

Story 59: Moses Sent Spies into Canaan

It was time for the Israelites to enter their new home, Canaan. Moses chose 12 men to go secretly into Canaan to find out about (spy) the land and the people. He waited for them to come back and report. When they came back, two men (Caleb and Joshua) had a good report. They said the Israelites should go in and take the land at once, because God would help them. The other 10 spies said, "No! We should not go in! The people living there are very strong and we cannot defeat them." The Israelites believed the report of the 10 men. They were afraid to go into Canaan. God was very disappointed. Many times he had shown the Israelites his power. Now God had to punish them for their disobedience. They could not go into the new land for 40 years. They would have to wander around in the desert.

Read this story in the Bible in Numbers 13:1-14:45

Words to Know

secretly – not letting anyone know about something

spy – secretly watch others to get information

defeat – win a victory over someone

disobedience – not doing what you are told to do

wander – move about aimlessly without a specific place to go

Questions

1. What did Moses do to get ready to enter the new land?
2. What was the job of the 12 men Moses chose?
3. What report did Joshua and Caleb bring to Moses?
4. What report did the other 10 men bring?
5. Why were these reports so different?
6. Which report did the Israelites believe? How did it affect their actions?
7. Why was God so disappointed in the Israelites?
8. Why did God punish the Israelites? What was the punishment?

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