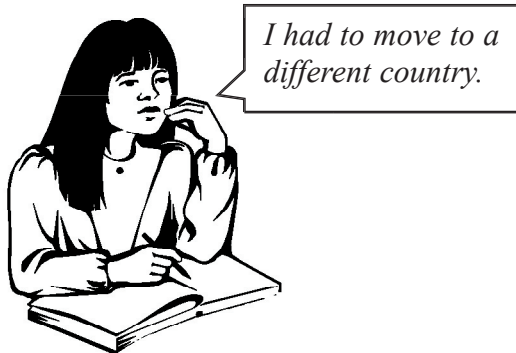
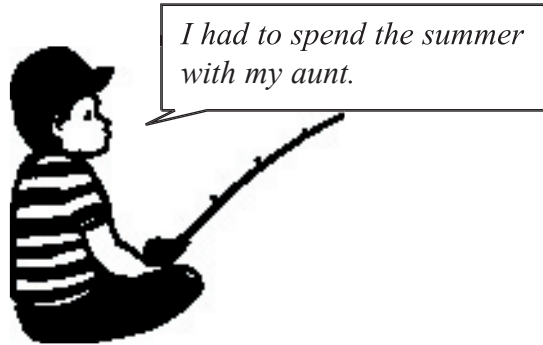



The people decided they were too afraid to cross the Jordan River, even with God's help. God was very disappointed. But because they had not learned to trust Him, God punished them by making them do as they had chosen. For 40 years they wandered around in the desert. During that time everyone who had been in Egypt died, except for Caleb and Joshua, the faithful spies. When Moses died too, God chose Joshua to be the new leader. You can read this sad story in Numbers, chapter 14.

Joshua led the Israelites across the Jordan River and into the land God had promised them. Joshua also led them in many battles, and wrote down their history in the book of Joshua, which is named after him.



I know God will be with me anywhere He sends me. Read Joshua 1:9



Could Joshua have been the leader of that nation if he had not followed God and been His friend from the time he was very young? Probably not. God has plans for your life, too. If you give your life to Him while you are young, He will help you prepare well for the work He has designed for you. All you have to do is pray this simple prayer, "Dear God, I choose to be Your friend and follow Your plan for my life. Amen."

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GOD'S YOUNG FRIENDS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

LESSON 4 Joshua: Friend of God

Joshua was born a slave in Egypt, just like Moses. He grew up hearing the stories of Moses, the slave baby who became the prince of Egypt. He knew that Moses ran away after killing an Egyptian who was beating an Israelite slave.

We all hoped Moses was the one who would lead us out of Egypt and away from slavery.

Maybe he still will.

Nobody has heard of him since he left. He might even be dead. We think he ruined God's plan and now we might have to stay slaves forever.



But isn't God big enough to have another plan? Surely God has something in mind. He would not forget us here. He LOVES us!

Even when Joshua was very young he knew about God's promise to deliver His people. Joshua believed God would keep His promise even when others were discouraged. When it was the right time, Moses DID come back. He went to Pharaoh and told him to let God's people go free, but instead Pharaoh doubled their work load.

Moses has really ruined our lives. We already had a lot of work to do; now it has doubled and we just cannot do that much in one day, but we get beaten if we don't.

But even God cannot fight someone as powerful as Pharaoh. Pharaoh has armies and generals and wealth. God has that little snake trick He taught Moses.

We could kill Moses. Then our workload might be more reasonable like it was before. I used to get beaten once in a while. Now it is every day!

But Moses is here to deliver us from slavery. We should support him. God is stronger than Pharaoh. He will do something.

What! Kill Moses? What are you thinking? Do you want to be a slave the rest of your life? How could we kill the man God has sent to help us?

The 12 spies did not agree on what the people should do next . . .

Below are some statements made by the spies. Some of them were made by all the spies. Some were made only by Caleb and Joshua, the two spies who trusted God to take care of them. Some statements were made by the other ten.



Draw lines from the statements to the people who made them.

Caleb and Joshua

They are all giants. We look like grasshoppers next to them!

All of the Spies

The land was wonderful, and the food growing there was great!

The other 10

We can win with God's help.

Let's go right away!

We can not do it.

God is with us. Let's not be afraid.

God used His mighty power to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and toward the Promised Land. They were almost there when they came to the River Jordan. Across the river was the city of Jericho. Moses chose Joshua and 11 other leaders to go as spies across the river.



To read about the snake trick, turn to Exodus 4:1-5 and Exodus 7:9-13.

These were the things they were supposed to find out . . .

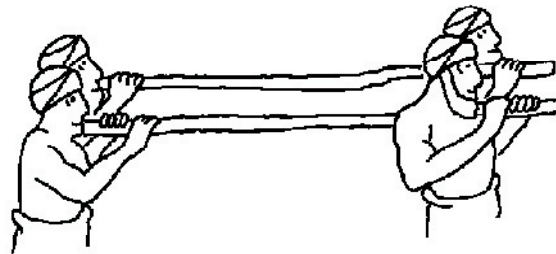
1. Are the people living there **STRONG** or **WEAK**?
2. Are there **FEW** or **MANY** of them?
3. Is the country a **GOOD** place to live or a **BAD** place?
4. Are the towns they live in **OPEN** or **PROTECTED** with walls?
5. Is the soil **FERTILE** or **BARREN**?
6. Is the land **WOODED** or **CLEAR**?

Read the report they gave Moses in Numbers 13:26-33.



If you were one of the 12 spies how would you have answered Moses' questions above? Go back and circle the words in capital letters that best describe the land.

The spies travelled around the land for six weeks. They brought back several kinds of fruit including clusters of grapes so big they had to hang from a pole carried by two men!



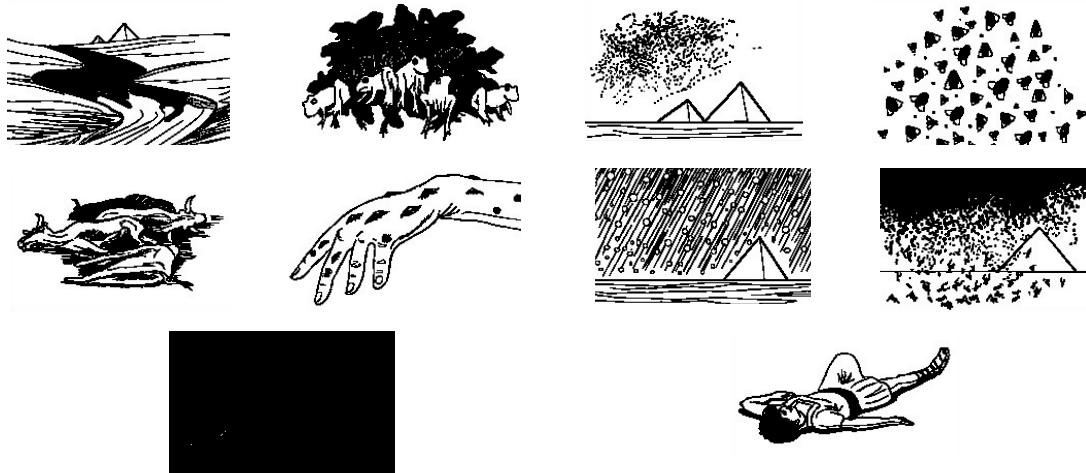
Finish the picture to the right by drawing grapes hanging from the poles.



God did have a plan. He sent plague after plague on Egypt, each one worse than the last.

1. First God turned the NILE River to BLOOD.
2. Then He sent FROGS that hopped everywhere.
3. After that, LICE made Pharoah and all his people itch and scratch.
4. After the lice came a plague of FLIES. Each time Pharoah agreed to let the Israelites go if God would take away the plague. And each time Pharoah changed his mind as soon as God stopped the plague.
5. Next God sent a disease that killed all the Egyptians' CATTLE. None of the Israelites' cattle died.
6. Then all the Egyptians broke out in painful BOILS all over their bodies. None of the Israelites got the awful sores.
7. HAIL fell from the sky and crushed some of the crops and hurt any animals left outside.
8. A plague of LOCUSTS came next and ate all the crops that had not been destroyed by the hail.
9. Then DARKNESS fell all over Egypt. The Egyptians COULD NOT SEE, but in the area where the slaves lived it was nice and bright during the daytime. Still Pharoah did not change his mind.
10. So God sent one final plague—the angel of DEATH. The angel of death would kill the first born in every family except those who put blood on their door posts. All of the slaves did what God said to do, but not the Egyptians.

When Pharoah's son died, Pharoah let God's people go.



Instructions: Find and circle each of the fully capitalized words from page 4 in the Word Search Puzzle below:

H	D	B	L	O	O	D	C
C	A	T	T	L	E	F	O
G	R	I	T	I	O	R	U
S	K	O	L	C	D	O	L
L	N	I	S	E	S	G	D
I	E	I	T	R	O	S	N
O	S	F	L	I	E	S	G
B	S	E	D	E	A	T	H
S	T	S	U	C	O	L	R

The letters you did not circle will spell the message that Pharoah got from the plagues.

Write the extra letters in order on the line below:

Secret Message: _____