



# 3RD - 5TH



## CONNECT TIME

Greet kids by name and play table games as kids arrive. Be sure to welcome any new families. Ask kids:

**Have you ever been afraid or discouraged to try something new? When? Did you eventually try it? How did it make you feel?**



## FEAR FACTOR

**Start by 9:20/10:45**

Form kids into five groups. Provide each group with a piece of paper, a pencil, and a Bible. Write the following references on a dry erase board: Deuteronomy 20:1; Judges 6:10; Psalm 23:4; Psalm 49:16-17; Luke 12:4. Assign each group a Bible reference and direct them to read their verse together. Then lead groups to determine how it describes some things people fear. Invite groups to share their findings with everyone.

**One of the most frequent commands in the Bible is 'do not be afraid.' People are easily afraid of all sorts of things such as wars, other people, being alone, and death. God knows our fears and gently reminds us that we can trust Him. Did you know that the Bible does teach us to fear Someone? God's Word reminds us that only God should be feared (Deuteronomy 10:12). Fearing God means we are in awe of Him and recognize how great He is above all things, including our earthly fears. Today, we will see how Israel let their fear of people get in the way of their fear of God.**

**START BY**  
**9:30/10:55**

REVIEW **3** BE, LISTEN, FOLLOW



**LARGE GROUP**

# SMALL GROUP



## BIBLE REVIEW

First, show kids where today's Bible story is in Numbers 13 & 14. Then guide kids to turn to Hebrews 3. Explain: **The first generation of Israelites who were unable to enter the Promised Land wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Hebrews is a New Testament book that was written to help believers see that following Jesus is better than anything else.** Read Hebrews 3:15-19 or call on volunteers to read a verse at a time.

Discuss:

- **What does it mean to have a "hard heart" toward God?** (*rebel against, not believe, etc*)
- **Why were the Israelites not allowed to enter the promised land?** (*unbelief, rebellion*)
- **How can we show that we trust God when it's hard or scary?** (*turn to Him, believe, etc*)



## DISCUSSION

Fear is a normal human emotion and can even be good, such as fearing the edge of a cliff.

**What are some fears you have? Do these fears keep you from trusting God at times?**

**Why?** Answers will vary. Any fear that keeps us from trusting in God is sinful because we believe our fear is greater than God. We can take their fear to God and trust that He is a God who saves. (Option: Read Psalm 115:11-12.)

**Where was God leading Israel? How should this have helped them trust His plans?**

God works for the good of those He has called to His purposes. Think about how God called Abraham and promised to give his family a special land. God was leading Israel to this land and that remembering God's faithful promise should have helped them trust Him. (Option: Read Exodus 3:17)

In our Bible story today, we saw that the Israelites had hard hearts towards God. **What are some things which can make our hearts start to feel hard toward God? What can we do to keep our hearts soft towards God?** Answers will vary.



## SPY IT OUT

Hide the prepared story point cards around the room before class begins. Divide kids into teams of three to five each. Then instruct each group to find the index cards to complete the story point. Tell groups they can trade cards with another group if they find multiple copies of the same word or phrase. The group to find all the cards and place them in the correct order first wins.

**Today, we saw the people who doubted God were not able to enter the land of Canaan. The Israelites' unbelief serves as a warning to us. When we are tempted to not believe God's Word, we can ask Him to help our unbelief. God longs to give us faith to trust in Him for salvation and in our every day lives. God wants all people to trust in His Son, Jesus, and enter His Kingdom.**



Take prayer requests and allow kids to pray.



Match parent pick-up numbers, with child name tag numbers.

Build relationships with parents, encourage them to take a picture of the parent recap page to go over on the ride home.