

May 17 Elementary

Bible Passage: The Battle of Jericho / Joshua 2; 6

Story Point: God brought down the walls of Jericho.

Memory Verse: “It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed” Deuteronomy 31:8 ESV

Big Picture Question: How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.

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.*

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* BIBLE STUDY TIPS FOR PARENTS:

Parents- [here’s a preview of what we’ll be studying in the Fall as a church](#) 😊

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 trusts in Jesus is safe and becomes part of God's family forever.

***STORY:**

SAY • So the big picture question is: ***How can we glorify God?*** Do you remember the answer? ***We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.*** Great! Let's say both together again: ***How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.***

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."

Use the Bible storytelling tips below to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video, or both!

The Battle of Jericho: *Joshua 2; 6*

The Israelites finally arrived at the promised land of Canaan (KAY nuhn), but there was one problem: other people were living there. God's people couldn't just walk in and set up their tents. They had to go to battle against their enemies, and they had to win.

Joshua sent two spies into Jericho to see what it was like. The spies stayed at the house of a woman named Rahab (RAY hab). Rahab had heard about God and believed in Him. She wanted to help His people. When the king of Jericho was looking for the spies, she hid the men on her roof.

When it was safe for the spies to leave, Rahab said, "Please be kind to my family since I have been kind to you. When you attack Jericho, please do not kill us." So the spies promised to keep Rahab and her family safe, and they left Jericho. Rahab tied a bright red rope in her window so the Israelites would know which house she lived in.

The people in Jericho hid behind the strong walls of the city. **God told Joshua** he would conquer Jericho. To do that, Joshua would need to **lead the people to march around the city one time each day for six days. On the seventh day, they would march around the city seven times, and the priests would blow the trumpets. All the people would shout, and the walls of Jericho would fall down. Then the Israelites could go into the city and take over.**

So Joshua commanded the people to carry the ark of the covenant and march around the city. The priests blew their trumpets. They marched around the city one time. Not one of the Israelites spoke or made a sound. On the second day, they silently marched around the city again and then returned to their camp. They did this every day for six days.

On the seventh day, the Israelites got up early and marched around the city seven times. On the seventh time when the priests blew their trumpets, Joshua said, “Shout, for the Lord has given you the city!” So **the people shouted, and the wall fell down flat. The Israelites went into the city and captured it. They kept Rahab and her family safe because she had helped the spies.** God was with Joshua, and everyone in the land knew of Joshua and what he had done.

SAY • God is so creative and amazing! I love how He prepared the heart of Rahab. She heard about God and trusted in Him. You know it was no coincidence that the spies ended up at Rahab’s house. Her quick thinking saved their lives, and they, in turn, saved her life and the lives of her family. Talk about your unexpected but impactful friendships! In fact, God honored Rahab centuries later. In the first chapter of Matthew, her name is listed in the family line of Jesus! That’s pretty special.

And we can’t forget about God’s surprising battle plan: silently marching around the city for six days and then seven times on the seventh day. You know that had to have been hard for the Israelites and very confusing for the people of Jericho. The people must have thought those Israelites had lost their minds. But the Israelites were obedient to God’s plan, even when it didn’t make sense. They just kept moving forward in faith. When they were finally able to shout, **God brought down the walls of Jericho.**

Another amazing miracle! God received all the glory as those walls fell down. ***How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.***

***Christ Connection:**

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.

SAY • The story of Rahab and Jericho is a small example of what Jesus has done for us. 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.

***GOSPEL PLAN:**

(Included in the Activity Pages)

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God’s punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It’s something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God’s family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He’s already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

***PRAYER**

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

***KEY PASSAGE / MEMORY VERSE:**

“It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed” Deuteronomy 31:8 ESV

SAY • I have to think the Israelite army had these words in their minds as they marched around the city of Jericho behind the ark of the covenant. God went before them in that battle, and He continues to go before us today.

***DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

COMPREHENSION:

- 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*)
- 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*)
- Did God's plan work? (*Yes, His people conquered Jericho and Rahab's family was spared; Josh. 6:21-23*)
- What did Rahab tie in her window so that the Israelites would know where she lived? (*a red rope, Josh. 2:21*)
- How many times did the Israelites march around Jericho in all? (*thirteen, Josh. 6*)
- What did the people do after the seventh time they marched around the city on the seventh day? (*shouted and blew the trumpets, Josh. 6:16*)

YOUNGER:

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them use the table of contents and large chapter numbers to find Joshua 2; 6. Remind the kids that Joshua is the first book in the Old Testament History division, which comes right after the Law. Briefly review the other books that are part of this division (Judges–Esther). Explain that we will eventually get to stories from those books as well.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

- 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.*
- 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.*
- 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.*

Say • God brought down the walls of Jericho. He did it in a way that proved His power. He loves us and will do amazing things in our lives when we trust Him.

OLDER:

Open your Bible to Joshua 2. Explain that today's Bible story comes from Joshua 2; 6. Remind kids that the Book of Joshua is about the Israelites as Joshua led them into the promised land. Tell kids that the Israelites entered the promised land about 1,400 years before Jesus was born.

Say • When the Israelites crossed the Jordan River and entered the promised land, they came to the city of Jericho. [*Point to Jericho (H6) on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map.*] God gave Joshua

instructions, and the people marched around the city for seven days. Then **God brought down the walls of Jericho.**

Read Joshua 2:23-24. Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

- Who showed faith in today's Bible story? How can we show faith? *Remind kids that faith is a strong belief or trust in someone or something. Joshua, the Israelites, and Rahab showed faith by trusting God even when they didn't understand His plan. We can show faith by trusting God and obeying Him even when we don't completely understand His ways.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 11:30-31.)
- How did God's plan for the Israelites to take over Jericho bring Him glory? *Lead kids to discuss the surprising strategy of marching around the city. On their own, the Israelites could not have knocked down the walls. God was with His people and gave them victory. Glory belonged to God, not to Israel's army.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Deut. 20:4.)
- How does God fight for us today? *Guide kids to discuss how God intervened in Israel's battles. He can intervene in a situation today, but He often fights for us in ways we don't expect. Encourage kids to trust that God is at work for His glory and our good, even when He seems silent. We may face problems in life, but our confidence is in Jesus, who defeated sin and death once and for all.* (Option: Choose a kid to read Prov. 21:31.)

***ACTIVITIES:**

1. ACTIVITY PAGE & COLORING PAGE

Invite kids to complete the “**Escape from Jericho**” **activity page**. Challenge kids to complete the maze to lead Rahab and her family from their house in Jericho.

Say: • Today we will learn about a time Joshua sent spies into a city called Jericho. A woman who had faith in God hid them and helped them escape. In return, God saved her and her family so they could escape when the walls fell. We'll learn all about it soon.

2. JERICHO MARCH

Walk around your house or around a certain room in your house 7 times. On the 7th time pretend to blow a trumpet together and shout!

SAY: • Joshua led the people to march around the city one time each day for six days. On the seventh day, they marched around the city seven times, and the priests blew the trumpets. All the people shouted, and the walls of Jericho fell down. The Israelites were able to capture the city. The people must have thought those Israelites had lost their minds. But the Israelites were obedient to God's plan, even when it didn't make sense. They just kept moving forward in faith. When they were finally able to shout, **God brought down the walls of Jericho.**

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3. SCARLET CORD BOOKMARK

Provide a strip of heavyweight paper. Help the kids punch one hole in the top and tie a length of red ribbon/string through their hole to hang off the top of the paper strip. If you do not have a hole punch

or red ribbon/string, feel free to have your child draw a red cord down the side of the bookmark. then instruct the kids to write the key passage Deuteronomy 31:8 on their bookmarks and then decorate it.

Say: • **God brought down the walls of Jericho.** He did it in a miraculous way that no human could have done alone. When you use this bookmark, remember that 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!

4. FIND THE SPIES

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

SAY: • In our story today, we learned about a time two spies needed help hiding from those who wanted to find them. The spies were men from Israel, and the woman who helped them hide was not part of the nation of Israel. 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.