

Question about the land. To whom had God promised to give it? What kind of a land was it? Where had Israelites been living? Through what were they traveling?

Near the end of the path on the board make some white tents. Tell that the Israelites were in sight of Canaan. They could see the tops of the high hills. This was the country God had given them to be their home. Some of them wanted to know what kind of a land it was, and what kind of people lived in it. So they asked Moses to send men ahead to look at the land. Deut. 1. 22. Moses waited to know what the Lord wanted him to do, and one day God spoke to him and told him to send one man from each tribe to search the land of Canaan.

Make straight marks to stand for the twelve men, and help children to imagine these men, who were called the twelve spies, going through the land. Take imaginary journey with them, going up and down hills, looking at fields of corn, flocks of sheep, fruit orchards, great towns with high walls around them, etc. Picture the finding of the cluster of grapes, and the return of the spies, bearing the grapes and many other beautiful fruits. Tell how long they had been gone, and let children tell what they think the spies would say.



Picture the great meeting when the spies came and made their report. Moses and Aaron were there, and every body was eager to know what they had found. Ask what God had said about the land, and then tell what the spies said. They had to own that it was beautiful and fruitful; but they said the people who lived there were very large and strong, and the cities were very large, with high walls all around them. Two of the spies believed God, and thought he was stronger than the men of Canaan. But ten of them thought God could not conquer such great giants! We are like the ten spies when we fear our enemies. But when we trust God to fight for us, then we are like Caleb and Joshua, who said, "We are well able to overcome it."

Lesson Word Picture.

Lift up, lift up your heads, O Israel! Break forth into song! Rejoice! The land of promise is high. The wilderness is almost crossed, the desert no more to be traversed, Egypt far, far away. Rejoice, rejoice! And now let Caleb, Joshua, all whom Moses has selected, go forth and search the land and bring Israel word. Let them go into Canaan, up into its mountains, across its plains, as far as the Great Sea. Are the people there in the promised land strong? Are they weak? Do they live in tents or hide in strongholds? Is the land fat, or is it lean? Go forth, Caleb and all the twelve. The fragrance of the first ripe grapes is in the land. Go up! Away! They have

gone, all the congregation watching their departure. The twelve forms grow smaller, smaller. Twelve dots on the distant landscape fade away. They are gone into the land of promise. And now "Who are these?" the Canaanites are crying—"these men in strange attire, men that are pilgrims, men that speak in a strange tongue?" Nobody knows. They leave their footprints on the wilderness of Zin. They are seen stealing outside the walls of Hebron. How strong these are! They look with wonder on the great stalwart sons of Anak. And there, by the breaking surf of the Great Sea, they are discovered looking off upon the wide waters that go on and on till they melt into the hazy western clouds. So much greater than the Red Sea! O, how strong is Canaan, with its fleets upon the waters, its fighting men in the high-walled cities! How rich the lands that the Jordan waters, Jordan coming down in strength and blessing out of the mountains! Skirting the mountains, stealing past the cities, curiously eyeing the fields and the vineyards, the spies of Moses rest not, but tirelessly search.

Hold! Halt just here! See those grapes! How beautiful, how tempting is Eschcol! If Israel, feeding on dry manna down in the wilderness of Paran, could only see and taste these juicy, pulpy grapes! If these could only melt in the parched mouths of the sick! But, Caleb, cut off that mammoth cluster. Hang it carefully on that staff. Now bear it away, gently, to waiting Israel. And at last, the pilgrims see Israel's goodly tents! There they are, the tabernacle in the midst, and, rising above it, that lustrous cloud, like the drawn sword of the Almighty. The people have spied Caleb and his companions. The cry goes all among the tents, "They have come! They have come!" How all Israel flock about the messengers! So glad to see them! So many questions to ask them! "Yes, yes, the people are thick in Canaan, and there are strong cities," we hear Caleb saying, "but what do you think of this? That immense grape-cluster! How the manna-eaters crowd about it and taste it, till at last there is only the great, straggling stem!"

"Come!" says Caleb. "Up, up, O Israel! On to the promised land!" Joshua, too; he is urgent for an advance. But the other spies, what are they doing? They are whispering together. They mutter. They shake their heads. They say, "No, no!" "Such a poverty-stricken land! It grows giants—such giants! We are as grasshoppers at their feet!" What! Say that, when that cloud hangs above the tabernacle, when the manna that very morning was on the fields, when behind them is the long track of the wilderness journey? Say that, with God their Guide, God their Sustainer, God their Defender? Yes, they say it, and Israel believes them and trembles. So near the promised land, and now to go back! Farewell, sweet vales! Farewell, the brooks that flow milk, and fields that drip with honey! Farewell, grapes of Eschcol! So near paradise and yet to be renounced! Heaven within sight and yet earth preferred!

B. C. 1490.]

LESSON XI. THE UNBELIEF OF THE PEOPLE..

[Sept. 9.]

Num. 14. 1-10. [Commit to memory verses 2-4.]
1 And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.

2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses, and against Aaron; and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died

in this wilderness!

3 And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this

land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? Were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

4 And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.

5 Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

6 And Joshua's son, and Caleb the son of Josaphat, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:

