

## TWELVE SPIES INVESTIGATE NEW LAND NUMBERS 13

*God's Power is Bigger Than Anything Else*

### Bible Background

- Read: Numbers 13
- In This Passage: God's people are approaching the land God promised them. Twelve spies head in to scout out the land and see what it's like. Ten come back with a negative report: the people are too giant, and we can't conquer this land. Two come back confident that God is big enough to conquer the land.
- Bible Point: God's power is bigger than anything else.
- Theme Verse: "A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power." Ephesians 6:10

### Prepare Your Heart

- You'll Be Discussing: **God's power is bigger than anything else.** COVID-19 feels big. Huge! It's a problem across the whole world, and it may feel as unbeatable as the giants in Canaan felt to the Israelites. Help kids see that even though COVID-19 is big, God's power is bigger.
- Think About: What feels like a giant in your life? Pray for God's power to show up.
- Pray: for your kids to look for and see God's power in their lives.

1. Watch the ECBC KidsChurch Video -- [eastcooperbaptist.com/children](http://eastcooperbaptist.com/children)

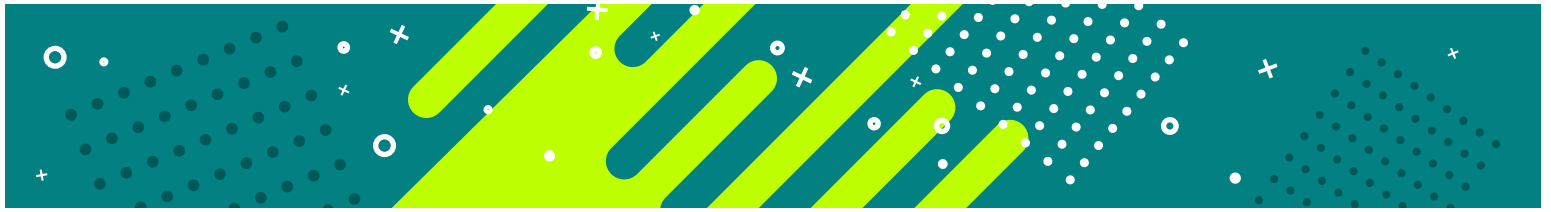
2. Family Discussion Time

#### What Scares You?

**Say:** We've learned that God's power is bigger than anything . . . including the things that scare us!

#### Ask:

- Which of the scary things named in the video are scary to you, too?
- How did the Bible verses help show that God's power is bigger than those fears?



- What can remind you about how big God is the next time you're scared?

**Say:** God's power is bigger than anything. He made the mountains, the oceans, and outer space! God so big and powerful, we don't need to be afraid.

### 3. Family Game

#### Bigger and Bigger

##### Guess the Next Direction

**Say:** Today we're exploring how God's power is bigger than anything. Let's play a game where things just keep getting bigger and bigger!

- You'll play an alphabet game, where kids take turns naming something that starts with each letter of the alphabet. The new item named for each letter must be bigger than the previous thing, so it's good to start small.
- For example, the first child might say "ant," and the next child could say "ball."
- If you have younger kids, you can just have them name bigger and bigger things that start with any letter.
- The round will end when kids are stumped at coming up with anything bigger.
- Play additional rounds as time allows, trying to get further into the alphabet.

#### Talk About It

##### Ask:

- When did it get hard to think of bigger items?
- How can you be sure God's power is bigger than anything we named?

**Say:** God's power is bigger than anything. In the Bible story, most of the spies were comparing the size of the giants to their own size . . . so the giants seemed huge! But Caleb compared the giants to the size of God's power, and knew God's power was so much bigger! No matter what feels big to us, we can be sure that God's power is bigger.

### 4. Family Prayer

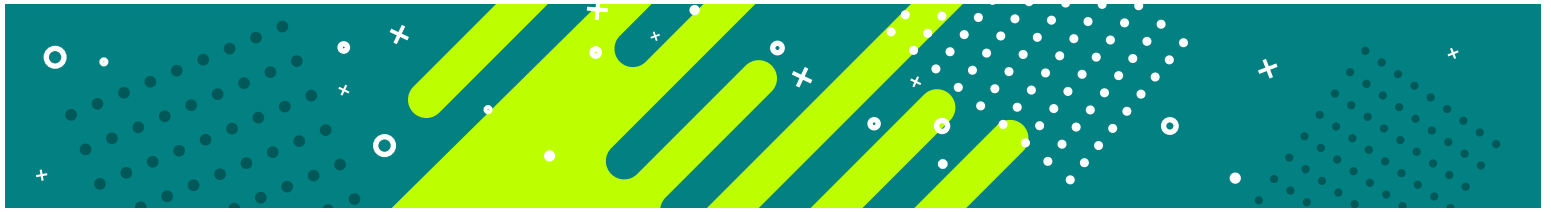
#### You Are Bigger!

##### Call and Respond

**Say:** God's power is bigger than anything. Let's remind us that no matter what feels giant in our lives, God's power is bigger! I'll start a prayer, and you'll fill in when I pause by saying to God, "your power is bigger!"

