

Entering the Land: Refusal, Return, and Renewal

Bible Lesson: Entering the Land: Refusal, Return, and Renewal – Genesis 17:8; Numbers 13:1-14:35; Joshua 1:1-3, 3

Main Teaching: God graciously wants to give you what is best for you

Word Up: God's Way is Best!

Supplies:

- Word Up Booklet – Word Up (Resource Pack)
- Recording for “No Turning Back” and “Trust in the Lord” - Worship (Sing About the King 3 CD)
- Optional Song Visual for “No Turning Back” – Worship (cefpress.com)
- Newspaper - Object Lesson
- Flashcards for Bible Story “Entering the Land: Refusal, Return, and Renewal” – Bible Lesson
- Spies Skit card – Bible Lesson
- Cards with various point values written on them – Review Game
- Isobel Kuhn Flashcard Visual 1 – Missionary Story (Resource Pack)
- Color Sheet Week 1 – Small Group (Resource Pack)
- Quiet Time Sheet Week 1 for each child – Dismissal (Resource Pack)

Schedule at a Glance (75 min club):

- 15 min – Small Group
- 10 min – Worship / Rules / Word Up
- 10 min – Object Lesson
- 15 min – Bible Lesson
- 10 min – Review Game
- 5 min – Missionary Story
- 10 min – Small Group

INTRODUCTION

Do you trust God? It's an easy question to ask, but a hard one to answer. The Israelites showed their lack of faith in God when they refused to enter the Promised Land. All they could see were the huge walls, armies, and giants. They looked at their problems instead of looking to God. In this **evangelistic narrative** Bible lesson, you will encourage the children to trust God. The unsaved children can trust God for salvation and the saved children can trust Him to always work out His perfect plan.



SMALL GROUP

Say Memory Verse

Have kids say their memory verse from last week to their small group leader

God's Good Gifts

Did you have to buy the sunshine God put in the sky? Did you earn the air that God lets you breathe? Did you pay for the rain God sent to help your food grow? (Allow responses.) God doesn't make you pay for these things. He gives them to you! Can you think of other good things God has given you? (Discuss with children before ending with prayer, thanking God for giving good things we do not deserve.)



WORSHIP

To learn songs and motions, go to Youtube and type in CEF and the name of the song in the search bar.

"No Turning Back"

"Trust in the Lord"

RULES

Review the Up Rules reminding the kids that following the rules helps everyone be able to feel safe and learn. If there is a particular rule the children are having trouble with, do a skit to highlight that rule and why it is important.

WORD UP!

God's Way is Best!

Imagine that you the option to choose a giant lollipop or a small sucker. Whichever you left would go to your sibling. Probably you would choose to take the Giant Lollipop and give your sibling the small sucker, because most times we only think about ourselves. We don't care about how those around us feel. We want to do our own things, and go our own way, but our way is messed up. Last week we learned about someone whose way is not messed up, someone whose way is best. Who remembers who that is? (Allow Response) That's Right! **WORD UP!** "God's way is best!" (Say with children.) Today we're going to see how God's people learned to follow His way.

OBJECT LESSON

Straight or Crooked?

Materials:

- Newspaper

What you do:

Hold the newspaper the same way you would to read it. Rip it from top to bottom. The rip should be pretty straight. Now turn the paper so that the words are going up and down, and try to rip it from top to bottom. The paper won't want to rip straight. No matter how hard you try it will always rip to the side.

Video demonstration:

https://youtu.be/HzXXbV1BK4?si=f_LAsEcaawalhNl5

What to say:

How many of you have ever done a maze? (Allow response) Maybe it was a maze on paper, or maybe it was a corn maze. When you do a maze there is a particular way you have to go. What happens if you don't go that way? (Allow response) You may get lost or stuck.

