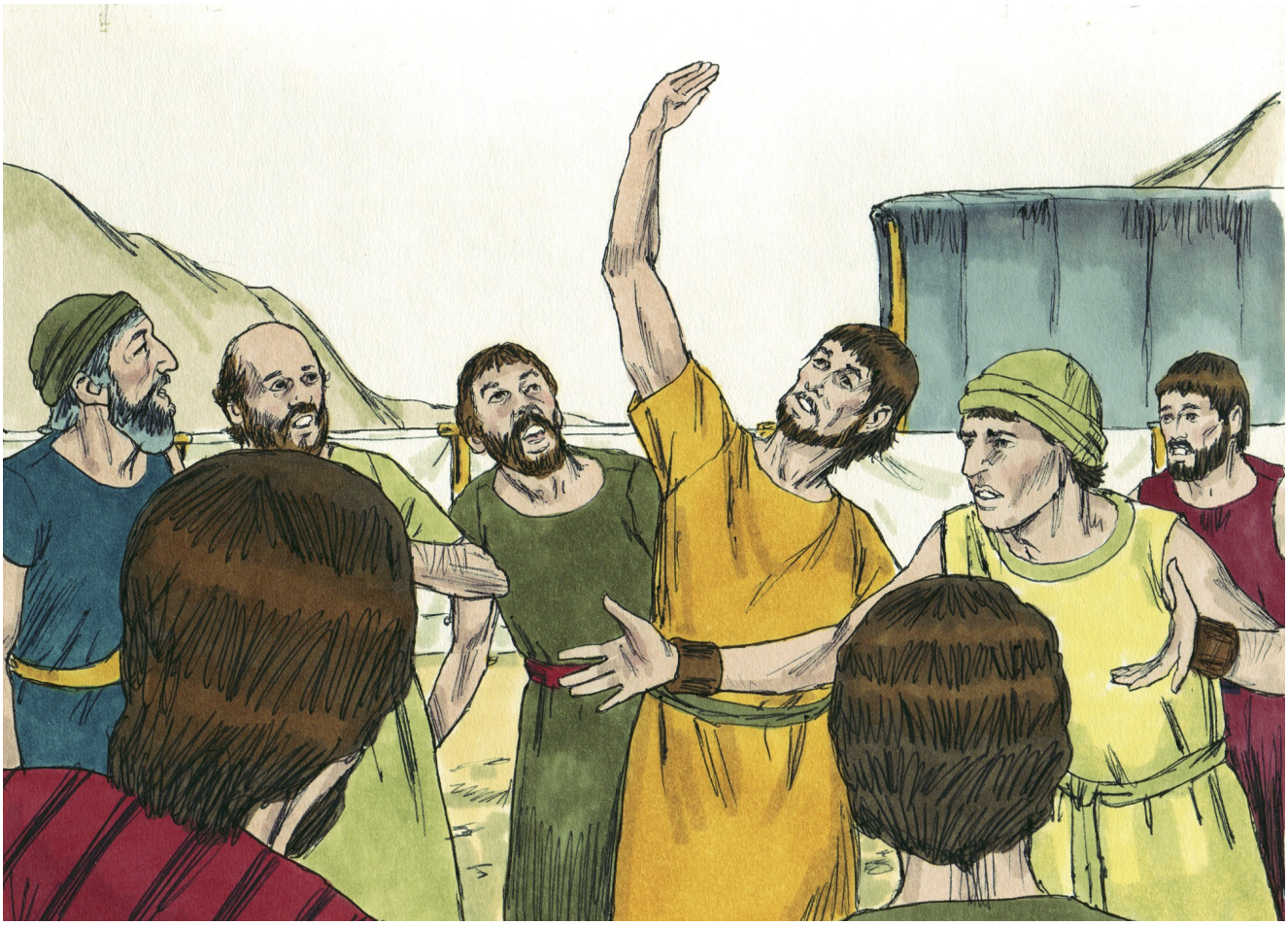
A PUPPET PLAY IN ONE ACT

Dodging Giants

Based on Numbers 13 · Written by Carrie Elderberry



SUITABLE FOR
Ages 5 and up

PERFORMANCE TIME
10–12 minutes

CAST SIZE
7 puppets

PROPS REQUIRED
None

MAIN THEME
When we are surrendered to God, no giant is too big to face.