- Pray: **God, when COVID-19 feels big** . . . (your power is bigger!)
- Pray: **God, when fear feels big** . . . (your power is bigger!)
- Pray: **God, when worries feel big** . . . (your power is bigger!)
- Pray: **God, when loneliness feels big** . . . (your power is bigger!)
- Pray: **God, when boredom feels big** . . . (your power is bigger!)
- Allow kids to call out their own prayer starters following the same format, if they want.





- Pray: God, thank you that no matter what is giant in our lives, your power is bigger. In Jesus' name, amen.

## 5. Family Devo for the Week (Use this easy follow-up devotional anytime this week to reinforce the lesson.)

### What if My Fear Feels Bigger Than God's Power?

#### Supplies:

- Bible
- Uninflated balloon (for adult use only)
- Fine-tipped permanent marker (for adult use only)

#### Easy Prep:

- Write "fear" in small letters on the uninflated balloon.

#### Explore the Story

**Say:** We're discovering that God's power is bigger than anything. But sometimes our fears feel really big! So what if our fears feel bigger than God's power? What do we do? Let's explore that. Sometimes our fears are really big. The Israelite spies really did see giants, but was their fear as big as they said? Listen to what they said.

#### Read Numbers 13:32-33

**Say:** The spies said that all the people they saw were huge. Let's look back at what they saw.

#### Read Numbers 13:21

#### Ask:

- Did the Bible mention that the spies saw any giants in this verse?

#### Read Numbers 13:22

#### Ask:

- Did the Bible mention that the spies saw any giants in this verse? (The descendants of Anak were the giants.)

#### Read Numbers 13:23

#### Ask:

- Did the Bible mention that the spies saw any giants in this verse?

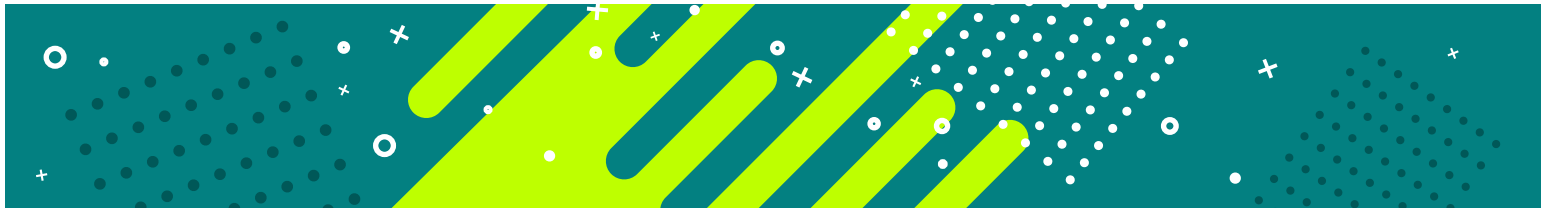
**Say:** The spies went to a lot of places. Some of those places had giants. But some of them didn't seem to have giants. They saw some huge people, and their fear grew big. It's kind of like this.

#### Inflate a Balloon

- Show kids the balloon, and point out that it says "fear" on it.

**Say:** Right now, the word fear isn't very big. Share some things people are afraid of. Allow time for kids to respond. Those are all real fears people have. But sometimes, those fears become bigger in our minds than they really are.





**Ask:**

- Tell about some things you think about that can make your fear feel bigger. Share an example to get kids started. For example, maybe you spend too much time on social media and it focuses your attention on negative things about COVID-19. As kids share, blow one breath into the balloon for each answer, and hold the end so it stays inflated.

**Say:** See what happened? When we focus on our fears or worry about them too much, they start to feel huge—like giants! It's not that the fears aren't real. Our balloon really does have "fear" written on it. But our minds can make the fears feel bigger than they really are. We compare them to our own strength, and they seem giant.

**Ask:**

- What do you think made the Israelites' fear grow?

**Shrink Fear**

**Say:** We've seen that when we focus on our fears and worries, they grow. But what happens when we focus on God's power instead?

Read the following verses and statements. After each one, let a little air out of the balloon, and then pinch the end so the balloon stays somewhat inflated but shrinks a bit each time.

**Read Psalm 77:11**

**Say:** When we can remember big things God has done before, our fear shrinks.

**Read Psalm 47:2**

**Say:** When we remember that God is awesome, our fear shrinks.

**Read 1 John 4:4**

**Say:** When we understand that God's power is greater than anything, our fear shrinks.

**Read Isaiah 41:10**

**Say:** When we remember that God is with us, our fear shrinks. Let all of the remaining air out of the balloon.

**Ask:**

- Tell about a time God helped shrink a fear in your life. Share your own example first.

Hold up the deflated balloon and say: Look at our fear now. It's still there, but we've put it in the right perspective. It doesn't look so big because we've compared it to God's size, not our own. God's power is bigger than anything. Let's pray about that.

**Pray:** God, thank you that you're with us when we're afraid. Thank you that your power is bigger than anything. Please help us focus on your power as you shrink the fears in our lives. In Jesus' name, amen.