presentation.

Option: The 12 children can be costumed beforehand with a simple Old Testament costume. This may give a more dramatic effect. Each child would be issued in when cued during the puppet presentation.

A large balloon floats up from behind the puppet stage.

Gordy: (Appears.) Hey! Stop that balloon!

Presenter: My, Gordy! Wow, this is a huge balloon!

Gordy: Yeah, that's because sometimes I feel very huge problems pushing me around.

Presenter: Oh, yeah?

Gordy: That's what we did in Warm-Up. We thought about the things that push us around and make us feel like losers. I have so many of them! Look at the size of my balloon!

Presenter: Oh, Gordy, I hope we can help. Today we are going to learn to **be a winner. Trust God for the victory!*

Gordy: How do I do that?

Presenter: Why don't you help me tell today's Bible event. It's about the 12 spies who went to check out the promised land. Ten of the spies felt like losers but two trusted God and were winners.

Gordy: I'd like to help but sometimes I don't read so good. It might make me feel like a loser.

Presenter: Gordy, God will help you. This is what I would like you to do.

Gordy: What?

Presenter: You follow along with the story and when you say, "And Spy #1 said," the person who is Spy #1 will read what that spy might have said.

Gordy: So I just say, "And Spy #1 said?"

Presenter: Yes. And that person will loudly and clearly read what is on his slip of paper. After Spy #1 there is Spy #2, #3, #4, and so on.

Gordy: Oh, I think I can do that. It's just me and these 12 spies. But who are they?

Presenter: Let me call them up right now. They already have their assigned parts and they can stand up here ready to speak their parts loudly and clearly.

Also, everyone will have a part. I'm dividing this room into three sections. This section over here will make noises like a chicken. Let's hear you practice.

Section One practices, "Cluck! Cluck, cluck!"

Gordy: Those are some talented chickens!

Presenter: They sure are. The middle section will say, "Oh, no! I'm scared!"

Section Two practices, "Oh no! I'm scared!" Place palms on cheeks for additional effect.

Gordy: They look scared!

Presenter: Yes, they do. The third section will say, "We're all gonna die!"

Section Three practices, "We're all gonna die!" Place back of hand on forehead for additional effect.

Presenter: Good! Let's do all three together. Anytime I say "And all the people said..." I'll point to the first section for the chicken noises. Then I'll point to the second section to hear "Oh, no! I'm scared!" Finally I'll point to the third section to hear, "We're all gonna die!"

We'll do them really fast. I'm going to point to your section even before the other section has finished. Let's practice.

Practice with the children. It's helpful if you mouth the words to the children to help them start.

Gordy: Cool!

Presenter: Now are you ready for the story? Here we go.

The 12 Spies

Dramatic Presentation

The prop for large group today will be a pole with a cluster of grapes attached to it. These grapes are made from blue or purple balloons. Two of these balloons will have a special trick effect. When pierced with a pin the balloon will pop, but inside will be another balloon that will not pop.

The trick is prepared by taking one balloon and stuffing it inside another balloon. The inside balloon needs to be blown up first and tied off. Then the outside balloon will be blown up just a bit bigger and tied off. When it is time to pop the balloons, you should be able to see where it is safe to pop only the outside balloon.

These two trick balloons will be used during the story presentation when Caleb and Joshua give their report. During the story, each time the spies give an account and the people complain, a balloon is popped. But when Joshua and Caleb give a good report, their balloon is popped yet there is a surviving balloon.

Another way to assemble the pole for the grape cluster is to use a cardboard backdrop and have it painted. The balloons can then be attached to the backdrop.

The large group presenter reads the Bible event that summarizes Numbers 13 and 14 as follows:

Presenter: When the Israelites came to the border of a very beautiful country that was promised to them from God, he told them to send 12 men into the land of Canaan to spy it out.

