

spies. *An exceeding good land*; a practical argument. Why turn to the desert when a fertile land awaits you. *If the Lord delight in us*; favors us. They did not minimize the difficulties of advance. They point out that God constituted a victorious resource. The might of the enemy will avail nothing against him. *The congregation bade stone them*. Their words are of no avail. People in assembly are apt to be seized with great pessimisms or enthusiasms. Mob emotions are always exaggerated. *The glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle*. The Tabernacle, made after an exact pattern given Moses by God, was the place where God manifested his presence.

Lesson Questions

What report of the spies made the people weep?

What step did they determine to take?

What did Caleb and Joshua say?

What effect had their words?

For Further Study and Discussion

1. What further light have we on Caleb's character? (Josh. 14 : 12.)
2. Where in the Tabernacle was the meeting place with God? (Ex. 25 : 22.)
3. Do numbers always beget enthusiasm?
4. Is majority rule right?

PROVE FROM SCRIPTURE—That faith is a shield.

SHORTER CATECHISM—Ques. 58.

THE LESSON IN DAILY LIFE (Daily Readings)

Monday—The spies sent out, Num. 13 : 17-25.

No difficulty is so big as the one you take time to measure. When Christian looked at the Mount of Difficulty, it was big. When he began to climb he made discoveries. It had an arbor, a House Beautiful with a room called Peace whose window fronted the sunrise. It had heavenly armor and glorious visions.

Tuesday—The report of the spies, Num. 13 : 26-33.

When you take counsel with your fears and hopes, do not decide by majority votes. There were nine men like Shammua, one like Caleb. Shammua was the man with the grasshopper view—everything big but himself. Caleb, when eighty-five years old, asked for a mountain to conquer.

Wednesday—Why Israel failed, Num. 14 : 1-10.

Joseph Chamberlain spoke about men who slay the dragons at the bridges one after another, but falter before the last dragon. The Israelites, with experience behind and promise before, faltered at the last bridge. We halt with Israel at Kadesh-barnea whenever we give our fears the initiative.

Thursday—Shut out by unbelief, Heb. 4 : 1-7.

The tragedy of falling short is that it means "almost arrived" not far from the kingdom. Pliable is barred at the very beginning by the Slough of Despond. But Ignorance found that there was a way leading back from the very gates of heaven.

Friday—Our refuge and strength, Ps. 46.

"If there were no fears to fear, then were there no God to trust." There are times in life like the troubling of the deep waters and trembling of great hills. Life seems to have no steadfast centre. The most trouble-filled day is the day we are commanded to be still.

Saturday—Victory through faith, 1 John 5 : 1-12.

When John says faith is victory, he means that faith makes the soul an empty hand to grasp God's weapons, an empty vessel to receive God's fountains, an open door to admit his presence. Faith adds God rather than aids God. Whatever your task, his help is yours through faith.

Sunday—More than conquerors, Rom. 8 : 31-39.

What is the basis of Paul's belief in the surplus of victory? He believes in an inseparable Christ—the Christ who refuses to be separated from us. Faith is not something by which we cling to Christ. It is not our hold on Christ, but Christ's hold on us, that saves.

A PRAYER

Strong Son of God, we thank thee that thy strength is for us, and that we need not linger longer in impotence and sin. Lift us up. Quicken our faith. Inspire us with thyself. Breathe upon us by thy Spirit. Lead us to victory in thy name,—victory over sin, victory over self. Amen.