



3

The Battle of Jericho

Key Theme

- God is faithful to His promises.

Key Passages

- Joshua 3:17, 6:1–5, 6:20–21, 6:25

Objectives

- Describe how God gave victory to the Israelites.
- Describe how God was faithful to His promises to Rahab and Israel.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

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Students will put the Memory Verse Cards in order and then practice saying the verses together and/or with a partner.



Activity 1: Order of Events

page 5

Students will put the events of the Battle of Jericho in order as you study the lesson.



Studying God's Word

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Joshua received unusual battle plans for the taking of Jericho. But he and the Israelites were obedient, and God was faithful to fulfill His promise to deliver Jericho into their hand. God was also faithful to spare the life of Rahab from destruction just as the spies promised.



Activity 2: March Around the Wall of Jericho

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Students will re-enact the Israelites marching around the wall of Jericho.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- ☐ If you haven't done this, print and cut out the Memory Verse Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM for every 2–3 students. Print on cardstock if possible.
- ☐ If you want to do this as an individual activity, make one set per student.

- ☐ Memory Verse Poster
- ☐ Memory Verse Cards in envelopes or small plastic bags



ORDER OF EVENTS

- ☐ Print one each of the seven large Order of Events Illustrations from the Resource DVD-ROM to add to board as you are teaching.
- ☐ Print one Order of Events Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- ☐ Seven Order of Events Illustrations
- ☐ Order of Events Class Notes for each student
- ☐ Order of Events Class Notes Answer Key
- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Tape or poster putty



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- ☐ Study the Prepare to Share section.
- ☐ Go Before the Throne.
- ☐ Print the City of Jericho Illustration from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- ☐ Student Take Home Sheets
- ☐ City of Jericho Illustration
- ☐ Tape or poster putty



MARCH AROUND THE WALL OF JERICO

- ☐ Go outside if possible.
- ☐ Make paper horns.

- ☐ Paper and tape for paper horns



Memory Verse

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

➤ **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Before you begin to prepare for your lesson, please prepare your heart and mind by reading Joshua 5:13–6:27 and Hebrews 11:30, noticing that the faith of Israel was instrumental in accomplishing God’s plan to defeat Jericho.

After God’s charge to Joshua to lead the nation into the Promised Land and after the episode of Rahab and the spies, the nation of Israel itself was still on the eastern banks of the Jordan and had not yet crossed into the land that God had promised them. Chapters 3 and 4 of Joshua tell of the miraculous stopping of the Jordan River’s waters, allowing Israel to cross on dry ground, and of the memorial stones that Israel placed on the other side to commemorate God’s faithfulness. The bearing of the Ark of the Covenant before the nation (Joshua 3:11) declared that God was fulfilling His purpose to establish a nation for His own glory, which He had declared to Abraham nearly 500 years earlier.

The first obstacle before Israel was the city of Jericho. In Joshua 5:13–15, a Man identified as “the Commander of the Lord’s army” appeared to Joshua. This Man represents a Christophany—a pre-incarnate appearance in history of the Lord Jesus. If that were not the case, Joshua would not have obeyed the Man when commanded to take off his sandals because he was standing on holy ground. This was the Son of God Himself in human form, declaring that He would lead and fight for Israel. This was to be no ordinary battle!

The battle plan from the Lord must have seemed very strange to Joshua. Jericho responded to Israel’s approach by securely shutting up the city (Joshua 6:1), an indication that they expected a siege. God’s instructions to Joshua were for the army of Israel to march around the city once each day for six days, following the Ark of the Covenant, with the priests blowing trumpets, but making no other noise (Joshua 6:3–4). Then on the seventh day, the city would be circled seven times in the same manner, and finally, the Israelites would be instructed to shout—and God promised that at that time, the city would be miraculously destroyed, leaving a path for Israel to march directly in and take the city (Joshua 6:4–5). No other battles had been fought by Israel in this manner, and no others would be. God had a particular purpose to mark this victory, the first in the Promised Land, with a miraculous triumph that would follow a week of ceremony. God desired to conquer Jericho in a way that could not be attributed to Israel’s

military prowess. Israel would have had every reason, from a standpoint of military tactics and wisdom, to doubt whether God’s directions for the battle would be successful. On the other hand, the Israelites knew the faithfulness of God’s care for 40 years in the wilderness, knew from the previous generation of their great deliverance from Egypt, and knew that God gives the victory from their successful battles against the kings Sihon and Og (Deuteronomy 2:26–3:11). The Israelites were convinced that God’s promise was to be trusted, and they obeyed His seemingly strange commands for the battle of Jericho.

