Against the Odds

What is a place you've always dreamed of exploring? Why?

Read Numbers 13:1-33. Read Numbers 14:1-45.

- 1. What did the spies see in the land of Canaan?
 - A. Yummy fruit and lots of resources.
 - B. Strong and scary people.
 - C. Dry and not-so-great land.
 - D. Giant-sized people who were tough to beat.
 - E. Cities that were like super forts, hard to break into.
 - F. Plenty of water and good soil for farming.
 - G. Beautiful nature and amazing views.
 - H. Cool animals you don't see every day.
 - I. Other
- 2. Why do you think some of the spies got scared and thought they couldn't take over Canaan?
 - A. Forgot to trust that God would help them like He promised.
 - B. Thought they were too weak compared to the Canaanites.
 - C. Listened to what most people thought, even if it wasn't right.
 - D. Had faced tough battles before and didn't want more trouble.
 - E. Were afraid to leave behind their comfortable life in the wilderness.
 - F. Didn't believe in themselves and thought they couldn't do it.
 - G. Felt overwhelmed by all the challenges they saw.
 - H. Worried about leaving their current life behind.
 - I. Other
- 3. How did Joshua and Caleb see the situation differently?
 - A. Believed that with God's help, they could conquer anything.
 - B. Thought the people in Canaan were easy to beat.
 - C. Wanted to give up and go back to where they came from.
 - D. Trusted their own military skills and plans to win in Canaan.
 - E. Had seen God do amazing things and knew He would keep His promises.
 - F. Relied on their own cleverness and strategies to succeed.
 - G. Felt scared too, but trusted God anyway.
 - H. Asked their leader, Moses, and his brother, Aaron, for advice.
 - I. Other

- 4. What happened when the Israelites lost faith and let fear take over?
 - A. Started complaining and going against their leaders
 - B. Thought about going back to being slaves in Egypt.
 - C. Didn't trust that God would keep His promises.
 - D. Blamed each other for the tough situation they were in.
 - E. Tried to figure things out on their own instead of asking God.
 - F. Felt stuck and couldn't make decisions.
 - G. Other
- 5. What were the bad things that happened because the Israelites didn't trust God?
 - A. Had to wander in the wilderness for a really long time—40 years!
 - B. Only Joshua and Caleb, and their families, were allowed to go to Canaan.
 - C. Missed out on the good things God had promised them.
 - D. Had to keep fighting battles with other nations instead of finding peace.
 - E. Didn't get to experience God's special blessings right away.
 - F. Faced hardships and challenges throughout their journey.
 - G. Other
- 6. What makes it hard to trust God's promises?
 - A. When I hear negative reports from people around me.
 - B. Forgetting how God has helped me in the past.
 - C. Believing things I tell myself that may no be true about the situation.
 - D. When things seem uncertain or unsure,
 - E. When the situation seems overwhelming and I'm against all odds.
 - F. It's not hard to trust God's promises.
 - G. Other.
- 7. What ways can you choose to have the perspective of Joshua and Caleb and believe God's promises?
- 8. What promises of God can we hold on to when we face tough times?