



The Battle of Jericho

Bible Passage: Joshua 2,6

Bottom Line: God's plan always works so I should do exactly what He says.

Key Passage: ⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. **Proverbs 3:5-6**

Big Picture Question: What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.

Christ Connection: *By faith Rahab believed God would win the battle, and she asked the spies to show mercy to her family and keep them safe. When the Israelites attacked Jericho, Rahab and her family received mercy and became part of God's people. Jesus has won against sin and death. Everyone who trusts in Jesus receives mercy and becomes part of God's family forever.*

10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

Remember This

What You Need: dry erase board, dry erase marker and eraser, paper, tape

What You Do:

- Write a 10 digit number on a dry erase board. (example: 5553017838, you can use phone numbers)
- Guide kids to read the number aloud one time together.
- Then tape paper over the number to conceal it and challenge kids to say the number from memory.
- Uncover the number and allow them to read the number 2 more times.
- Cover the number.
- Ask volunteers to recite the number.
- Erase the number and write 5 random words.
- Invite kids to read the words once.
- Then cover them and challenge kids to recite the words.
- Uncover the words so kids can read them 2 more times.
- Cover the words and ask volunteers to recite them.
- Repeat as time allows.
- Ask kids to tell you the number you gave them earlier. And then the words.

What You Say "This is not a test, but it sure helps us see how fast we learn something right? Studies show that when you read something for the first time, you remember 10-25 percent of it. When you read it 2-3 times, you remember 90 percent of it. Repetition helps us remember! In our stories coming up we are going to look at the Israelites moving into the promised land. God is keeping His promises but the people are having a hard time remembering God's promise and following Him. Let's see what is going on today.

10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

CONTEXT

The Lord brought His people into the promised land. Now they had a task set before them: conquer the people living in the land. Before the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, Joshua—in the way Moses had done decades before—sent scouts into the land. (See Num. 13:2-3.) The first city the Israelites came to was Jericho. God told Joshua that He had handed the city over to Israel.

The Lord's reputation went ahead of the Israelites, creating fear in the people of Jericho. With the exception of one woman, the people of Jericho wanted nothing to do with God.



Rahab was unique among the inhabitants of Jericho. She wanted to be on God's side. Hebrews 11:31 says that by faith, Rahab "welcomed the spies in peace." Rahab didn't hide the spies and help them escape from the city because she was especially courageous or because she had a strong desire to live; Rahab acted by faith. She trusted God to keep His promises to His people.

She wasn't the only one. The Israelites fought the battle of Jericho by faith. (See Heb. 11:30.) Israel did not focus on what was going on inside the city of Jericho; they focused on doing what God had instructed. They obeyed even when it seemed nothing was happening. On the seventh day, the troops shouted, the trumpets sounded, and the wall around Jericho collapsed.

Joshua gave the people specific instructions to destroy everything in the city except for Rahab and her family. The Israelites were not to keep anything for themselves. The Lord would provide for all of their needs, so they had no reason to plunder Jericho. When the Israelites attacked Jericho, Rahab and her family were safe. They joined God's people. (Josh. 6:25) By faith, we believe Jesus has defeated sin and death. Everyone who believes in Jesus is safe and becomes part of God's family forever.

TEACHING FOCUS (Joshua 2, 6)

Last week, we learned that God held back the Jordan River for His people to cross. The Israelites were finally trusting Him to move into the land He promised, and He blessed them by helping them cross into the land. This week we will learn about the first major battle the people had to fight, against a city called Jericho. So it makes sense that our story is called "The Battle of Jericho."

We see this in our story. When the walls around Jericho fell, no one could say, "Oh, that happened because the Israelites are strong." No way! It happened because God is powerful. His plans cannot be stopped. When He wins battles in amazing ways, He gets all the glory, just like He deserves. God brought down the walls of Jericho to prove that He is God and there is no one like Him. He loves all people and welcomes anyone who follows Him by faith.

By faith Rahab believed God would win the battle, and she asked the spies to keep her safe. When the Israelites attacked Jericho, Rahab and her family were safe and they joined God's people. Jesus has won against sin and death. Everyone who trusts in Jesus is safe and becomes part of God's family forever.

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- **The people of God "fought" for Jericho by doing exactly what God told them to do.**
- **God wanted them to win the battle in a way where only He gets the credit so they would trust Him more.**
- **BL: God's plan always works so I should do exactly what He says.**
- When we obey God, people see that we are walking with Him.

25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Rahab help the Israelite spies? (She had faith that God is the one true God and He would give Israel victory, Josh. 2:10-12)
2. What was God's plan to defeat Jericho? (The Israelites would march around the city for seven days playing trumpets. They would finally shout, and then the walls would fall; Josh. 6:3-5)
3. Did God's plan work? (Yes, His people conquered Jericho and Rahab's family was spared; Josh. 6:21-23)
4. Why do you think God's strategy was so different from human battle strategies? Guide kids to discuss the idea that when God does things in a way that no human could do without Him, it proves His power and might. God does things we cannot to remind us that we need Him.



5. Why do you think Rahab's story is included in the Bible? Guide kids to think about the fact that God loves all people, not just Israelites. Rahab had faith that God is the one true God and would give His people victory. God saved Rahab and her family and even used Rahab to be a part of Jesus' family line.
6. How can we practice trusting God and having faith in Him? Guide kids to talk about some of the scary, sad, or frustrating situations they may face. Remind them that we can face those situations by trusting in God and remembering the hope we have through Jesus. Help them see that we can pray for help and have faith that God is working things for His glory and our good.

Activity: Find the spies

What You Need: cups (6 cups per group), pompoms or small action figures (2 per group), tape

What You Do:

- Before kids arrive, tape the action figures or pompoms to the inside bottom of 2 different cups.
- When you are ready, lay out all the cups top down on the table.
- Tell the kids there are spies hiding in the room.
- Kids have to ask questions to help them find the spies. As they ask questions you can answer hot or cold.
- When they think they have guessed the correct answer they can turn over a cup and see if the spy is there.
- When they have found both spies you can spend some time talking about how amazing it was that God had these spies in the right place at the right time, because they obeyed God this time and then the walls just fell down around them.
- Only God has that kind of Super Powers.

What You Say God brought the walls of Jericho down. He did it in a miraculous way that no human could have done alone. God loves His people and wants to help us. He sent Jesus to die for us and save us from our greatest enemies, sin and death. That is also something no human can do alone.

Activity: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, Memory Verse Puzzle (printed and cut apart- 1 set per group)

What You Do:

- Review the Memory Verse as a group together out loud a few times.
- Lay the Memory Verse Puzzle on the floor/table face down.
- Take turns picking up a card at a time and putting the puzzle together.
- Keep going until all of the puzzle is together.
- Read the verse together one more time.

What You Say "Our memory verse reminds us that we need to trust God. He knows better than we do about everything! This passage warns us against trusting our own understanding. God leads us to righteousness in Jesus. Trusting in ourselves for righteousness is sin. God provided a way out of that sin, it is through believing in His Son, Jesus.

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Say:

"Father, Your love is amazing. It stretches beyond what we can imagine. You save sinners who do not deserve to be saved. Thank You for being good to us. Help us to love You and obey You because we want our lives to give You the glory You deserve. Amen.



All Star Kids

May 26, 2019
3rd- 5th Grade

5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage your kids to tell their parents about our Big Picture Questions. What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands. BL- **God's plan always works so I should do what He says.**