God has a particular way he wants us to go. We can choose his way or we can choose our own way, the world's way. It's a lot harder when you do things the way you want to do them instead of the way God wants you to do them. If you were to hold your newspaper up and down like you would to read it, and you rip it going down, (Rip the newspaper going from top to bottom) it pretty much forms a straight line all by itself. Not every time, but most of the time it's pretty straight. (Rip the newspaper going from top to bottom) Now if you turn the paper the other way, and you try to rip it straight, (Turn the newspaper sideways and rip the newspaper going from top to bottom) it doesn't work. No matter how hard you try to rip it straight, (Rip the newspaper going from top to bottom) it always goes off to the side. It doesn't rip right.

That's the same way it is for our lives. When we follow God's way it's like holding the paper straight up and down normal. (Turn the newspaper straight up and down) However, when we try to do things our own way, it just doesn't work out as well. God's true book the Bible tells us what God's way is like. It says, (Read proverbs 3:5-6) If you acknowledge God by recognizing him as King over your life, He will change you and guide you with His power and His Word, so that your path can be straight. So, remember, God's way and doing things God's way is always the straighter and better path. **WORD UP! "God's way is best!"** (Say with children.)



BIBLE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

"This land is filled with huge armies. They will destroy us! And we saw giants! Some of them were so tall it made us feel as small as grasshoppers! We can't live here!"

Giants? Huge armies? What kind of a land was this and who was saying these things? Listen closely to today's lesson to find out.

PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Thousands of years ago, God promised to send a Savior to rescue the world from sin. Later God revealed the chosen family that this Savior would come from. This family was called the Israelites.

God promised to give the Israelites a land called “Canaan” to be their home. Since God had promised to give them this land, Canaan is often called “the Promised Land.” Let’s all say “Promised Land” as fast as we can. (Do with children.)

The Israelites dreamed of living in the Promised Land, but the ruler of Egypt made them slaves! For hundreds of years the Israelites were slaves in Egypt but God did not forget His promise to give them Canaan! God did many amazing things when He used a man named Moses to deliver the Israelites from slavery and bring them out of Egypt. Do you know some of the amazing things God did? (Allow response.) God showed His wisdom, power, and faithfulness to rescue the Israelites from slavery and bring them to the Promised Land.

Flashcard 1-1

Before they went into their new land, Moses, the leader of the Israelites, sent 12 spies to explore the land. Let’s all pretend to be spies, sneaking through Canaan and looking at the wonderful things in it! Let’s tiptoe up this hill and look at what’s on the other side. Wow! Look at this beautiful place! Let’s pick some of these juicy figs. Yum! Let’s keep going. We need to be quiet as we sneak past this enemy fortress. That fortress is pretty big and the people inside look strong and scary. Let’s keep going and climb down into that valley over there. Look! That’s the biggest bunch of grapes I’ve ever seen! It would take two of us just to carry one branch. Let’s eat some. Mmmmm! They are so good! (Do with children.)

Flashcard 1-2

The spies agreed that the land was beautiful and filled with wonderful things. But they gave two different reports to the people. Listen to the types of things the spies said and guess which story the Israelites believed.

“Spies” skit

Doubting Spy: “This land is filled with huge armies. They will destroy us! And we saw giants! Some of them were so tall it made us feel as small as grasshoppers! We can’t live here!”

Believing Spy: “This is the land God has promised. He will give it to us. The Lord is with us. We should not be afraid of anyone. We should trust God and go into the good land He has provided!”

Which story do you think the people believed? (Allow response.) God had already been faithful in so many ways. But instead of trusting Him to be faithful again, the Israelites believed the ten spies who said they could not live in Canaan. They should have trusted that God knew what was best for them. **WORD UP! “God’s way is best!”** (Say with children.)



If you have believed on Jesus as your Savior, you should **trust that God knows what’s best for you**. God knows everything! He knows the best way for you to live. God warns you not to rely on your own wisdom or your own feelings to decide what is right. (Read Proverbs 3:5-6.) God’s purpose for your life is much better than any plan you could ever make up on your own—you can trust Him. You may have dreams of what you want to be when you grow up, but you should ask God if those dreams are His plan for you. You will have strong desires to do things that feel good or seem fun, but make sure you are choosing God’s ways to feel good and have fun. Ask God to help you know what He wants you to do. Spend time with God in His Word and trust that He knows what’s best for you. **WORD UP! “God’s way is best!”** (Say with children.) **God graciously wants to give you what is best for you.**

God knew what was best for the Israelites. He had brought them safely to Canaan like He promised. But the people chose not to trust God.

Flashcard 1-3

The Israelites began to complain. They were mad at Moses. But even worse than that, they were mad at God! They said they would rather be dead than go into the land God had given them. They decided to choose a new leader who could take them back to Egypt. They refused to follow God's way.



All people—even you and me—sometimes refuse to follow God's way. When you choose to disobey your parents, you are refusing to follow God's way. When you lie about something, you are refusing to follow God's way. This is called sin. You were born wanting to do things your way instead of God's way. This makes it very easy for you to sin and even enjoy sinning for a while. But God knows what's best for you—that's why He warns you not to do these things. **WORD UP!** **"God's way is best!"** (Say with children.) You might think that your sin isn't a big deal and that you are getting away with it. But God knows about your sin. (Read Proverbs 16:25.) Following your own way instead of God's way leads to death— separation from God forever. That's the worst thing that could ever happen to you. But that is what sin causes. It is always best for you to do what God says and not refuse to follow Him.

The Israelites refused to follow God. They listened to the ten spies and were afraid.

Only two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, trusted God. They reminded the people that the land already belonged to them because God had given it to them. God would protect them and keep His promise to give them this land as their home.

When the people heard what Joshua and Caleb had to say, they became so angry they decided to murder the men who were trusting God! Suddenly, God appeared to them reminding everyone that He was there. He had the power to strike them all dead, but Moses asked God not to. God agreed not to destroy the Israelites, but He said that those who had refused to trust Him—who refused to enter Canaan—would never get to go in. The Israelites would wander in the desert for a long time. They would have children and live in the desert for 40 years. When those who refused to enter Canaan had died, God would take their grown children into the Promised Land. Joshua and Caleb, the two spies who believed, would enter the land too.

Flashcard 1-4

It happened just as God said. The Israelites traveled in the desert for 40 years. But God still took care of them. He protected their shoes so they never wore out. He sent manna (a type of sweet bread) from the sky for them to eat. He did this for all 40 years! Even though they had sinned, God showed them kindness they didn't deserve.



Even though you do sinful things, God wants to show you kindness you don't deserve. Being kind to someone who doesn't deserve it is called being gracious. God is gracious to you because He loves you. (Read Psalm 103:8.) God abounds in love. God made everything and everyone—that includes you! He has the right to tell everything and everyone exactly what to do. God is perfectly good and He made rules because He is good and He loves us. God shows all people incredible kindness. He shows His steadfast love by providing sunshine, air, and food for you. What are some other good things God has given you? (Allow response.) God is gracious to you, showing you kindness you don't deserve.

God was also gracious to the disobedient Israelites. He never stopped being gracious to them as they wandered in the desert. After 40 years, the adults had died and their children were grown. Just as God promised, He brought them back to Canaan.

Flashcard 1-5

During this time, Moses died. God chose Joshua to be the new leader of Israel. Why do you think God chose Joshua? (Allow response.) Joshua was one of the two spies who believed God. Now he was leading God's people.

Finally the Israelites were ready to go into Canaan. But the overflowing Jordan River was blocking their way! There was no bridge and no way around the river. They couldn't swim across. There was no way they could enter Canaan on their own, but God graciously offered to make a way for them. God was keeping His promise to give them the Promised Land.



