

## Google Docs Links:

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*Note: Lines that begin with words in ALL CAPS indicate instructions. All other lines indicate points to make, things to say, or questions to ask.*

## OT 32 Spies in the Promised Land

**Reference:** Numbers 13-14

**Big Idea:** Trust in God with all your heart.

**Verse:** Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. (ESV)

*\*Note: The resources to be used with this lesson are found in the corresponding Resource File.*

### A. INTRODUCTION

Length: 5-10 min.

#### Materials:

Paper cup	Inflated balloon	Chair
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#### 1. DISCUSS TRUST:

- Today, we're going to read a story from the Bible about trusting.
- What does it mean to trust someone? (To really believe in them.)
- We'll do a little activity to learn exactly what it means to trust.

#### 2. DO A TRUST ACTIVITY:

- > REPEAT the following with a paper cup, an inflated balloon, and a chair, in that order:**
  - > SET the item on the floor.**
  - Do you trust, or really believe, that this thing would hold you if you sat on it? (Various responses.)
  - > INSTRUCT a child to try to SIT on that object.**
  - Do you think it would be a good idea to trust this thing to sit on? (Various responses.)
- We trust in things that we believe to be true.
- We can trust that a chair will hold us up because when we sit in a chair, it doesn't break.
- It's hard to trust in a paper cup or a balloon to hold us up.

#### 3. INTRODUCE THE STORY:

- Who do you think is the best person to trust in the Bible? (God.)
- God is so strong, he can do anything he wants.
- But sometimes people forget that they can trust God.
- Today, we'll meet a few of those people.

## B. LESSON

Length: 20-25 min.

### Resources:

Lesson Signs

### Materials:

Long wooden dowel rod/yardstick	Old t-shirt (or large paper cutout in the shape of a shirt)
Blank t-shirts (two)	Electrical tape (or colored duct tape)
Long tables (two)	Scotch tape
Sunglasses (two pair)	Winter hats (two pair)

### Setup:

- Place a long table on the right side of where the students will be sitting.
  - The long side of the table should be facing the students, as you'll be hanging signs from the front of them for the children to look at.
- Place another long table on the left side of where the students will be sitting.
- Use the colored tape to make large letters "J + C" on one shirt.
- Do the same for the other shirt, with the number "10"

#### 1. INTRODUCE THE STORY:

- a. Today's story is from the third book of the Bible, the book of Numbers.
  - i. **> HAVE the children REPEAT "Numbers" with you.**
- b. It's about a group of people called the Israelites.
- c. They were God's special people
- d. The second book of the Bible, Exodus, tells the story of how God rescued the Israelites from their enemies.
- e. After being rescued they walked away into the desert.
- f. That's where they are when our story begins today.

#### 2. INTRODUCE THE BIG IDEA:

- a. In today's story, we're going to meet two groups of people.
- b. One group of people trust God. They believe what he says is true.
  - i. **> HANG the "TRUST" Sign along the front of the table on the left side of the room using tape.**
- c. Another group of people don't trust God. They don't believe what he says is true.
  - i. **> HANG the "DON'T TRUST" Sign along the front the table on the right side of the room.**
- d. As we read today's story, pay attention and see if you can figure out who's who.

#### 3. READ NUMBERS 13:1-3a. BEFORE YOU READ, INSTRUCT THE CHILDREN TO:

- a. **> LISTEN for the following words and...**
- b. **> DO the following Motions when you read them**
  - i. Check Out - hold your hands over your eyes like binoculars
  - ii. Giving - cup your hands together and gesture outward
  - iii. One - hold up one finger
  - iv. *The Lord spoke to Moses. He said, "Send some men to check out the land of Canaan. I am giving*

*it to the people of Israel. Send one leader from each of Israel's tribes." So Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. He sent them as the Lord had commanded." (Numbers 13:1-3a, NIRV)*

**4. DISCUSS THE PREVIOUS VERSE:**

- a. Moses was the leader of the Israelites.
- b. What did God tell Moses to do? (Send some men to check out the land of Canaan.)
- c. The Israelites were wandering around in the desert.
- d. God promised to give him a place to live.
- e. That place was called "Canaan."
  - i. **> HOLD UP the Canaan Sign to the children.**
  - ii. **> ATTACH the Canaan Sign to the wall opposite of the teaching area.**
- f. But God wanted them to check it out first.
- g. So, Moses picked some men to be spies and check out the land.
- h. He sent twelve guys: Shammua, Shaphat, Igal, Palti, Gaddiel, Gaddi, Ammiel, Sethur, Nahbi, Geuel, Joshua and Caleb.
  - i. **> SAY all these names rapidly. It's okay to mispronounce them!**
- i. Two of these spies were named Joshua and Caleb.
  - i. **> SELECT a child to come up and REPRESENT Joshua and Caleb.**
  - ii. **> HAVE them WEAR the "J C" Shirt.**
- j. There were 10 other spies, too.
  - i. **SELECT a child to come up and REPRESENT the 10 Spies.**
  - ii. **HAVE them WEAR the "10" Shirt.**
- k. **> GIVE these two children SUNGLASSES and a DARK WINTER CAP to WEAR.**
- l. Moses gave the spies instructions. Let's read them now.

**5. READ NUMBERS 13:18-20a. WORDS AND MOTIONS FOR THE CHILDREN TO DO:**

- a. Strong - flex your muscles like a bodybuilder
- b. Good - thumbs up
- c. Bad - thumbs down
- d. Soil - pretend to pick up dirt and rub it between your finger tips
- e. Fruit - pretend to take a bite from an apple.
  - i. *See what the land is like. See whether the people who live there are strong or weak. See whether they are few or many. What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Do the towns have high walls around them or not? How is the soil? Is it rich land or poor land? Are there trees on it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land. (Numbers 13:18-20a, NIRV)*

**6. DISCUSS THE PREVIOUS VERSES:**

- a. Let's have our spies act out what Moses told them to do.
  - i. **> INSTRUCT the Spies to do what you do.**
- b. They were supposed to go to the land of Caanan see what it was like.
  - i. **> SNEAK OVER to the CANAAN SIGN with the two spies.**
- c. They looked at the people who lived there.
  - i. **> DROP to one knee and PRETEND to hold BINOCULARS.**
- d. They looked at the towns of the people who lived there.
- e. They checked out the soil, or dirt, of the land.
  - i. **> PRETEND to pick up some dirt, rubbing it between your fingers and smelling it.**
- f. They checked out the fruit of the land.

- g. There they cut off a branch that had a single bunch of grapes on it. Two of them carried it on a pole between them.
  - i. **> HAVE the two spies each carry the WOODEN DOWEL ROD with the GRAPES SIGN attached.**
- h. At the end of 40 days, the men returned from checking out the land.
  - i. **> SNEAK with the two spies back to the FRONT of the teaching area.**
  - ii. **> HAVE them SET their WOODEN ROD WITH GRAPES down there.**
  - iii. **> HAVE them REJOIN the children.**
- i. We said earlier that we'll meet two people in this story: those who trust God and those who don't
- j. Let's read the Bible and see if Joshua and Caleb...
  - i. **> HOLD UP the JOSHUA AND CALEB SIGN.**
- k. ...and the other ten spies...
  - i. **> HOLD UP the TEN SPIES SIGN.**
- l. ...were people who trusted God or didn't trust God.

**7. READ SELECTIONS FROM NUMBERS 13:26. WORDS AND MOTIONS FOR THE CHILDREN TO DO:**

- a. Reported - pretend to write a report on your palm
- b. Fruit - pretend to take a bite from an apple
  - i. *The men came back to Moses, Aaron and the whole community of Israel... There the men reported to Moses and Aaron and all of the people. They showed them the fruit of the land. (Selections from Numbers 13:26, NIV)*

