The Battle of Jericho

Bible Passage: Joshua 2:6

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

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

LEADERNOTES:

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.

Worship & Story Time

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today) What You Say: "Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible today."

What You Do: Introduce the story

Joshua sent two men into Jericho. They stayed at Rahab's house. Rahab hid the men on her roof to keep them safe. Rahab said to the men, "Your God is God of heaven and earth. Please be kind to my family when God gives you Jericho." She let the men use a red cord to go out her window. The men told Rahab to tie the cord in her window and keep her family inside her house so they would be safe. At the battle of Jericho, Joshua told the people to march quietly around Jericho. On the seventh day, they marched seven times. On the seventh time, the priests blew the trumpets and the people shouted. Jericho's wall fell down! God kept Rahab and her family safe.

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Check diapers and serve snack.

Activities

Depending on the size of your group, you may lead each activity two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in the activities. That's okay.

1. Trumpets and March Seven Times

What you Need: "Trumpets printable" (1 per kid), crayons, tape What You Do:

- Have kids color their trumpet.
- Then tape it together for them.
- Then ask them hold their trumpet as they play follow the leader.
- March around in a circle 7 times.
- After the 7th time, have the kids "blow their trumpet"
- And then say this" God is always with us!"
- You can repeat as interest holds.
- Kids can take their trumpets home.

What You Say: "God told His people to march around Jericho. God made the walls of Jericho fall down! God was with His people. God is always with Us!

2. Practice signing the Memory Verse

What you need: Memory Verse Poster

What You Do:

- Show the poster to the kids
- As you say the words point to them on the poster
- Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include "Trust in the Lord (ASL sign like pulling a rope) with all your heart (point to heart) and lean not on your own understanding (point to head); ⁶ in all your ways submit to him (ASL sign for all- draw a circle around your hand), and he will make your paths straight (hold hands up like making a road). Proverbs 3:5-6

What You Say: God told the people to be completely quiet as they marched around Jericho. At just the right time, they shouted. God made the walls fall down! God was with His people, and He is always with us too. His people's path was very clear after the walls fell down. But they had to trust Him first.

Pray and Dismiss:

What You need: no supplies needed What You Do:

• Pray- "God thank You for having a plan for our lives, and thank You that Your plan included sending Jesus to save us from sin. Help us to love and obey You for Your glory. Amen.

What You Say: Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Send home the trumpets and tell families, we are talking about sin and that we can trust and obey God.