Remember what else God had promised? He promised to send a Savior. He kept this promise too! God graciously sent His perfect Son, Jesus, as the Savior. He made a way for you to be saved from your sin! (Read Romans 5:8.) God loves people so much, He sent His own Son to die for us. Men nailed Jesus to a cross where He bled and died in your place. But He didn't stay dead. He came alive again! Hundreds of people saw Him alive before He went back to Heaven where He rules as King. Because Jesus already took the punishment your sin deserves when He died, you can be saved from your sin and have a close friendship with God! God kept His promise to send a Savior. **God graciously wants to give you what is best for you.**

God was keeping His promise to give His people the Promised Land. He graciously made a way for the Israelites to enter Canaan! (Read Joshua 3:7-8.) God told Joshua to tell the priests to pick up the Ark of the Covenant—the beautiful box that helped them remember God was with them—and step into the Jordan. This time the people chose to do things God's way. They followed the Ark of the Covenant as the priests carried it to the river and watched as the priests stepped right into the water.

Flashcard 1-6

Suddenly there was no water around the priests' feet! How did that happen? (Allow response.) Only God could instantly dry up a path through a river! (Read Joshua 3:17.) Let's all pretend to walk through the river on dry ground. (Do with children.)

After they had finished crossing, God caused the river to start flowing again.

CLIMAX

God showed them He had the power to take care of them no matter what!

CONCLUSION

They had crossed the river and were now standing in a very special place. Can you guess where they were? (Allow response.) They were in Canaan, the Promised Land! God had faithfully kept His promise and once again proved His way is best.

INVITATION



Will you trust God's way is best? He has graciously made a way to save you from sin. When Jesus died on the cross, He took your punishment so you can be saved. God's Word says, (read Acts 16:31). When you believe on Jesus, trusting completely that He took your punishment, God will graciously save you from your sin. He will be your God and you can have a close friendship with Him. Then someday you will live with God forever after your life on Earth is over. Will you believe on Jesus as your Savior from sin today? You can do that right now where you are sitting. Please bow your head and close your eyes. If you want to talk to me about believing on Jesus or you have questions about what that means, show me by standing. (Acknowledge responses.) You may all open your eyes. If you are standing, you may come and meet me (designate time and location). I'll bring my Bible and we can talk more about what it means to believe on Jesus.



REVIEW GAME

Race for Points

Divide the children into teams and ask questions, alternating between the teams. When a child answers a question correctly, his team earns 1,000 points. The teacher says "Go" and the child runs to a bucket filled with cards with various point values on them. The child has 10 seconds to choose a card, trying to find one with a high point value. He may only have one card in his hand at a time. When the 10 seconds are up, the points on the card he is holding are added to the 1,000 points he already earned for his team.

1. What is the name of the family God promised to send the Savior through? (The Israelites.)
2. What did Moses do in order to know more about the Promised Land? (He sent 12 spies.)
3. Which spies did the Israelites believe—the spies who wanted to go into the Promised Land or the spies who didn't want to go? (The spies who didn't want to go.)
4. Why can you trust that God knows what's best for your life? (God knows everything; God cares about me; God created me; answers may vary.)
5. What is it called when you choose to go your own way and refuse God's way? (Sin.)
6. What happened because the Israelites refused to trust God? (They couldn't go into the Promised Land; they had to wander in the desert for 40 years.)
7. How is God gracious to you? (He loves me even though I don't deserve it; answers may vary.)
8. Why do you think God chose Joshua to be the new leader of the Israelites? (He trusted God's promise; answers may vary.)
9. How did God graciously make a way for your sins to be forgiven? (He sent His perfect Son, Jesus, as the Savior.)
10. What happened when the priests stepped into the Jordan River? (The waters parted and they walked on dry ground.)

11. What does it mean to believe on Jesus? (Trust completely that Jesus took my punishment when He died on the cross.)
12. Our memory verse says to trust in the Lord. What does that mean? (Depend on God; have confidence that God knows what is best for them.)

MISSIONARY STORY

Isobel Kuhn Part 1



Isobel Miller ran downstairs and hurried into the living room, clutching her favorite book. “Mom, I found it!”

Her mother looked up with a smile. “Was it in one of those boxes?” she asked.

“Yes, there are lots of books we still haven’t unpacked. Will you read it to me?”