**8. DISCUSS THE SPIES REPORT (FROM NUMBERS 13:27-33):**

- a. The spies reported to Moses and Aaron, the leaders of the Israelites.
- b. To report is to tell about what you saw and what you did.
- c. Let's have our spies come up and report for us.
  - i. **> HAVE the two spies STAND next to you.**
  - ii. **> INFORM them that you'll occasionally WHISPER in their ears something you want them to REPEAT**
  - iii. **> NOTE 1: From this point on, the child wearing the "J+C" shirt will be referred to as "Joshua and Caleb" and the other as "The 10 Spies."**
  - iv. **> NOTE 2: Whenever you are instruction to whisper below, encourage the child to repeat what you whispered dramatically.**
- d. **> WHISPER into the 10 Spies' ears:**
  - i. We went into the land you sent us to.
- e. **> WHISPER into Joshua and Caleb's ears:**
  - i. It really does have plenty of milk and honey!
- f. They said, "Here's some fruit from the land."
  - i. **> HAVE both children HOLD UP the WOODEN DOWEL ROD WITH GRAPES for a moment and SET it back down.**
- g. **> WHISPER into the 10 Spies' Ears:**
  - i. But the people who live there are powerful.
  - ii. Their cities have high walls around them and are very large.

**9. DISCUSS THE FIRST REPORT SO FAR:**

- a. So, you've heard a part of their report.
- b. They said that the land was good.
- c. They said that the fruit of the land was good.
- d. But they said the people who already lived there were powerful.

- e. Do you think you can tell who trusts God and who doesn't yet? (Various responses.)
- f. I don't think we can really tell yet, but I think we're about to find out.

**10. CONTINUE DISCUSSING THE SPIES REPORT (FROM NUMBERS 13:27-33):**

- a. Then Caleb interrupted the men who were speaking to Moses.
- b. **> WHISPER into Joshua and Caleb's ears:**
  - i. We should go up and take the land.
  - ii. We can certainly do it.
- c. But the men who had gone up with him spoke.
- d. **> WHISPER into the 10 Spies ears:**
  - i. We can't attack those people.
  - ii. They are stronger than we are.
- e. The men spread a bad report about the land among the people of Israel.
  - i. **> HAVE the 10 Spies STAND in the middle of the children.**
- f. **> WHISPER into the 10 Spies ears:**
  - i. All of the people we saw there are very big and tall.
  - ii. We seemed like grasshoppers to them.
- g. **> HAVE the two volunteers REJOIN the children.**

**11. DISCUSS WHO TRUSTED IN GOD:**

- a. I think we can tell who trusted God.
  - i. **> HOLD UP the 10 SPIES SIGN.**
- b. Did the 10 Spies trust in God? (No, they didn't.)
  - i. **> ATTACH the 10 SPIES SIGN to the DON'T TRUST TABLE.**
- c. What things did they do that showed they didn't trust God? (Various responses, suggestions below.)
  - i. They said they can't attack the people.
  - ii. They said the people were too big and strong.
  - iii. They tried to get others not to trust God.
- d. Did Joshua and Caleb trust in God? (Yes, they did.)
  - i. **> ATTACH the JOSHUA AND CALEB SIGN to the TRUST TABLE.**
- e. What things did they do that showed they trusted God? (Various responses, suggestions below.)
  - i. They said they could capture the land of Canaan.
  - ii. They believed God would take care of them.
- f. If you were the people of Israel, who would you listen to: the 10 spies or Joshua and Caleb? (Various responses.)
- g. Let's read on and see who the people of Israel listened to.

**12. ACT OUT NUMBERS 14:1-4:**

- a. I'm going to need your help acting out the next part of the story.
- b. You're going to be the people of Israel.
- c. Your job is to listen to me and be ready to do what I ask you to do.
- d. When you do, you need to be as whiny as possible!
- e. That night all of the people in the community raised their voices.
  - i. **> HAVE the children all SAY one loud, "HEY!"**
- f. They sobbed out loud.
  - i. **> HAVE the children SOB like babies.**
- g. The people of Israel spoke against Moses and Aaron.
- h. The whole community said to them, "We wish we had died in the desert!"

- i. **> HAVE the children REPEAT this.**
- i. We're going to be killed with swords!
  - i. **> HAVE the children REPEAT this.**
- j. We should choose another leader.
  - i. **> HAVE the children REPEAT this.**
- k. Alright, people of Israel, did you trust God? (No.)
  - i. **> ATTACH the PEOPLE OF ISRAEL SIGN to the DON'T TRUST TABLE.**
- l. What makes you think they didn't trust God? (Various responses, suggestions below.)
  - i. They sobbed.
  - ii. They complained.
  - iii. They wanted a new leader.
- m. Let's read on and see how the leaders, Moses and Aaron, felt.

