



3

The Battle of Jericho



Key Passages

- Joshua 3:17, 6:3–4, 6:16, 6:20

Lesson Focus

- God won the battle of Jericho.

Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will color the Rahab Coloring Sheet as a review and/or play with play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—Students will hear how God gave Joshua some strange instructions for the battle of Jericho. Only God could win the battle this way!

Song—Students will praise God by marching, clapping, and singing the Memory Verse Song. Refer to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.



Activity 1: God Told Joshua Horn

Students will color, roll, and tape a paper horn from construction paper to use while learning the song “God Told Joshua.”



Activity 2: God Told Joshua Song

Students will learn a new song as they march around in a circle, play their horns, and all fall down like the walls of Jericho! Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse using the Memory Verse Flash Cards.



Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



COME ON IN

- Print Rahab Coloring Sheet for each student from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Optional: cut red yarn into pieces for each student to attach to coloring sheets.
- Provide play dough if appropriate.

- Rahab Coloring Sheet for each student
- Crayons
- Optional: red yarn
- Optional: tape or other adhesive
- Play dough



CIRCLE TIME

- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time



GOD TOLD JOSHUA HORN

- Bring in colored construction paper. Each student will roll paper and make a horn.

- Colored construction paper for each student
- A completed "horn" to show as a sample
- Tape
- Crayons



GOD TOLD JOSHUA SONG

- Practice the "God Told Joshua" Song to become familiar with it.

- Construction paper horns made during the previous activity
- "God Told Joshua" Song lyrics found on the Flip Chart Song Page or back of the Teacher Guide



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- No preparation necessary.

- Lesson Flip Chart for memory verse review
- Memory Verse Flash Cards



APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart for review
- Snacks



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 children arrive . . .

- They will color the Rahab Coloring Sheet as a review. If time allows, glue a red cord from Rahab's window and/or play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class. Remember, children learn by repetition and review.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip Chart Pages. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his or her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Thanksgiving is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today let's say prayers of thanksgiving—and thank God for the many blessings He's given us.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

► As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking. This will help to keep the children engaged.

I'll start. Dear God, your Word says to be thankful for everything! Today I want to thank you especially for . . . (put your own personal prayer here).

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer telling God thank you for something special in their lives.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first five questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? **Who made you?** *God.*
- ? **What else did God make?** *All things.*
- ? **Why did God make you and all things?** *For His own glory.*
- ? **Can you see God?** *No, I cannot see God, but He can always see me.*
- ? **Where is God?** *God is everywhere.*

The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark the passage before you begin.

Bible Pass Around

► Use a sticky note to mark the first passage to be read.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible.

Hold up your Bible. God's Word is true and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number (choose a number). *You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity. We'll start right here. Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number* (or word) *you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you. Remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number* (or word), *whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready?* *You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it.*

► When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

Continue lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around. Today our lesson comes from the book of Joshua. Let's open the Bible to the book of Joshua now! We are going to read from this book today. Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Here it is in my Bible. Show the students where the book is. Have the student sit back down.

? Who remembers who Joshua was? *Allow discussion. The leader of the Israelites. Moses's assistant.*

? Who did Joshua send to sneak into the city of Jericho? *Two spies. Refer to the Lesson 2 Flip Chart Page.*

? That's right. And who helped the spies escape from the city? *Rahab.*

So, the spies came back and told Joshua everything that happened in Jericho. Remember, Jericho was part of the land that God promised to the Israelites. All they had to do was obey God, and He would give it to them. But first, they had to cross a rushing river called the Jordan. There was a lot of fast-moving water in that river! They couldn't swim across. And there was no bridge. Now what should they do?

? God didn't tell Joshua and all the people to try and swim or build a bridge. God is sovereign. Do you remember what sovereign means? *God is in control.*

Yes. God is in control. He was in control of the river, too. Listen to what God did just as the priests and the people were about to cross the river!
Read Joshua 3:17.

? Where were the priests standing? *In the middle of the river.*

? What does the Bible say about the ground in the river? *It was dry ground.*

Refer to the Flip Chart Illustration #1. The Bible says they crossed over on dry ground! God stopped the water and opened a way for His people to walk right across.

Now, the Israelites were in the Promised Land! God promised to be with them wherever they went. God told them to be strong and courageous. Do NOT be afraid. Remember our memory verse? The first city they would have to fight for would be Jericho. We learned that Jericho had huge, thick walls around it. It would be a hard battle to win. How would they ever take this city? Would they be able to do it? Well, God was going to help them. We know that. And God was going to do it in a very strange, but amazing way! God is all powerful. He dried the river so they could cross. And now He was going to win this battle of Jericho for His people!

