

# THE BATTLE BEGINS

**Bible Basis:** Joshua 1:1–11; 2:1–24

**Key Verse:** Be strong and very brave. Make sure you obey the whole law. ... Then you will have success everywhere you go. —Joshua 1:7, NIV

**Bible Point:** God sent help for his people. God sends me to help, too.

**Resource:** *The Story for Kids*, Chapter 7: “The Battle Begins”

## STEP 1: COME TOGETHER

**Stuff You Need:** masking tape

As you begin class, ask a volunteer to pull off ten feet of masking tape without tangling the tape. This will be difficult, but let the volunteer struggle for a moment. Then invite suggestions. For instance, one child can hold the roll while another pulls the tape and walks ten feet. When they have a long strip, attach it to the floor. (Depending on your set-up, you might be able to use it for the Bible verse game below.) Ask:

- Why was that a difficult thing for one person to do alone?
- Tell me something that is hard for you to do by yourself.

Say, **We all have hard things to do. Sometimes we can do them alone, but sometimes it’s okay to ask for help. In our Bible story today, God uses someone to help his people.**

## STEP 2: HEAR THE STORY

**Stuff You Need:** copies of *The Story for Kids*, Bibles, *The Story Elementary Trading Card 7*, signs with one of the following words on each: law, spies, Rahab, roof, rope, and three days

**Optional:** funky, colorful hat

Tell the story from *The Story for Kids*, Chapter 7. You can also have the children find Joshua 1 and mark it in their Bibles. Either you or a child in your class can read the Scripture passages listed throughout the story.

### Who Needs Help Now?

Gather the prepared signs that say: law, spies, Rahab, roof, rope, three days. Recruit from one to six helpers to carry the signs out and walk in front of you as indicated in the script. You may want to have an adult assistant following the script to prompt the helpers. Helpers should walk right past you, holding the sign for the audience to see. Optional: give children funky hats to wear.

Read Joshua 1:1–2. **“Be strong and very brave. Make sure you ... I know there’s something I’m supposed to remember here. I think I need some help. Signal for the first helper to carry out the “law” sign. Pretend to stretch your neck to try to read it. Oh yes, “Make sure you obey the whole law my servant Moses gave you. Do not turn away from it to the right or to the left. Then you will have success everywhere you go.” It helps to do just what God says.**

Forty years earlier, Joshua had helped spy out the land. He remembered that the people in Canaan were very strong, so he decided to ... what was it? I need some help here. *Signal for the helper with the “spies” sign.* **Oh yes, Joshua decided to send two spies into Jericho, the first city the Israelites would attack. The spies could make sure everything was safe for God’s people to attack.**

The spies got into Jericho, and there they met a woman named ... named ... what was her name? I’m having a bad day! *Signal for the helper with the “Rahab” sign to come out.* **That’s right, Rahab! Rahab lived in a house attached to the city’s huge wall. It turned out Rahab knew about God and his plan, and she wanted to help keep the spies safe. It’s always good to have someone helping you out in a tough situation.**

But then the king of Jericho heard the spies had come! He must have had some spies of his own. He sent a message to Rahab. It said, **“Bring out the men who came to your house. They’ve come to check out the whole land.”**

Rahab had heard the king’s spies coming and hid the Israelite spies ... I know she hid them somewhere ... in the closet ... the crawl space ... no, that’s not right. Where is that help when I need it? *Signal for a helper with the “roof” sign to come out.* **She hid them on her roof! That’s right, under a pile of flax plants. She told the messengers, “It’s true the men were here. Go after them quickly. You might catch up with them.” The king’s men left to hunt down the Israelite spies.**

Rahab went up to the roof to talk to the spies. She knew it was God’s plan to give the land to the Israelites. *Read Joshua 2:12–14.*

So Rahab let the spies down by ... let’s see, the front door wouldn’t work, and there was no back door. Help! *Signal for the helper with the “rope” sign to come.* **Rahab used a rope! She let them down with a rope through the window. She had said to them, “Go up into the hills. The men who are chasing you won’t be able to find you. Hide yourselves there for three days until they return. Then you can go on your way.”**

When the spies left, they went up into the hills. They stayed there for ... let’s see, how long was that ... a week? No, that’s too long ... *Signal for the helper with the “three days” sign to come.* **Three days! They stayed three days. By that time the men who were chasing them had searched all along the road. They couldn’t find them.**

*Read Joshua 2:23–24.* **Joshua liked the spies’ report. He knew it meant God would take care of them once they started fighting in Canaan. Joshua had all the Israelites pray and then get ready to attack Jericho.**

God knew the spies would need some help, and he made sure Rahab was there to help them. He knows when you need help, too. And, he even knows when you might be able to be the one who helps.

