

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.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer the following activities to 3-, 4-, 5- year olds as they arrive.

Relay Stones

What you Need: 4 foam bowls, 2 plastic spoons, 24 "rocks"

What You Do:

- Form 2 teams.
- Line up teams at one end of the room.
- Place an empty bowl in front of each team.
- Place 2 bowls, each filled with 12 "Stones" at the other end of the room.
- Give the first child in each line a spoon.
- When you say go, direct her to walk to her team's bowl at the other end of the room, put a stone on her spoon, walk the stone on the spoon, back to her team's empty bowl, and drop it in.
- Then give the spoon to the next child in line.
- Guide preschoolers to continue until all 12 of their team's stones are in their bowl.
- The team that moves all their stones first wins.

- Encourage preschoolers to cheer on their team as they wait for their turn.
- If teams doesn't work best, you could just have one long line of kids.

What You Say:

"God used to stones to help His people remember Him and all that He did to get them to the promised land. We will spend the next weeks learning about this journey to the promised land. I pray that we all see God's power and learn to trust and obey Him more everyday.

Worship 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."

Story Time: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Bible Story

What You Need: Bible

What You Do: Place a bookmark at Joshua 2 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it.

What You Say: " We know that the entire Bible is true. Everything in the Bible really happened a long time ago. Today's story is in Joshua. Joshua is in the Old Testament.

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Talk about the Bible 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.

Learn the Big Picture Question

What You Say: What does it mean to sin? To sin is to go against God and His commands. When we love and obey God, we show the world how amazing He is.

Practice the Memory Verse

Open your Bible to Proverbs 3:5-6. Read the memory verse aloud several times.

What You Say: “ Rahab believed that God would win the battle, and God kept her family safe. God did not leave or abandon her family, and He will not leave or abandon us. Everyone who believes in Jesus for life becomes a part of God’s family forever and He will protect you.

Transition to small group.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

1. Find the Spies

What you Need: 2 little people figures

What You Do:

- Choose a kid to stand in a corner with her eyes closed while you hide 2 little people figures in the room.
- Invite the kid to turn around and find the figures.
- Lead the rest of the group in saying hot or cold to indicate how close the kid is to the figures.
- Choose someone else to find the spies and play again as time allows.

What You Say: “**What does it mean to sin? To sin is to go against God and His commands.** Rahab lived in Jericho, but she had heard about God and wanted to help His people. She hid the spies on her roof so the King of Jericho could not find them. God made the walls fall down. When the Israelites attacked Jericho, Rahab and her family were safe and they joined God’s people. Jesus had won against sin and death. Everyone who believes in Jesus for life will be a part of God’s family forever and God protects you as well.”

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); **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: trumpet coloring pages

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.