God told them to do something next. Listen carefully as I read and tell me what the people were supposed to do. *Read Joshua 6:3.*

? What did God tell them to do? *March around the city!*

? How many times were they supposed to march around the city? *One time!*

? God told them to do this for how many days? *Six days.*

God told them to march around the city once a day for six days! That was a little odd. Take a look at this! *Refer to Flip Chart Illustration #2. The priests blew their horns and the people had the Ark of the Lord. And they went around the first day, second day, third day, fourth day, fifth day, and*

Joshua 3:17

➤ Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God's Word and know that they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them!

Joshua 6:3

the sixth day. Nobody said anything while they marched. The people in Jericho only heard the horns blowing and saw the people marching.

God didn't tell them to try and climb the walls or break open the gates. Just march around the city and then go back to camp. Hmmm . . . this is a strange way to fight a battle! But Joshua and the Israelites trusted God and obeyed.

Joshua 6:4

What happened on the seventh day? Let me read this to you and I want you to tell me. *Read Joshua 6:4.*

- ? How many times did God tell them to march around the city on the seventh day? *Seven times.*

That's right. On the seventh day, they got up really early when the sun was coming up and started marching. They marched around the walls and blew the horns once, then twice, then three times—this was different! They kept going around the walls of Jericho until they went around seven times.

Joshua 6:20

Something amazing happened after they went around the seventh time! Listen and you tell me what happened! *Read Joshua 6:20.*

- ? The people did something while the priests blew the trumpets. What did they do? *They shouted.*

Show Flip Chart Illustration #3. Look at the picture. The people had hiked around Jericho seven times on the seventh day. Now they shouted and the trumpets blew.

- ? What happened to the walls when the people shouted and the priests blew the trumpets? *The walls fell down flat.*

Yes. The walls of Jericho came straight down. And God's people took the city.

- ? Whose victory was this? *Allow discussion.*

Joshua 6:16

I think you know but let me read what Joshua said to the people from God's Word. *Read Joshua 6:16 emphasizing "the Lord has given you the city!"*

- ? Whose victory was it? Who allowed the people to take the city? *The Lord.*
- ? Did Joshua make the walls fall down? *No.*
- ? Did they yell so loudly that the walls fell? *No.*
- ? Do you think that was what God planned to do all along? *Yes.*

This was a strange way to win the battle. But God wanted everyone to know that HE was the one who did it. And He showed His mighty power during this battle. The walls fell down flat and the people took the city. Joshua did NOT win this battle. God won this battle in a wonderful, amazing way. And everyone knew He was the powerful, true God! Joshua obeyed God and did exactly what God told him to do. God was faithful and the battle was won. God won the battle for His people. *Refer to Flip Chart Illustration #3.*

SONG

Remember, God promised Joshua that He would always be with him. And God told Joshua not to be afraid—God said be strong and of good courage. He loves us and we can trust Him. God is all-powerful! He can part the river and make the walls tumble down! Let's think about our sovereign, all-powerful God as we sing our Memory Verse Song, "Joshua 1:9."

Lead the students in the Memory Verse Song while marching around the room. You may want to add instruments or hand motions. If time allows rehearse the other songs already learned, found on the Flip Chart Song Page.

We are going to go back to the tables now and make our own horns to remind us of the exciting battle of Jericho! So go quietly back to the tables now and get ready to listen so I can tell you what we're going to do.

► Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.



God Told Joshua Horn

MATERIALS

- Construction Paper for each student
- Joshua Horn colored, rolled, and taped to show as an example
- Crayons
- Tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Print name and color the horn. Roll the construction paper to make a horn. Tape together. These will be used for the next activity.

Today we're going to make some paper horns. First you need to write your name on your horn. Then you get to color it up really nice. When you're finished coloring, raise your hand and I will come and help you roll up your paper to make a horn and tape it together.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The army marched around the walls. The priests blew their horns. A loud shout! And the walls all tumbled down! Wow! Only God could fight a battle like that and win!



God Told Joshua Song

MATERIALS

- God Told Joshua Horns from Activity 1
- Completed God Told Joshua Horn
- “God Told Joshua” song lyrics on the Flip Chart Song Page or back of this Teacher Guide

INSTRUCTIONS

Now, let me teach you a new song about Joshua and the battle of Jericho. We’re going to sing the words a few times to learn the song, and then we’ll use our horns that we made.