After you have told the Bible story, give each child a copy of *The Story Elementary Trading Card* 7. Ask the children to look at the picture and tell you about how the Israelites fought the battle of Jericho. As a class, read the key verse from the back of the card or from the Bible. Ask:

- Why did the two men in the Bible story need help?
- How did God provide the help they needed?

Say, **God sent help for his people. God might send us to help someone, too.**

Collect the cards for now. You'll send them home with the children later.

### STEP 3: EXPLORE MORE

Choose any or all of these activity options to help your class explore the lesson further.

#### OPTION 1: BIBLE VERSE CRUMPLE

**Stuff You Need:** paper, markers, bins or baskets, whiteboard or newsprint, blindfolds

Have the children form groups of four to six and give each group paper and markers. Ask them to write these segments from the verse on full sheets of paper: Be strong / and very brave / Make sure you / obey the whole law. / Then you will have success / everywhere you go. Also write the verse on the board. During class, read the verse together. Have the children tightly crumple up the sheets and put them in a basket. For extra fun, add some crumpled blank sheets as well. Set the baskets about ten feet away from the starting area. Children will take turns running to the baskets in pairs. One person in the pair will be blindfolded. The person who can see is not allowed to touch the papers. The blindfolded player follows the seeing player's instructions to uncrumple paper to find the next verse segment. If they open a sheet that is the wrong segment, they should crumple it again and keep looking. The next pair finds the next part of the verse. Play until the whole verse is assembled. After the game, ask:

- How does this verse apply to the people in our story?
- How does this verse apply to you?

Say, **Sometimes the people God sends to help us show us how to be strong and brave, the way Rahab helped the spies. Don't forget to look for ways you can help, too.**

#### OPTION 2: JERICHO'S WALLS

**Stuff You Need:** construction paper, markers, scissors, glue, poster board

Say, **Jericho had a high, thick wall all the way around the city. Rahab's house was actually part of the wall, and she used a window to help the spies escape to safety.** Invite children to work

together to build as much as possible of a city wall out of construction paper. Fold a sheet of paper in half, then in half again in the same direction. Tape the open edges together to form a hollow square or rectangle, or overlap the end segments to form a hollow triangle. Glue pieces to the poster board and each other. Use various widths of paper for different size elements. Draw windows or other features with markers. Build as much of the wall as you have time for. As children work, talk about:

- What parts of this story encourage us to accept help from other people?
- What parts of this story encourage us to give help to other people?

Say, **Sometimes God’s help comes in the form of other people. I hope you’ll be willing to let God use you to help others, too.**

### **OPTION 3: JOSHUA GETS HELP**

**Stuff You Need:** Joshua Gets Help Activity Sheet, pencils

Give an activity sheet to each child. Pair the children up and have them try to solve the puzzle. It says “Rahab helped Joshua. We should be ready to help people too.”

### **OPTION 4: WE ALL NEED HELP SOMETIMES**

**Stuff You Need:** craft paper, markers or crayons

**Everyone needs help now and then. Sometimes that help can come from an unlikely source, like a little brother or a stranger.**

Have volunteers tell about times they received help from someone they never would have expected.

**Why didn’t they expect help from this person?**

**Did you remember to show your appreciation to this person?**

**Have you ever helped anyone and surprised them with your assistance?**

**Think of a time that God has helped you. With craft paper and markers or crayons design a thank-you card for someone who has helped you—this can be God!**

## **STEP 4: GOING HOME**

Pray together that you will have faith and believe in God’s promises. Make sure each child takes home a copy of *The Story Elementary Trading Card 7*, Activity Sheet(s)/Crafts, and the Parents’ Page.