### 13. DISCUSS NUMBERS 14:5-10:

- a. **> HAVE the child wearing the JOSHUA AND CALEB SHIRT STAND next to you.**
- b. **> HAND the OLD T-SHIRT (or PAPER CUTOUT OF A SHIRT) to them.**
- c. Then Moses and Aaron fell with their faces to the ground.
- d. They were sad that the people of Israel didn't trust God.
- e. Did Moses and Aaron trust God? (Yes.)
  - i. **> ATTACH the MOSES AND AARON SIGN to the TRUST TABLE.**
- f. Joshua and Caleb tore their clothes.
  - i. **> INSTRUCT Joshua and Caleb to RIP the OLD T-SHIRT (or PAPER CUTOUT OF A SHIRT).**
- g. They did this to show how upset and sad they were with the people of Israel.
- h. They said, "We passed through the land and checked it out. It's very good."
  - i. **> HAVE Joshua and Caleb REPEAT this.**
- i. They said, "The Lord is with us... Don't be afraid of them."
  - i. **> HAVE Joshua and Caleb REPEAT this.**
- j. But all of the people talked about killing Joshua and Caleb by throwing stones at them.
  - i. **> HAVE the children PRETEND to THROW STONES at Joshua and Caleb.**
  - ii. **> HAVE Joshua and Caleb REJOIN the children.**
- k. Do you think God liked what was going on? (Various responses.)
- l. God decided to show the people of Israel what he thought of their behavior.

### 14. READ NUMBERS 14:10b-11,22. WORDS AND MOTIONS FOR THE CHILDREN:

- a. Glory of the Lord - hold up your hands and wiggle your fingertips
- b. Make fun - make a silly face
- c. Will not see - cover your eyes with your hand
  - i. *Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the Tent of Meeting. All of the people of Israel saw it. 11 The Lord spoke to Moses. He said, "How long will these people make fun of me? How long will they refuse to believe in me?... And you can be just as sure that these men will not see the land I promised to give them. (Numbers 14:10b-11,22, NIV)*

### 15. DISCUSS GOD'S PUNISHMENTS:

- a. How did God feel about the people of Israel not trusting him? (He was angry.)
- b. God said that, since the people didn't trust in them, he would punish them.
- c. They couldn't enter into the good land of Canaan that he promised to them.
  - i. **> ATTACH the NO PROMISED LAND SIGN to the DON'T TRUST TABLE.**
- d. In fact, God made the people wander in the desert for 40 years, one for each day the spies were in the

land of Canaan.

- i. **> ATTACH the WANDER 40 YEARS SIGN to the DON'T TRUST TABLE.**
- e. 40 years is a long time!
- f. How old will you be in 40 years? (Various responses.)

**16. DISCUSS GOD'S PLAN FOR MOSES, AARON, JOSHUA AND CALEB:**

- a. Do you think God was upset with Moses, Aaron, Joshua, and Caleb? (No.)
- b. God said that they could enter the promised land. (ref. Num. 14:24)
  - i. **> ATTACH the PROMISED LAND SIGN to the TRUST TABLE.**
- c. But Moses, Aaron, Joshua, and Caleb had to wander in the desert for 40 years with the rest of the people because they were the leaders.
- d. After 40 years, they could enter the promised land.

**17. INTRODUCE THE BIG IDEA:**

- a. Today's big idea is "Trust in God with all your heart."
- b. Who trusted God in today's story? (Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Caleb.)
  - i. **> GO STAND by the TRUST TABLE.**
- c. What good things did God do for them? (They could enter the promised land.)
- d. Who didn't trust God in today's story? (The 10 spies, the people of Israel.)
  - i. **> GO STAND by the DON'T TRUST TABLE.**
- e. What bad things happened to them? (They couldn't enter the promised land, they had to wander in the desert for 40 years.)
- f. Which one of these two ways does God want us to do? (Trust him.)