Have students bring their horns with them and gather in a circle, placing the horns down in front of them. Sing the “God Told Joshua” song printed at the back of this Teacher Guide and on the Flip Chart Song Page. Sing the song one verse at a time as follows:

Remember how the people just walked around the city? Let’s sing the first part as we walk around in a circle. *Then stand up in a circle and sing the song together marching in a circle for the first verse.*

Remember how the priests blew their trumpets? Let’s sing the second part and blow our trumpets like this, “Too-ta-too-ta-too-ta-too!” *Use the horn you completed earlier as an example. Sing the second verse using the horns.*

Now, let’s sing the third verse. When the walls fall down, let’s all fall down, too!

Ready? *Sing the third verse, falling down at the end. Repeat the song with the motions as time allows.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Isn’t it exciting to hear about the awesome things God can do? Only God can win a battle like that! But God promised He would help Joshua do what he needed to do. And God promises to help each of us who believe in Him and obey. He will be with us wherever we go and always help us. But we need to be obedient and trust Him—even when we don’t understand completely. Just like Joshua did!



Memory Verse Review and Activity

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.

Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times.

MATERIALS

- Memory Verse Flash Cards

INSTRUCTIONS

Now we're going to play a game and see how well we know our memory verse. Everyone sit down now and say the words of our verse when you see the picture on the card. Review the memory verse using the flash cards.

Following is a simple game similar to Farmer in the Dell.

Great job! Now let's all stand up and get in a circle holding hands. Stretch your arms way out wide until we have a good circle. I'm going to stand inside of this circle. I'm going to start right here pointing at (student name), and we'll all say each word in our memory verse as I point to each of

you. Now I'm going to keep pointing as I go around the circle. Every time I point, say the next word in our verse. When the verse is all done, whoever I've pointed to for the last word will come in the circle with me. Then everyone will shout, "God won the battle and the walls fell down!" And everyone in the middle will fall down.

Have the students walk in a circle holding hands reciting the verse. The teacher will go around the inside of the circle pointing at each child as each word is recited. When the verse is finished the last student to be pointed at will join the teacher in the middle and the other students will shout, "God won the battle and the walls fell down!" The teacher and student(s) in the middle will fall down. Each time this is played, another student is added to the middle and falls down after the shout.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God told Joshua to be strong and courageous—to not be afraid or dismayed. God is the one who helps us in all that we should do. He wants us to obey Him and trust Him. He can win a battle like Jericho, by making the walls fall down! Don't you think He can help you, too?



Applying God's Word/Snack

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

After thanking God for your snack, review the lesson with the children while enjoying the snack for the day.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart Page. God won the Battle of Jericho didn't He? He is a powerful God. He is omnipotent! He led the people across the river on dry ground. And then He made the walls of Jericho fall down flat with the sound of trumpets and a great shout from the people. God won the battle. God didn't tell Joshua to break down the gates and climb the walls of the city. Maybe that's what Joshua thought he might have to do. But God already had a plan. Remember, God is sovereign; He is in control. He showed Joshua and the Israelites that He is powerful enough to win this battle alone.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

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

Have you ever wanted to obey, but it felt like it would be too hard to do the right thing? Maybe you've been so angry that you just wanted to say something mean, but you knew that would be wrong. Or if Mom said you could have only one cookie, but it tasted so good, you really wanted to take two instead? Sometimes it's like a battle we are fighting between obeying and disobeying. And that is what it is, because the Bible says that we are all sinners. Only God can help us to win the battles between right and wrong. Everyone who is a child of God, everyone who believes that God sent Jesus to save sinners—will get help from God to stop sinning and to turn to Him for help to obey. He is powerful enough to win the battle of Jericho, and He's powerful enough to help all His children obey Him.



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for His Word and the truth.
- Thank God for helping us obey Him.
- Pray that God will give us hearts that truly love Him.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

JOSHUA 1:9

(To the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

Shout . . . Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and of good cou-ur-rage,

(Mary had a little lamb,)

Do not be afraid,

(Little lamb,)

Nor be dismayed,

(Little lamb.)

For the Lord your Go-od is—

(Mary had a little lamb.)

With you wherever you go.

(Its fleece was white as snow.)

Shout . . . Joshua 1:9!

GOD TOLD JOSHUA

(To the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

God told Joshua,

(Row, row, row your boat,)

"Walk around the walls."

(Gently down the stream.)

Round and round and round and round—

(Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,)

And Joshua obeyed.

(Life is but a dream.)

God told Joshua,

"The priests should blow their horns."

Too-ta-too-ta-too-ta-too—

and Joshua obeyed.

God told Joshua,

"I will fight for you."

Jericho's walls came tumbling down,

Like only God could do!

Think of fun ways to sing. For example:

Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction.

Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out!

Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.

