



EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

Session 3: The Land

Suggested Week of Use: September 21, 2025

Core Passage: Numbers 13:17-31

News Story Summary

After multiple postponements and explosive setbacks, SpaceX's Starship rocket executed a successful tenth test flight in late August. The colossal rocket lifted off from Texas, deployed eight Starlink simulated satellites, reignited its engines in space, and successfully splashed down. In fact, Starship landed within a few meters of its target in the Indian Ocean. The milestone event had been delayed two days because of poor weather conditions. Previous tests had ended with explosions, either in flight or on the launchpad. This tenth flight was designed to test Starship's heat shield and its ability to deploy a payload. While the rocket showed signs of stress, the successful launch and return does breathe new life into SpaceX founder Elon Musk's vision of colonizing Mars. Thanks to this successful flight, Musk now believes Starship can carry a crew to the moon as early as 2027, with a manned mission to Mars in the not-too-distant future.

For more about this story, search "Starship nails test flight."

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, encourage adults to share what comes to mind when they think about space. Point out that in late August, a new rocket created quite a buzz. Read the information about Starship's tenth test launch by SpaceX. Note that Starship carries the most powerful rocket ever built and that the ultimate goal is for Starship to take humans to Mars. Note that previous failures did not stop progress. Emphasize the power of overcoming uncertainty by getting more information and acting wisely on that information. Explain that in Numbers 13, God commanded Moses to send out twelve spies to explore the promised land. Say: *Their job was to gather information and report back. Unfortunately, as we'll see, the outcome was more like Starship's earlier test flights than its successful tenth effort.*

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, remind the group about the SpaceX Starship tests. Say: *This tenth test wasn't the end game. When all is said and done, the Starship project won't be considered a success until a human lands on Mars and returns safely.* Compare this to the task of the Israelite spies in today's session. Affirm that a huge cluster of grapes didn't mean the scouts had accomplished their task. Say: *Their mission failed because their report persuaded the people that they should not move forward. Instead of celebrating God's promises, the Israelites convinced themselves that they really could not trust God at all.*

Challenge adults to take these important steps as they consider where God may be calling them to act in faith:

- **Name their fear:** Write down one thing you're hesitant about obeying God in right now.
- **Pray for courage:** Ask God to replace your fears with an ongoing recognition of His presence and His promises.
- **Take one step:** Move forward in faithful obedience, trusting God even when the outcome isn't seen or guaranteed.
- **Share your story:** Tell someone how you acted in faith and how you saw God at work.

Close the session in prayer, asking God to empower each adult to overcome doubts and fears as they move forward in faith.