Israel’s faith at Jericho is mentioned in Hebrews 11 along with many others who demonstrated their faith in God—among them Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Rahab. These saints of God had faith that led them to look beyond immediate circumstances and trust that God’s ways would lead to blessing beyond any earthly situation. In all of those examples, faith led to obedient action (see Hebrews 11:7–31). Israel obeyed God’s instructions for the battle, trusting His goodness and faithfulness to His promises. After the seventh circle around the city on the seventh day, Israel shouted, the walls of Jericho fell, and the Israelites went straight into the city and destroyed their enemies—God’s enemies.

Just as the spies had promised, Rahab and her family were spared (Joshua 6:25) as reward for her help in protecting the spies before the battle (Joshua 2). Joshua 6:25 tells us that “she dwells in Israel to this day,” showing that Rahab became one of God’s people. It also shows us that the book of Joshua wasn’t written very long after the events of the book occurred, since Rahab was still living.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

For much of the twentieth century, archaeologists declared that the biblical account of Jericho could not have happened as the Bible said it did. More recent discoveries, however, have not only led to an archaeological revision of the date of Jericho’s destruction that accords with Joshua’s time in history but have also shown that the ruins that have been uncovered were destroyed in a way that is perfectly consistent with the Bible’s description of the event. What was once considered a “problem” of the Bible’s inconsistency with archaeological research has turned out, upon further discovery and study, to be an example of archaeological evidence displaying the trustworthiness of

the Bible's accuracy. Of course, God's Word can be trusted completely, with or without such scientific "vindication."

The Israelites marched around Jericho for seven days. But were those ordinary days or long periods of time? Jonah was in the great fish for three days, but were those ordinary days or long periods of time? Of course, those are ridiculous questions. But it is much the same with those who question the length of days in the creation account of Genesis 1. No Christian believes that the Israelites marched around Jericho for thousands of years or that Jonah was in the great fish for 3,000 years. Why? Because Scripture is clear. Yet, why do some Christians continue to question the clear meaning of Genesis 1? The answer is that they have been influenced by modern scientists who believe in millions of years. Thus, they have allowed man's ever-changing opinions to have authority over the unchanging Word of God. The word translated as "day" in Genesis 1 (and in the Jericho account) is the Hebrew word *yom*. In this chapter, *yom* is modified by a number and used in connection with the word "night" and the

phrase "evening and morning." Each time *yom* is used outside of Genesis 1 in just one of these ways, it means a normal-length day. There should be absolutely no question that day means a literal, 24-hour day in Genesis 1 because that chapter uses *yom* with the combination of all three—a number, the word "night," and with "evening and morning."

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Almighty Lord, I am awed by your power and faithfulness as I study this lesson. You are able. Help me Lord to live a life of faith like Rahab and Joshua and to pass that desire on to the children in my class. May each encounter I have with my students help them to fall in love with you and your Word more and more. Praise the name of the Lord! You are more than able.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will put the Memory Verse Cards in order and recite the verses together and/or to each other. They may work individually or in teams.

Use this time at the beginning of class to review the memory verse. We have provided a template on the Resource DVD-ROM you can use to make Memory Verse Cards to be put in order each week. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Order of Events

MATERIALS

- ☐ Seven Order of Events Illustrations
- ☐ Order of Events Class Notes for each student
- ☐ Order of Events Class Notes Answer Key
- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Tape or poster putty

INSTRUCTIONS

Pass out the Order of Events Class Notes to each student at the beginning of class. Pass out one each of the seven large Order of Events Illustrations to seven students. Students will order the events of the Battle of Jericho as you teach. The seven students with the large illustrations will attach them on the board as you teach the lesson. All the students will

complete their class notes indicating the order in which the events occurred.

We will be completing these class notes to show the proper order of events of the Battle of Jericho as we study the Bible today. Try not to work ahead. You'll be putting numbers in the boxes as we move through the lesson. I'll let you know when to fill something in.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

When we finish ordering the events, we will have a better understanding of how the Lord won the Battle of Jericho.

► Use the History of Israel Poster included with your teacher kit to show your class where the biblical accounts you study chronologically fit into this timeline.

Joshua 3:17

► Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we encourage you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.