**18. EXPLAIN THE BIG IDEA:**

- a. The Israelites didn't trust God because they were scared of the big people in the land of Canaan.
- b. They didn't think God could save them.
- c. But you and I need to be saved, too!
- d. We don't need to be saved from big, bad guys!
- e. We need to be saved from our sin.
- f. Sin is when we disobey God and follow our own way.
- g. Everyone who sins needs to be punished, and that means you and me!
- h. But God sent his Son, Jesus, to save us from sin.
- i. Jesus took our punishment for us to save us.
- j. But, if we want to be saved, we have to trust in Jesus with all our heart!
- k. Just like Joshua and Caleb trusted God to save them from bad guys...
- l. We need to trust God to save us from our sin!
- m. We need to trust God with all our heart.
- n. **> REPEAT the Big Idea, "Trust God with all your heart" several times with the children and DO the following motions:**
  - i. Trust - make a "T" with your hands
  - ii. God - point up
  - iii. All - gesture your arms out in a big circle
  - iv. Heart - tap your chest with your hand





**C. APPLICATION ACTIVITY:** Length: 15 min.

**Resources:**

Application Verse Cards

**Materials:**

Green balloon  
Permanent marker

**1. REVIEW THE BIG IDEA:**

- a. What is today's big idea? (Trust in God with all your heart.)
- b. We're going to look at what it means to trust God.
- c. And to do that, we're going to use a big, giant, fake green grape.
  - i. **INFLATE the GREEN BALLOON and TIE it.**
- d. To trust in God means to really believe in him.
  - i. **WRITE the word "TRUST" on the BALLOON using the MARKER.**
- e. To trust and believe means the same thing.
  - i. **WRITE the word "BELIEVE" on the opposite side of the BALLOON.**
- f. Let's read some verses from the Bible about trusting and believing in God.

**2. REPEAT THE FOLLOWING:**

- a. **READ an Application Verse Card.**
- b. What does this verse say about trusting God? (See chart below.)
- c. **INSTRUCT a child to WRITE the SUMMARY WORDS on the BALLOON. (See chart below.)**
- d. So, what does God want us to do in this verse? (See chart below.)
- e. **WHEN finished with each verse card, LEAD the children in a brief word of prayer.**

VERSE	SUMMARY WORDS	WHAT TO DO
Psalms 44:7a	Don't trust things	Don't count on stuff like money to save us.
Psalms 56:3	Trust when you're afraid	Talk to God and trust him when you are afraid.
Psalms 115:9	God helps	Talk to God and trust him for help when you are in trouble.
Acts 16:31	Trust to be saved	Believe that Jesus died and rose again for us.

**D. VERSE ACTIVITY:** Length: 15 min.

**Verse:** Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. (ESV)

<b>Resources:</b> Verse Cards	<b>Materials:</b> Grapes (twelve) Toothpicks (twelve)
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**Setup:**

- Set the Verse Words in order in a long line on the table.
- Place grapes on the table, one above each word.
- Write the verse on the chalkboard.

**1. INTRODUCE THE VERSE AND ACTIVITY:**

- READ THROUGH the verse as a group.**
- This verse is almost the same as our big idea: Trust in God with all your heart.
- It also reminds us to not lean on our own understanding.
- We need to trust God even more than we trust our ourselves!
- As we learn this verse, we'll take these little sticks and poke them through the grapes on the table.
- When did something like that happen in today's story? (The men carried grapes on a pole.)
- We'll make a tiny version of that, with one little grape on a teeny tiny pole.
- When you do, you'll also get to eat it!

**2. REPEAT THE FOLLOWING:**

- HAVE a child REMOVE a Verse Card from the table.**
- HAVE them POKE the grape by that Verse Card with a toothpick and eat it, if they wish.**
- HAVE another child ERASE that word from the board.**
- READ through the verse as a group.**

**Motions for the Verse:**

Trust - Make a "T" with your hands

Lord - point up

All - Gesture your hands in a big circle

Heart - tap your heart

Do not - wag your finger "no"

Lean - cross your arms and lean

Understanding - tap your temple

**E. REVIEW ACTIVITY:** Length: 15 min.

Resources:	Materials:	
Spy Pictures	Empty soda Cans (twelve) Masking tape	Table Tennis balls

**Setup**

1. Attach a Spy Picture to the front of each soda can using tape.
2. Place the table at one end of the room.
3. Place the Spy Pictures/soda cans in a long line on the table, spreading them out as far as possible.
4. Put a piece of masking tape on the floor about five feet from the table.

