

LESSON FROM A SPY

by GREG SULLIVAN

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: The children of Israel are about to enter the Promised Land after forty years of wandering the desert. The grandson of one of the twelve spies who spied out the land forty years before awakens from a bad dream. As his father comforts him, he reassures his son that the love and power of God will take care of him in every situation.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: It would be best to raise the mat up on a cot or something similar to elevate the boy for the audience. It would also make a nice effect to have the whole scene surrounded by half of a tent with such objects as blankets, candles, and some old cooking utensils scattered around.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Trust, Love, Biblical Times

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Numbers 13, Numbers 14

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon Opener

CHARACTERS:

Josiah—An Israelite boy about nine years old. He is the grandson of one of the spies who spied out the Promised Land.

Ahira—The father of Josiah. He is the son of one of the twelve spies. As a child he witnessed both the report of the spies when they returned and the tragic death of his father that came about because of his father's unbelief.

PROPS: A sleeping mat, blanket

COSTUMES: Biblical

SOUND: Two wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A tent of one of the families of the children of Israel. The son of the family is sleeping on the eve of their entering the Promised Land.

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Lights up, revealing a boy tossing and turning while sleeping on a mat. He is obviously having a bad dream. He suddenly sits up and cries out.

JOSIAH: Daddy, Dadd—I'm scared. Where are you, Daddy?

AHIRA enters from stage left and rushes into the tent. He kneels beside his half-asleep son.

AHIRA: It's all right, son. I'm here. You don't need to be afraid.

JOSIAH: But I am afraid, Daddy. I had a scary dream about where we're going tomorrow.

AHIRA: What do you mean, Josiah? Are you afraid of our journey into the Promised Land?

JOSIAH: What about the stories, Daddy? Some people say there are giants there—that a long time ago some of our people saw them. What if they hurt us? What if they take our food? Aren't you afraid?

AHIRA: *(In a comforting voice)* Oh, son, I understand. But no, I'm not afraid.

JOSIAH: How come you're never afraid, Daddy?

AHIRA: Oh, I'm afraid sometimes. But then I remember something very special that chases my fear away.

JOSIAH: What do you remember?

AHIRA: *(He pauses to think of what to say)* I want to tell you a story, Josiah, an old story that I've never told you before, about your grandfather.

JOSIAH: But I don't know my grandfather.

AHIRA: I know, son. And there's a very sad reason you never met him. You see, about forty years ago, when I was your age, we were camped very close to where we are now, ready to go into the Promised Land.

JOSIAH: Forty years ago? Then why aren't we already there—did everybody walk really slow back then?

AHIRA: *(He chuckles)* No, son. Something happened that kept us from going in—something that's very hard for me to talk about. God told Moses to send twelve men into the land to check it out—to see what the land was like, what the people were like, how it would be to live there. And your grandpa Ammiel, my father, was one of them.

JOSIAH: Grandpa was a spy?