



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

Freeze Dance

What You Need: music played on your phone

What You Do:

- Sing a song or play music.
- Instruct kids that they can dance and move to the music while it plays, but they must freeze in place when the music stops.
- Every so often, pause the music.
- Kids who keep dancing will sit down but may continue dancing in their seats when the music plays.
- The last kid dancing while standing up wins.

What You Say "When I paused the music, you had to stop dancing. In this series we are going to hear many stories about God's chosen people and how they make choices about following God. We are going to have fun learning about how God is always there for us and we can trust Him with our whole being because of it.

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



All Star Kids

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Kinder – 2nd grade

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: 2 action figures or other small toys, stopwatch (optional)

What You Do:

- Hide around your room 2 action figures or other small toys to represent the Israelite spies.
- Invite kids to find the hidden spies.
- You may use a stopwatch to see how quickly they can find the spies.
- If times permits, allow the kids to hide the figures and time you or other adult leaders searching for them.

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.

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.**