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To print just the play on its own, print pages 5–10.

PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Synopsis

TIMID hates basketball because the bigger kids always shove him around—he feels as small as a grasshopper. BRAVE suggests a Bible story that might help, and the scene shifts to three spies returning from Canaan: faithful CALEB, and the fearful NAHBI and GEUEL, who can only see the giants. After the spies exit, TIMID has found his courage: next time the big kids show up, he will remember that God is bigger.

Spiritual Concept

When God calls us to something, He goes before us—no matter how big the obstacles look. Caleb and Joshua trusted God’s promise; the other spies trusted only their own eyes. The same choice faces us whenever we feel small and outnumbered.

Age Suitability

Best for ages 5–12; adaptable for all ages.

Performance Time

10–12 minutes

CAST & TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Characters (in order of appearance)

TIMID — A modern child worried about bigger kids and bullies. Feels small and helpless—but open to learning.

BRAVE — A modern child who trusts God in every situation. Warm and encouraging, not boastful.

CALEB — One of the twelve spies from Numbers 13—confident in God’s promise even when the odds look impossible.

NAHBI — One of the twelve spies—frightened by the size of the Canaanites, unable to see past the obstacles.

GEUEL — One of the twelve spies—shares NAHBI’s fear. Comic foil to CALEB’s faith.

GRASSHOPPER — A recurring visual gag—jumps across the stage multiple times throughout the play. No dialogue.

ELEPHANT — Optional. No dialogue. If you have an elephant puppet, she can pop up during the closing song when everyone sings “He made the elephants too!”

Prop Options

- A particularly energetic GRASSHOPPER puppet for maximum comic effect.

PERFORMANCE NOTES FOR PUPPETEERS

New to puppets? General prep, technique, and voice tips live at gospelpuppets.org/getting-started.

Character Notes

GRASSHOPPER has no dialogue—all physical comedy. The puppeteer should make each entrance distinct and playful.

CALEB is the emotional anchor of the Bible scene—keep him warm even when frustrated.

GEUEL and NAHBI can overlap and finish each other’s sentences for comic effect.

Staging

TIMID and BRAVE move to the side wings when the Bible-era scene begins, watching and reacting visibly.

The GRASSHOPPER appears seven times—each entrance should be a surprise. Timing is everything.

Optional: if you have an ELEPHANT puppet, let her pop up when everyone sings “He made the elephants too!” in the closing song.

Reading the Script

CAPS = Volume / intensity.

Extra commas = pause for breath.

DODGING GIANTS

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(Enter BRAVE and TIMID. They greet the audience.)

TIMID: Hey, you are brave. I have a question for you.

BRAVE: Really? I thought you already knew everything! Ha, ha!

TIMID: Very funny. Seriously, since you're BRAVE, you might be able to answer my question.

BRAVE: Ask away!

TIMID: Why do so many people like basketball? I just hate it!

BRAVE: Basketball is a blast! You get to dodge around, and try to steal the ball!

TIMID: Yeah, but—

BRAVE: And then you get to try to make a basket and it's fun!

TIMID: Well, the big kids always shove me out of the way, and I can't dodge fast enough! I just hate it.

BRAVE: So you hate it, because you are smaller?

TIMID: Yes. They are so big. I don't stand a chance! But I know I'm supposed to play… to be a good sport.

BRAVE: Oh. But I'm really just as small as you!

TIMID: Compared to them, I feel as small as a grasshopper. I get so scared, I just freeze up.

(Enter GRASSHOPPER, who jumps around and exits.)

BRAVE: Look at that! Bet you wish you could jump like a grasshopper, huh?

(Enter GRASSHOPPER, who jumps around and exits.)

TIMID: Yeah I wish!

