

## Experiential Learning: The Trustful Spies - Sunday 10th October, 2010

Years 3 & 4

Time: 10 minute

Bible verse: Numbers 13-14:35

Moses sent men to spy out the land of Canaan which the Lord had promised to the children of Israel. Moses asked them to describe to him whether the people were strong or weak, few or many. He also asked them to describe the land, whether it was fertile or barren, and whether the city they lived in was surrounded by a mighty wall. The spies went to spy out the land for 40 days and returned with huge bunches of grapes and other fruit that grew in the land of Canaan. They reported to Moses that the land was rich with milk and honey, but the people were fierce and lived in a city that was surrounded by a mighty wall. The people of Israel then prepared themselves to defeat and conquer the great city of Canaan.

This activity helps the children realise the value of preparing before undertaking a big task.

Resources:

Paper and pencils

Divide the children into groups. Give a piece of paper per group and ask them to work together. Give them the following scenario: Your parents say that they will take you on a nice holiday for your next birthday. You are very excited because you know that they always keep their promises. In groups, make a list of things you will need to pack for the holiday.

Give the children a minute to make a list of things they would pack and notice if any have trouble making the list and ask questions like “where will the holiday be”, etc.

Stop the children and ask them what information they need to know first before they can make the list of things to pack so that they can be prepared for the trip? eg. where the holiday will be, what the weather will be like, what activities they will be doing, etc.

Now tell the children that the family holiday will be in Fiji and they will be staying at a beach resort. Now ask them to turn their paper over and make a list of things they need on the other side of the paper.

Collect the pieces of paper. Compare some of the entries on the lists, eg. clothes for warm weather, sun glasses, sun block, swimmers, beach ball, etc.

Is it easier to make the list once you know what it will be like and where you are going? What difference would knowing some information about where you're going make to the success of the trip? What if you only packed warm winter clothes to go to Fiji? Would the holiday be as enjoyable as if you have packed the right things that go with the hot tropical weather in Fiji? So having some information about a task you are about to take on helps you to be prepared and makes the outcome better.