Moses chose a leader from each of the tribes of Israel. He told them, “Go into the promised land and spy it out. See what kind of people live there. Are there many of them or few? Do they live in strong cities or towns? What are the crops like? Is it rich with fruit? Bring back some fruit from the land. The grapes should almost be ripe. Go with courage and bring us back a report.”

For 40 days the spies went throughout the land called the promised land. When the spies returned, they were carrying a huge cluster of grapes on a pole and fruit from the land. (Point to the cluster of grapes.) They said it was a wonderful land filled with great fruit and lots of good things to eat. They said it was beautiful and a wonderful place to live. In such a land they would not be hungry for meat or fruits or vegetables. Never before had the people seen such wonderful food.

But then they gave the rest of their report. They talked about how there were great cities. They had tall walls that no one could get over.

Gordy: And spy #1 said...

(Spy #1 reads: "There are giants living in the land. We could never beat them.")

Presenter: And the people said... (Point to sections one, two, and three. Pop a balloon.)

Gordy: And Spy #2 said...

(Spy #2 reads: "And the giants have big spears and sharp swords. We could never beat them.")

Presenter: And the people said... (Point to sections one, two, and three. Pop a balloon.)

Gordy: And Spy #3 said...

(Spy #3 reads: "And the giants are ugly with big noses and sharp teeth and bad breath.")

Presenter: And the people said... (Point to sections one, two, and three. Pop a balloon.)

Gordy: And Spy #4 said...

(Spy #4 reads: "And there are giants with big feet that would stomp on us and smash us like grasshoppers.")

Presenter: And the people said... (Point to sections one, two, and three. Pop a balloon.)

Gordy: And Spy #5 said...

(Spy #5 reads: "And the giants live in big cities with ugly children and mean dogs. We could never beat them.")

Presenter: And the people said... (Point to sections one, two, and three. Pop a balloon.)

Gordy: And Spy #6 said...

(Spy #6 reads: "And these giants are so mean that their shadows are afraid of them.")

Presenter: **And the people said...** (Point to sections one, two, and three. Pop a balloon.)

Gordy: And Spy #7 said...

(Spy #7 reads: "And these giant, mean people especially hate small, puny people like us.")

Presenter: **And the people said...** (Point to sections one, two, and three. Pop a balloon.)

Gordy: And Spy #8 said...

(Spy #8 reads: "These mean, ugly giants are gross. They don't even wipe their noses.")

Presenter: **And the people said...** (Point to sections one, two, and three. Pop a balloon.)

Gordy: And Spy #9 said...

(Spy #9 reads: "These mean, ugly giants sit on small people like us just for fun.")

Presenter: **And the people said...** (Point to sections one, two, and three. Pop a balloon.)

Gordy: And Spy #10 said...

(Spy #10 reads: "There's no way we could beat such mean, ugly giant people.")

Presenter: **And the people said...** (Point to sections one, two, and three. Pop a balloon.)

Gordy: And Spy #11, who was Caleb, said...

(Spy #11 reads: "Let's go at once and take the land for we can do it.")

Presenter: **And the people said...** (Point to sections one, two, and three. Explain that these wouldn't be proper response if they believed Caleb. Make a big deal about them being afraid. Pop a trick balloon.)

Gordy: And Spy #12, who was Joshua, said...

(Spy #12 reads: "We can do it. They have lost their strength because we have the Lord with us.")

Presenter: **And the people said...** (Point to sections one, two, and three. Pop a balloon.)

What do you think the children of Israel will do? Do you think they will go in and capture the land? No, because they were too scared by how fierce the enemy seemed and not how mighty the Lord would be for them.

When Moses and Aaron heard the people complain and beg to go back to Egypt, they fell on their faces and begged the people to obey God. How could they possibly doubt God who had great power and had been their rescuer all along? He was the one who rescued them from Egypt and brought them through the Red Sea. He was the rescuer who fed them manna and quail. He was the rescuer who protected them from their enemies. But the people would not listen. Instead, they wanted to kill the two faithful spies, Caleb and Joshua.