Joshua 6:1-5

► As you observe the text by asking questions, re-read the verses or have the children read them.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Remember that Joshua and the Israelites had finally gotten to the Promised Land. Jericho was the very first city they needed to conquer, and Joshua had sent spies into that city to see what it was like. The spies were almost found by the king's men, but God used Rahab to hide them in her house. God saved them. Let's see what happened next. Listen as I read Joshua 3:17. *Read verse.*

All of Israel crossed into the Promised Land! God led the people across the Jordan River. It was spectacular. God miraculously dried up the river so they could walk across on dry ground—just like He did with the Red Sea for Moses!

Find the picture of the Israelites crossing the Jordan River on your class notes. Put a number 1 in the box on the top left. Who has the large picture of the Jordan River? Bring that up and put it on the board. *Have a student read the caption at the bottom of the box while another student is putting Event 1 on the board.*

So they crossed the Jordan on dry ground and the people moved on toward Jericho. As they came closer to the city, Joshua met a man who was the Commander of the Lord's army. He had his sword drawn and was ready to go to battle. He would go with Israel and help them. He promised to fight for them.

Find that event on your class notes. Put a number 2 in the box where Joshua met the Commander of the army of the Lord. If you have the large picture of the Commander of the Lord's army bring it up now. *Have a student read the caption at the bottom of the box while another student is putting Event 2 on the board.*

Show the City of Jericho Illustration. But this was a mighty city with a big wall protecting it. How would God give this mighty city of Jericho into the hands of Joshua and his men? Let's find out! Listen as I read today's passage. *Read Joshua 6:1-5 enthusiastically. If you have students who can read allow them to help.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

These are some very interesting battle instructions! Were you listening? I'm going to ask you some questions.

Observe the Text

Who is giving these unusual instructions to Joshua? *Joshua 6:2. The Lord is speaking to Joshua.*

? According to verse 2, what did the Lord promise Joshua? *The Lord promised that Jericho would be delivered into Joshua's hand. Put the City of Jericho Illustration on the board.*

Yes! Before the battle started, the Lord promised Joshua that the battle was already won. However, Joshua didn't know exactly what he was supposed to do to take over the city.

? Who was telling Joshua what to do? Who was giving Joshua the battle instructions. *The Lord, God.*

This is our next event. Do you see it on your class notes? Joshua is standing and listening to God's battle plans. This is Event 3. If you have the large picture of Event 3, put it up on the board. *Have a student read the caption in the box while another student is putting Event 3 on the board.*

? Good. Now, who can remember the battle instructions the Lord told Joshua and the Israelites to do? Listen again as I read. *Joshua 6:3. March one time around the city six days in a row.*

? Yes. Day after day they were to repeat the same strange march around the city of Jericho. For how many days? *Six.*

? Read Joshua 6:4. And what were the people and priests to do on the seventh day? *March around the city seven times and the priests would blow the trumpets.*

? Read Joshua 6:5. What were the people to do while the priests blew the trumpets on that seventh day? *Make a great shout.*

That's right. This covered two more events on our class notes. Event 4 was when the Israelites marched for six days. The words at the bottom of the box will help you tell which one came first. *Hold up the class notes and point to the correct box.* Event 5 was on the seventh day of battle. God told the Israelites to march around the walls seven times and then give a loud shout. Find another box where the people are marching and put a number 5. You have to be careful. Read what the pictures say and you'll get it right. *Have two students read the captions at the bottom of the boxes while students are putting events on the board.*

Discover the Truth

Wow! God had promised Joshua and the Israelites His protection. And God is always faithful to His promises! Even though the battle plans were extremely unusual, Joshua and the people knew they could trust their faithful God!



READ THE WORD

Do you think God won the battle at Jericho? Let's read and find out. This happened on the seventh day, after the people circled the city seven times and shouted! I'll read Joshua 6:20–21 and verse 25 next. *Read Joshua 6:20–21, 6:25.*

Joshua 6:20–21, 6:25

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

Those verses tell about the incredible event. Let's study this passage to see what it is telling us. First look at verses 20 and 21. A lot of information is packed in those two verses. When the seventh day came God acted on His promise!

- ? What did the people do? *Joshua 6:20. Shouted!*
- ? What did the priests do? *Joshua 6:20. Blew their horns!*
- ? What happened to the wall? *Joshua 6:20. It fell down flat.*
- ? What did Joshua's men do? *Joshua 6:21. Went in and destroyed all that was in the city.*

Do you see the fallen wall and destroyed city on your class notes? Number that as Event 6. Who has the large picture? Put it up here on the board.

Have a student read the caption at the bottom of Event 6 while a student is putting the event on the board.

