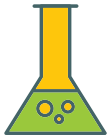




Whose voice are you listening to?

Twelve spies were sent into the Promised Land. All agreed the land was wonderful, but ten of the spies gave a “bad report” and said the giants in the land were too powerful, claiming that the children of Israel would be defeated. Caleb and Joshua said God was able to win the victory. Unfortunately, the people listened to the ten spies who doubted God rather than to the two who trusted God. What sort of people are you listening to?



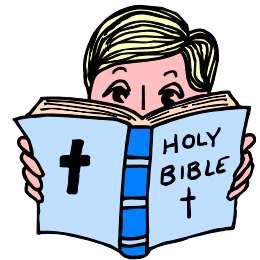
Object Lesson

Hide a treat somewhere in your house. Enlist two children to try and find the treat after each one first listens to a set of secretly whispered instructions. One child should have multiple people simultaneously speak “gibberish” into their ear, while the other child is given clear instructions by just one parent. If there is only one child available, use a timer to see how fast he or she can find the treat, first by giving gibberish instructions and then a second timing when given clear instructions.

Scripture

³¹Then the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are.” ³²So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, “The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. ³³And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.”

—Numbers 13:31–33

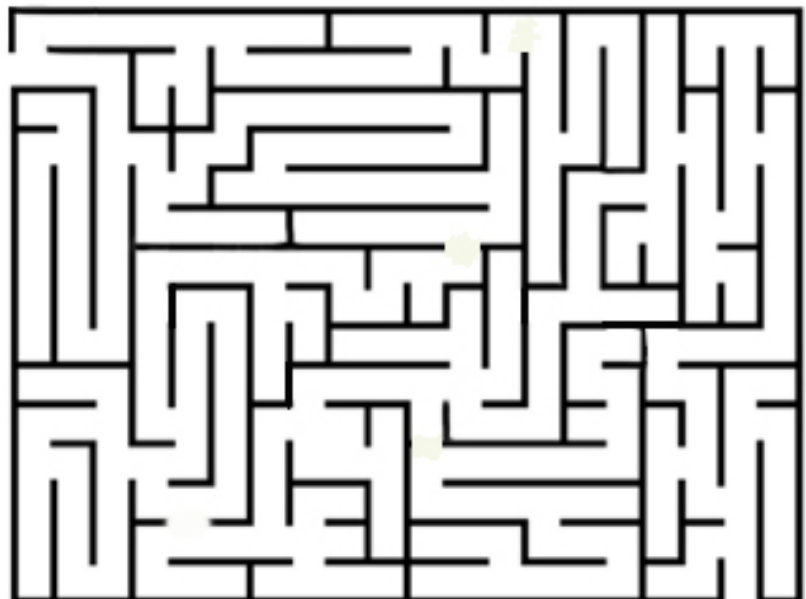


⁶And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes ⁷and said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, “The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. ⁸If the LORD delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. ⁹Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them.”

—Numbers 14:6–9



Team Work



See how fast you can get through the maze.

The children of Israel wandered for 40 years because they didn’t believe God’s promise for them.

Sharing

What was different about the report of the 10 spies and the report of Caleb and Joshua?



Are there ever people who tell you to do something or try to have you do something that you know is wrong? How do you respond to them?



Encouragement

We have lots of voices telling us what to do, how to live, and what to believe. It is very important that the voices we listen to are those of people who listen to, trust, and obey the Lord. God had told Joshua and Caleb the land was theirs. The people of Israel should have listened to them, just as we should listen to the people who follow the Lord.

A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke. —Proverbs 13:1

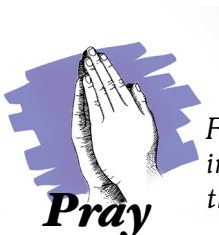
³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. —Romans 8:31–35, 38–39

Final Thought

The ten spies did not give a good report and people made a bad decision by listening to them instead of to Caleb and Joshua. This resulted in the people of Israel, except for Caleb and Joshua, never experiencing the promised land.

Sometimes, in order to be accepted, popular, or go along with the crowd, we forget what God has promised for us and we miss out on His blessings for our lives.



Father, thank you for putting people in my life who know you and love you and want to instruct me in your ways. Please help me to listen to wise counsel and ignore the voices that are not leading me in your ways.