Just as they picked up stones to throw at Caleb and Joshua, they saw the glory of the Lord come down upon the tabernacle. He came in a most wonderful and terrible cloud. Moses went into the tabernacle and the Lord spoke to him. The Lord was angry at the people of Israel and thought he could not put up with them any longer.

But Moses prayed earnestly for his people, and he reminded the Lord, “If you were to destroy these people now, what would the Egyptians say? They would say you were not able to take them to Canaan.”

God heard this prayer and forgave the Israelites. However, God refused to let them change their minds and go into the promised land. He told them they must wander the desert for 40 years. Following that time, the only ones allowed to enter the promised land would be Joshua and Caleb because they were faithful, and those younger than 20.

Gordy's Not a Loser

Puppet Conclusion

Gordy: Wow! You popped ten of those balloons.

Presenter: Yes, Gordy. Do you know what that reminds us of?

Gordy: Didn't it have something to do with the ten spies who didn't believe God would help give them the victory?

Presenter: That's right. Think of the blessings they missed because they didn't trust God. All they could see was the size of their enemies. That made them feel like losers. They were afraid and didn't trust God.

Gordy: But what about those two balloons that didn't pop?

Presenter: That's what they should have seen. Those two balloons represented Caleb and Joshua's story. Caleb and Joshua knew there were strong enemies in the land, but they knew God was much stronger.

Gordy: Yeah! God could beat those guys up!

Presenter: Sure he could. It's just like how God can beat up our problems today.

Gordy: Even mine?

Presenter: Sure.

Gordy: How does he do it?

Presenter: Gordy, when Jesus gave his life for us, he won the victory over the power of sin and the devil. When we face problems, we need to trust Jesus.

Gordy: You mean like pray to him?

Presenter: Sure. He will be right there to help us. If Jesus gave his life for our forgiveness, won't he also be with us to help with whatever we need?

Gordy: Yeah, I guess so. Even if it's a whole balloon-full of problems!

Presenter: Even if it's a whole balloon-full. The neat thing about Jesus is that he is leading us to a promised land of our own. It's a place where God wants us to live.

Gordy: You mean in _____ (insert the name of your local city)?

Presenter: No. Our promised land is in heaven, where we will be able to live with him forever. Not even death can keep us from that.

Gordy: Cool!

Presenter: Are you feeling more confident to face those problems?

Gordy: I think so. Can I borrow that balloon?

(Presenter hands balloon used in the beginning of the puppet script to Gordy. Gordy pops balloon. This can be done with a hidden needle onstage or a needle already in Gordy's hand.)

Gordy: So much for those problems.

Presenter: Okay, Gordy. Would you pray for us?

Gordy: Dear God, thank you for helping us be a winner, even when we sometimes feel like a loser. We trust that you will be with us since you gave your own Son for us. Help us be like the two spies, Caleb and Joshua, who trusted you even though they faced giants. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Spy #1:

“There are giants living in the land. We could never beat them.”

Spy #2:

“And the giants have big spears and sharp swords. We could never beat them.”

Spy #3:

“And the giants are ugly with big noses and sharp teeth and bad breath.”

Spy #4:

“And there are giants with big feet that would stomp on us and smash us like grasshoppers.”

Spy #5:

“And the giants live in big cities with ugly children and mean dogs. We could never beat them.”

Spy #6:

“And these giants are so mean, their shadows are afraid of them.”

Spy #7:

“And these giant, mean people especially hate small, puny people like us.”

Spy #8:

“These mean, ugly giants are gross. They don’t wipe their noses.”

Spy #9:

“These mean, ugly giants sit on small people just for fun.”

Spy #10:

“There’s no way we could beat such mean, ugly giant people.”

Spy #11 (Caleb):

“Let’s go at once and take the land for we can do it.”

Spy #12 (Joshua):

“We can do it. They have lost their strength because we have the Lord with us.”