- ? There is one more thing to notice here. Look at Joshua 6:25. *Read the verse.* Who did Joshua save? *Rahab.*
- ? Rahab and her family were spared with all they owned. Who can tell me why? *Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster from Lesson 2. She hid the spies. The spies promised she would be saved, and by God's grace she was.*

Do you remember that? When Joshua sent the spies into the city, Rahab was the one who hid them from the king's men—on her roof. They promised to save her when the city was destroyed because she had protected them.

That is Event 7 on your class notes. You'll see Rahab and her family. Put a number 7 in that box. And who has the larger picture of that? Put it up here on the board. *Have a student read the caption for Event 7 while the student is putting the event on the board.*

Discover the Truth

Joshua was obedient to God, and God kept His promise to the Israelites by giving them the city of Jericho. It was a victory that only God could have accomplished.

God was faithful to the Israelites to give them the Promised Land, and just as the spies promised, Rahab and her family were saved from destruction. God accomplished His plan, and He fulfilled the promise to Rahab. She and her family were the only ones in the city saved from destruction because of Rahab's faith and obedience when she hid the spies. What a faithful God we serve!





March Around the Wall of Jericho

MATERIALS

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Paper horns
- ☐ Tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Roll a sheet of paper into a cone shape and secure it with a piece of tape. Make one for each student or have the students make them during class.

Joshua, the priests, and the Israelites marched around the wall of Jericho thirteen times over seven days! They carried the Ark of the Covenant with them to signify God's presence. Joshua had to trust that God's battle plans, which involved no fighting, would lead them to conquer the city of Jericho. God gave very specific instructions to Joshua, and Joshua followed all of them. Today we'll act out the historical event we read about in Joshua 6.

Divide the class in half. Take the students outside if possible.

Half of you will become the wall of Jericho, and half of you will be the Israelites. The students who are the wall of Jericho will hold hands and face outward. It is your job to count how many times the Israelites circle the wall. I'll count off the days as the Israelites go around. Remember they went around once per day for the first six days and seven times on the seventh day.

The Israelites will circle the wall silently. On the seventh day, on the seventh time around I'll be Joshua and tell you, "Shout, for the Lord has given you the city!" Then you'll shout and sound your paper horns. *Hand out horns to the Israelites.*

? Wall of Jericho, what will you do after the priests blow their horns and the people shout? Allow for answers. That's right you'll fall down to the ground.

Everybody get into your positions. *Help the students get into the wall formation and the marching line formation.* **Ready? Israelites, forward march!** Count the days as the students circle the wall. Remember, once around the wall is one day. On the seventh day, they will circle seven times. Encourage the wall students to count the number of times the Israelites circle. On the seventh day, on the seventh time around say, "Shout, for the Lord has given you the city!" The wall students should fall down at this time.

If time permits, have the students switch roles.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Because Joshua and the Israelites obeyed God's unusual battle plans, they were able to take over the city of Jericho just as God had promised. God gave victory to the Israelites because they were obedient. The entire city and all of the people were destroyed except for Rahab, her home, and her family because she trusted in God. God always keeps His promises.





Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

God gave the Israelite army and Joshua victory over the walled city of Jericho. God led them into the Promised Land. They crossed the River Jordan on dry ground! The Lord told Joshua that the victory over Jericho was his—even before the battle had begun! That victory came through some very unusual battle plans. The walls of Jericho fell after the Israelites did as the Lord commanded. They simply marched around the city walls for seven days with the Ark of the Covenant—God's presence—guiding them. The priests blew their horns and the people gave a great shout on Joshua's command. The walls fell down flat! God was faithful to His promise—as He always is.

And let's not forget that Rahab and her family were the only ones to come out of Jericho alive—how could that be? Only by God's grace because of the spies' promise that she would be spared. God always keeps His promises.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

FAITHFUL

(Refer to Attributes poster)

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.

How does this all apply to us? Well, God kept His promises. And He always keeps His promises. God has always been faithful. And God will continue to be faithful to keep His promises to all of His children, even you!

Sometimes it doesn't look like things will turn out okay. Sometimes God asks us to do things that don't make sense, like marching around a city and hoping the walls will fall! Sometimes life will be difficult. But God has promised that He will be with us, that He will help us, that He will strengthen us. Joshua and the Israelites had to obey God even though it seemed very odd, and it was very, very hard to do. But they did it. And God was faithful. We have to obey God. He will be faithful to us. We can always trust Him!



MEMORY VERSE

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God for being a God who is always faithful to His promises.
- Thank God for giving us so many examples of His faithfulness in His Word.
- Ask God to help us trust Him more when things don't make sense.