

LESSON 44

Jericho Falls

JOSHUA 3–6



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD CONQUERS JERICHO BUT SPARES ONE FAMILY BY HIS GRACE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: Toy building blocks

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 44)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Page 44

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Entering the Promised Land

SUPPLIES: two large, gift-wrapped boxes (one box should be wrapped so the lid can come off easily to see the contents); map of the Promised Land (a rough drawing is fine); small items to put in the box—dried fruit, fruit or vegetable seeds, soil, water, milk, honey, picture or model of a home, picture of a leader or action figure, trumpet, etc.

And the Wall Came Down

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will learn how God miraculously brought down the walls of Jericho.

Bring toy building blocks to class, and before the children arrive stack the blocks to form a tower on a table or desk in the center of the room.

When the children come in, have them sit in a circle around the tower of blocks. Ask for a volunteer to knock the blocks down. Then ask the class to tell you what they just saw. Record their response on a piece of paper, and then set the tower back up again.

Now tell the class you are going to try an experiment. Explain that you want to see if they can knock the tower of blocks down by marching around it and shouting. Have the children practice shouting, “Tower, tower, topple down. Tower, tower, topple down.” Then line up the class and march them around the table reminding them not to touch the table. Once you have marched around the tower a few times lead them in the shout.

When the tower doesn’t topple have them try again, only this time shouting louder. When the second attempt fails, have them sit down; tell them that something was missing from your experiment. Tell them to listen closely to the Bible story to see why your tower didn’t fall. (Later you can explain that it was God who knocked down Jericho’s walls, not Israel’s marching or shouting.)

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 44, “Jericho Falls,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- Who knocked down the walls of Jericho?
(*God did*)

- Can you tell me why we couldn't knock down our tower by marching and shouting earlier?
(God wasn't joining in to knock it down like he did Jericho.)
- What did Joshua have to do before the Israelites conquered Canaan?
(Israel had to first capture the city of Jericho.)
- What did God's special messenger come to tell Joshua?
(The special messenger came to remind Joshua that God would tell him how to defeat Jericho.)
- How many days did Israel march silently around Jericho?
(six days)
- What miraculous thing happened on the seventh day?
(When the priests blew their trumpets and the people shouted, the walls of Jericho fell down.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- How was Rahab's courage and faith in God rewarded?
(The spies remembered her and her family and rescued them before destroying the city.)
- What do you think the Israelites were thinking when they were marching around the walled city of Jericho?
(Elicit that they may have been afraid or doubted God's wisdom.)
- What do you think the Israelites thought on the seventh day when the Lord caused the walls of Jericho to fall down?
(They were amazed and joyful at God's power and faithfulness.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today’s lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God’s greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Hebrews 11:30

Hebrews 11:30 records this commentary on the walls of Jericho, “By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.”

With the story of Rahab’s faith, the author of Hebrews included the Israelites who blew their trumpets in a unified act of faith. Why were their faith and the resulting collapse of the great walled city included in Hebrews? It is designed to motivate us to look to Jesus! It is Jesus who perfected their faith; Hebrews tells us it is Jesus who will perfect our faith for he is the only author and perfecter of faith (Hebrews 12:1–2)!

When the commander of the army of the Lord appeared to Joshua, the latter responded by falling on his face and worshiping him. In Revelation 19 this same commander of the army of God will return for the final battle. The commander is the Son of God—King of kings and Lord of lords. There is no mistake about who is going to conquer the Promised Land. Though Joshua and the Israelites are going to march around Jericho, it is the Lord who makes the walls collapse.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 44—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What do you think the men on the walls of Jericho were thinking when Israel was walking around their city but not attacking?
(Accept any answer.)

- What do you think the people of Jericho thought on the seventh day when the walls of their city came tumbling down at the sound of the Israelites' shouting?
(Accept any answer.)

- The Bible tells us that Joshua was a great leader and man of God. It says that the "Lord was with Joshua." How could you be like Joshua so the same thing might be said of you: "the Lord is with _____ (child's name)"?
(Elicit biblical characteristics such as courage, trust, faith, etc.)

Entering the Promised Land

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ two large, gift-wrapped boxes (one box should be wrapped so the lid can come off easily to see the contents)
- ✓ map of the Promised Land (a rough drawing is fine)
- ✓ small items to put in the box: dried fruit, fruit or vegetable seeds, soil, water, milk, honey, picture or model of a home, picture of a leader or action figure, trumpet, etc.

Have the children make a circle around a box. Don't let them touch the box, but hopefully the wrapping will be exciting enough to stimulate their interest. Tell the children that you brought in the box because you wanted to bless them and wanted to give them good things.

Go around the circle and have each child guess what is in the box. Link their answers to yourself, the gift giver. Point out that the gift itself ultimately reflects the character of the gift giver. For example, suppose one child says that the box contains puppies for the entire class. Ask the group: Do I own a dog? Do I love animals?

After doing this for a while, have two students unwrap the box. Inside is the map of the Promised Land along with souvenirs from the land including:

- good fruit to eat—dried fruit and nuts
- seeds to plant
- rich soil to plant in (symbolizing the land)
- water (a necessity for a land to be fertile)

- a model or picture of a house (representing the houses they would build and live in)
- an action figure (symbolizing the gift of leaders)
- milk and honey (symbolizing the land's richness)
- a trumpet or horn (recalling the victory over Jericho)

The children will be disappointed, but explain to them that this is what God gave to the Israelites when they obeyed God and followed Joshua into the Promised Land. To these children of former slaves, God gave more than they asked or imagined.

Lastly, show them another wrapped box, which will remain unopened. This symbolizes all of the promises and blessings for those who patiently and humbly trust the Lord with their lives and obey all his commands.

And the Wall Came Down

Prior to class make an eight-foot diameter circle on the floor of the classroom.

After the Bible story is read, tell the class that you are going to act out the story. Assign half the class to stand on the circle and hold hands to form the walls of Jericho. The other half of the class is Israel who will march around the city seven times. For purposes of the reenactment, read the story directly from the Bible in Joshua 6:1–20. Stop after each event and have the children act it out.

In each of the first six days the children representing the walls should laugh and say, “You can’t get in, our walls are strong. You can’t get in, with your trumpet song.” On the seventh day have the children shout and when they do, have the children representing the walls collapse. Have the army go inside the circle and say, “The walls were strong, the walls were tall, but our God is stronger and made them fall.”

PRAY 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today’s lesson was about.