BRAVE: Then they wouldn't be able to shove you.

TIMID: Yeah, I wish. I sure hate basketball. Those big kids are just like giants!

BRAVE: Speaking of giants and grasshoppers…

(Enter GRASSHOPPER, who jumps around and exits.)

BRAVE: You just reminded me of something!

TIMID: Really? What?

BRAVE: A story! In the Bible.

TIMID: I've heard of the Bible. But what does it have to do with basketball?

BRAVE: God is Somebody who is bigger than any giant. And faster than any grasshopper!

(Enter GRASSHOPPER, who jumps around and exits.)

TIMID: How can God help? God does not play basketball!

BRAVE: No, but He can help you to be brave. To be a good sport.

TIMID: Couldn't God just get rid of ball games?

BRAVE: Well… hey! We have some other puppets who can explain it better than me.

TIMID: Can we watch them?

BRAVE: Sure. Let's move over and make room for them!

(Exit TIMID and BRAVE to side wings. They watch carefully, nodding or shaking their heads when appropriate.)

(Enter NAHBI, followed by GEUEL, center stage. They are scared and looking around.)

GEUEL: Nahbi, did anyone SEE you?

NAHBI: I sure hope not! Geuel, being a spy is NOT as much fun as I thought it would be.

GEUEL: I know. I can't wait to get out of here. But where is Caleb? We CAN'T leave without Caleb.

NAHBI: Oh, no! I thought he was with you.

GEUEL: Nahbi, what if the Canaanites captured him?

GEUEL AND NAHBI: Oh, no! What will we do?

(They look around wildly. Then CALEB arrives to the side of them, all happy.)

CALEB: Hey, Nahbi! Hi Geuel! Isn’t Canaan beautiful? And it will be OURS soon!

GEUEL: There you are, Caleb. Now let’s go!

CALEB: Isn’t this exciting? Canaan is everything God promised it would be!

NAHBI: Sure, sure! But now, let’s hurry back—

GEUEL: And report to Moses—

NAHBI: That it’s HOPELESS.

CALEB: Hopeless? Geuel, Nahbi, why do you say it’s hopeless?

NAHBI: Caleb, did you not SEE the size of those Canaanites?

CALEB: Oh, yeah! They are big!

NAHBI: Those giants have been taking their vitamins!

CALEB: Well… yeah, they are kind of tall.

GEUEL: Are you kidding? They could use Noah’s ark for a bath toy!

CALEB: Now you are just exaggerating.

GEUEL AND NAHBI: Not very much.

CALEB: Come on, Geuel! Nahbi! God will go before us. Think positive!

NAHBI: Positive, right… I’m positive they would make HAMBURGER out of us.

CALEB: Nahbi, God will bring those Canaanites to their KNEES.

GEUEL: Yeah? Well even on their knees, they would still be taller than us.

NAHBI: Caleb, next to them, we look as small as GRASSHOPPERS.

(Enter GRASSHOPPER, who jumps around and exits.)

CALEB: *(getting annoyed)* Nahbi, the only thing that is SMALL around here is your faith in God!

NAHBI: Let’s go back to Moses NOW. It’s hopeless.

CALEB: Honestly, you two! OK, so the Canaanites are bigger than us.

GEUEL AND NAHBI: Much bigger!

CALEB: OK, a lot bigger. But God PROMISED us this land. If HE is on our side, we can’t lose!

GEUEL: Yeah, but…

CALEB: Guys, God set us free from slavery in Egypt, right?

GEUEL AND NAHBI: Yeah, but…

CALEB: And He parted the Red Sea, so we could WALK across on dry land, right?

GEUEL AND NAHBI: Yeah, but…

CALEB: And He still feeds us with manna every day, right?

GEUEL AND NAHBI: Yeah, but…

CALEB: Then no more "yeah-buts"!

GEUEL AND NAHBI: You just don't understand!

CALEB: God keeps His promises. I say we can trust Him, to keep His promise about Canaan. He told us to go in, and take it over.

(NAHBI and GEUEL exchange whispers.)

