

Object Lesson - The twelve spies
Trusting God changes your choices

(Sing Grandma's 12 Spies song too! You'll find it at <http://www.mygrandmatime.com/3019-2/visit-with-grandma/sing-with-grandma/12-men-went-to-spy-on-canaan/>)

Prepare two boxes- One box is beautiful but has 12 pieces of wood/sticks and some tissue in it. The other box is ugly and basic, but has a 12 treats in it. Both should be well sealed so that they don't open upon inspection.

Ask for 12 volunteers – Explain – I have packed and prepared two boxes. Your job is to choose one box to open. You may touch and shake the boxes and I will answer any question you ask, except I will not tell you or hint about what is in either box. You cannot open a box until you agree on which box to open. (Give them some discovery and question time. If they ask you about what's in a box, do not respond. If they ask you what box you would choose, let them know you would choose the ugly box.) It is time to make a decision. You have 3 options.

- 1- If you all agree, I will open this box and share what is in it with you.
- 2- If you all agree I will open this box and share what is in it with you.
- 3- But, if you don't all agree, neither of the boxes will be opened and you will need to go back to your seats.

Please raise your hand if you think we should open this box. (Hold each box up as they vote.)

Options for ending this object lesson:

- 1- You have not agreed on which box to open. I will give you one minute to discuss it and then we'll take another vote.
- 2- You have not agreed on which box to open. Would my opinion help? If I were you, I would vote for this box. Would you like to take another vote?
- 3- You have not agreed on which box to open. It is time for you to sit down. Because the 12 men could not agree, a whole generation of people had to die before God was able to give them the gift he had offered them.
- 4- You have agreed to open this beautiful box. (open it and pass out the 12 pieces of wood/sticks) If you had asked me, I would have let you know that you should choose the other box. But you didn't ask me. God had a really nice gift to give His people, but because they didn't ask Him or trust Him, they didn't get what they expected.
- 5- You have agreed to open this beautiful box. (open it and pass out the 12 pieces of wood/sticks) I told you that you should choose the other box. But you didn't trust me. God had a really nice gift to give His people, but because they didn't trust Him, they didn't get what they expected.
- 6- You have agreed to open this plain box. (open it and pass out the 12 treats) You asked me and you believed what I told you. God wanted to give His people a great gift, but they didn't trust God.
- 7- You have agreed to open this plain box. (open it and pass out the 12 treats) You understood my challenge and thought about what it might mean. God wanted to give His people a great gift, but they didn't understand God and His challenge to them.

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