Isobel’s mother smiled again as Isobel snuggled up next to her on the sofa. Whenever her mother read a story, Isobel felt as if she had stepped into another world. It was even better when her mother made up stories.

When the story was over, Isobel’s father put another log in the fireplace. Her mother went to the piano and began to play. Her brother, Murray, came to join their mother in singing. As they sang, Isobel thought of the many happy evenings her family had spent at the beach that summer. Sometimes they had sat around a bonfire to sing. Sometimes they had listened to her father preach at a Gospel meeting right next to the ocean.

Now Isobel’s mother was playing more softly; she was making up a new song. Isobel leaned forward to listen.

“Oh, that’s a good one!” Father exclaimed. “We can use it at the mission this week.”

Isobel nodded. Sometimes she and Murray sang together at the mission downtown.

The Miller family had just moved to Vancouver, British Columbia. Sometimes moves can be scary and hard but Isobel found she loved her new home. It was near the ocean and close to the mountains. Isobel loved looking at the tall mountain peaks.

Isobel didn’t know it, but God had a plan to someday bring her to different mountains in a country far away. **Where would God lead Isobel? Would she be ready?**



SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Color Sheet and Discussion

Review the Bible Lesson from today as kids color the picture. Talk about how the Israelites didn’t trust that God knew what was best for them. Ask, “What are some way that you can trust that God’s way for your life is best?”

DISMISSAL

Hand out a Quiet Time Sheet (Week 1 in the Resource Pack) to each child. Encourage them to fill it out and bring it back next week. As children are getting picked up, try and connect with the parents and let them know the kids are working on bringing glory to God this week.

Entering the Land: Refusal, Return, and Renewal

This page has been designed for you to photocopy and place in you Bible as a ready reference.

Lesson Outline	
<p>I. INTRODUCTION "This land is filled with huge armies. They will destroy us! And we saw giants! Some of them were so tall it made us feel as small as grasshoppers! We can't live here!"</p> <p>II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God promised the land of Canaan to the Israelites. (Genesis 17:8) 2. The Israelites were slaves in Egypt for hundreds of years but God didn't forget His promise. 3. God used His power to save the Israelites and bring them to the Promised Land. 	<p>A. Flashcard 1-1 (Numbers 13:1-24) Moses sent 12 spies into Canaan.</p> 
<p>B. Flashcard 1-2 (Numbers 13:25-14:1)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The spies agreed that the land was beautiful. 2. "Spies" skit. <p>Trust that God knows what's best for you. [Proverbs 3:5-6]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The people didn't trust God. 	
<p>C. Flashcard 1-3 (Numbers 14:2-35)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Israelites refused to follow God's way. <p>Following your own way instead of God's way leads to death—separation from God forever. [Proverbs 16:25]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Joshua and Caleb trusted God. 3. The people tried to kill Joshua and Caleb but God stopped them. 4. The Israelites would wander in the desert for 40 years. 	
<p>D. Flashcard 1-4</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God still took care of the Israelites in the desert. <p>☞ God is gracious to you. [Psalm 103:8]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. After 40 years God brought the Israelites back to Canaan. 	
<p>E. Flashcard 1-5 (Joshua 1:1-3; 3:1-13)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When Moses died, God chose Joshua to be the new leader of Israel. 2. The overflowing Jordan River blocked the Israelite's way into the Promised Land. <p>☞ God graciously sent His perfect Son, Jesus, as the Savior. [Romans 5:8]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. God made a way for the Israelites to enter Canaan and this time the people chose to do things God's way. 	
<p>F. Flashcard 1-6 (Joshua 3:14-17)</p> <p>God instantly dried up a path through the river!</p> <p>III. CLIMAX God showed them that He had the power to take care of them no matter what!</p> <p>IV. CONCLUSION God had faithfully kept His promise to the Israelites. ☞ Will you believe on Jesus as your Savior from sin? [Acts 16:31]</p>	

Scripture verses in parentheses are background text. Bracketed verses should be quoted or read from God's Word.

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God's Faithfulness: Return to Canaan Coloring Sheet, Lesson 1