**1. INTRODUCE THE ACTIVITY:**

- a. These twelve guys on the table here are the twelve spies from today's story.
- b. As you answer questions, you'll get a tennis ball and a chance to knock a spy of the table.
- c. We'll try to knock off one of the ten spies who didn't trust in God.
- d. We'll try to leave on the table Joshua and Caleb because they remind us to trust in God.
- e. **DIVIDE the children into two groups and have them SIT on opposite sides of the room.**

**2. REPEAT THE FOLLOWING:**

- a. **ASK a one team a question from below and have them ANSWER COLLECTIVELY.**
- b. **REVEAL the correct answer.**
- c. If they answered correctly:
  - i. **GIVE TENNIS BALLS to THREE members of the team.**
- d. If they answered incorrectly:
  - i. **GIVE TENNIS BALLS to TWO members of the team.**
- e. **HAVE the children STAND near the masking tape on the floor.**
- f. **INSTRUCT them to THROW their balls at the spies.**
- g. **AWARD points to their team by added in the numbers on the cans they knocked off.**
- h. **SUBTRACT 5 points if they knock off Joshua or Caleb.**
- i. **HAVE the children SET the cans back on the table.**

**Questions // Answers**

1. What did God tell Moses to do? // Send some men to check out the land of Caanan
2. How many men did Moses send? // Twelve
3. Name two of these men. // Joshua and Caleb
4. What was the soil and fruit of the land of Canaan like? // It was good.
5. What were the people like? // Big and scary.
6. When the men came back, who did they report to? // Moses.
7. What did the ten spies say about the land? // The people are too big to defeat. We can't do it.
8. What did Joshua and Caleb say about the land? // We can defeat the people with God's help.
9. Who did the people of Israel listen to, the ten spies or Joshua and Caleb? // The ten spies
10. How did God punish the people of Israel for not trusting him? // Can't enter the promised land, wander in desert 40 years
11. What is today's big idea? // Trust in God with all your heart.
12. Who do we need to trust in to save us? // Jesus
13. What's today's Bible verse? // Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

**Parent Email Information**

To help your students' parents reinforce the lesson, you may wish to email the following information

## OT 32 Spies in the Promised Land

**Reference:** Numbers 13-14

**Big Idea:** Trust in God with all your heart.

**Verse:** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. (ESV)

### Motions For the Big Idea:

Trust - make a "T" with your hands

God - point up

All - gesture your arms out in a big circle

Heart - tap your chest with your hand

### Verse:

Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. (ESV)

### Motions for the Verse:

Trust - Make a "T" with your hands

Lord - point up

All - Gesture your hands in a big circle

Heart - tap your heart

Do not - wag your finger "no"

Lean - cross your arms and lean

Understanding - tap your temple

### Questions to Ask Throughout the Week

1. What did God tell Moses to do? // Send some men to check out the land of Caanan
2. How many men did Moses send? // Twelve
3. Name two of these men. // Joshua and Caleb
4. What was the soil and fruit of the land of Canaan like? // It was good.
5. What were the people like? // Big and scary.
6. When the men came back, who did they report to? // Moses.
7. What did the ten spies say about the land? // The people are too big to defeat. We can't do it.
8. What did Joshua and Caleb say about the land? // We can defeat the people with God's help.
9. Who did the people of Israel listen to, the ten spies or Joshua and Caleb? // The ten spies
10. How did God punish the people of Israel for not trusting him? // Can't enter the promised land, wander in desert for 40 years
11. What is today's big idea? // Trust in God with all your heart.
12. Who do we need to trust in to save us? // Jesus
13. What is today's Bible verse? // Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. (ESV)

### Curriculum Links

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