NAHBI: Caleb, we have talked it over. And we have come to a conclusion.

CALEB: Which is…?

NAHBI: It is impossible.

GEUEL: We are telling Moses it's impossible.

CALEB: *(very sad)* Oh, guys… well… So you are determined to leave God out?

NAHBI: We are just trusting in our own eyes, thanks.

CALEB: Well, as for me, I will serve the Lord. And I won't be ALONE.

GEUEL: Yeah, you and your grasshopper friends!

(Enter GRASSHOPPER, who jumps around and exits.)

CALEB: Our size won't matter, because God will go before us. Alright, let's find the other spies. Then we will go back to Moses with our report.

(Exit CALEB, GEUEL, and NAHBI.)

(Enter BRAVE and TIMID.)

TIMID: Was Caleb the only spy that really trusted God?

BRAVE: No, there was one other spy, named Joshua, who was ready to go too.

TIMID: They were not at all worried by the size of those Canaanites?

BRAVE: I'm sure they were scared. But they did not let that stop them.

TIMID: Of course, a few bullies is not the same thing as a war…

BRAVE: But when you feel small as a grasshopper?

(Enter GRASSHOPPER, who jumps around and exits.)

TIMID: Next time I feel small and helpless, I'm going to remember that God is with me.

BRAVE: Yes! And that He keeps His promises!

TIMID: He will help me to find other games that I can be good at!

BRAVE: Yes. And God is much bigger, than any giants we have to face.

TIMID: I feel so much better!

BRAVE: Remember that song we sing in church? The one about how big God is?

TIMID: Yeah! Let's sing it right now!

BOTH: (to audience) Kids, sing along!

ALL sing:

My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do.
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do.
He made the trees, He made the seas
He made the elephants too!
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do.

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do.
My God is so great, so strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do.
The mountains are His, the rivers are His
The stars are His handiwork too.
My God is so great, so strong and so mighty

There’s nothing my God cannot do.

(Enter CALEB, NAHBI, and GEUEL.)

CALEB: Now, 1, 2, 3—

ALL: You can read the story of the grasshoppers and the giants in the Bible, in Numbers Chapter 13! Goodbye!

(All puppets bow.)

THE END

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

Discussion Questions

1. Did any of the spies trust God? Who?
2. Why were the other spies so scared?
3. Who is with us all the time to help us face our giants?
4. What is a “giant” in your life—something that God has told you to do, but feels too big to handle?
5. Caleb said, “As for me, I will serve the Lord.” What does it look like to serve the Lord when you’re scared?

Related Bible Passages

Primary Text: Numbers 13 — The twelve spies and the report from Canaan.

Additional Scripture:

- Joshua 1:9 — “Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (NLT)
- Deuteronomy 31:6 — “Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or terrified of them. For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.” (NLT)
- Psalm 56:3–4 — “But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in you. I praise God for what he has promised. I trust in God, so why should I be afraid? What can mere mortals do to me?” (NLT)
- Joshua 24:15 — “But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve… But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.” (NLT)

Song Suggestions

- “My God Is So Big” — Listener Kids — https://open.spotify.com/track/1fCSen4IN1MXSWYWI7eKw5
- “Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho” — Mahalia Jackson — https://open.spotify.com/track/3CqUFDtWi2nr8mEZiqGVRE
- “Strong in the Lord” — Jingle Jacqui — https://open.spotify.com/track/3sC8JrwjvXMluX8LrdwU2n

Ministry Context

This play works especially well for Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and any series on faith, courage, or trusting God.

The grasshopper running gag lands well with younger children, and adults in the room—teachers, parents, puppeteers—often find themselves identifying with Geuel and Nahbi's "yeah-buts" just as much as the kids do. Consider reading Numbers 13 aloud to the group before or after the performance.

Bible Background

Geuel was the spy from the tribe of Gad. His name means "Majesty of God." Nahbi's name means "hidden or concealed," and he was from the tribe of Naphtali. Both of those tribes were among the 10 tribes that were lost during the Babylonian captivity around 720 BC.