



May 7

The Conquest of Jericho

Large Group

Big Picture Question: Who fought the battle of Jericho? God fought for His people and handed Jericho over to the Israelites.

Bible Passage: Joshua 2; 6

Christ Connection: Joshua was a representation of Christ, leading the Israelites to victory in overcoming Canaan as Jesus leads us to victory in overcoming the world.

Room will be decorated with flags or banners, like ones used in battle. It will be decorated with stone type walls that resemble a fort.

Countdown

The countdown video will be showing as kids arrive. It is set to end as Large Group time begins.

Introduce the Session (2 minutes)

[Large Group Leader enters and kneels next to a pile of stones as he begins to speak.]

Leader: “This fort was built many, many years ago. It is so old that all we have are a few walls and some piles of stone from the old walls. If we had time to dig down into the ground, we might discover more stones. Imagine how strong and mighty this fort was back when it was built. Do you think the people who lived inside felt safe? Our Bible story today is about a big city with a big, strong wall all the way around it. The wall was designed to keep the people inside safe. Join me in looking at our timeline map to see what the name of this city was.”

Timeline (1 minute)

Leader: “The title of our Bible story is “The Conquest of Jericho.” Have you heard the word *conquest* before? The word *conquest* is related to the word *conquer*. To *conquer* is to overcome a people or place by force. God instructed the Israelites to conquer the promised land. Today we see the first conquest occurred at the city of Jericho.”

Sing (4 minutes)

Leader • Before we look at the story of Jericho in the Book of Joshua, let's pause and remember what we have learned about God so far. Name something we have learned about God on our chronological journey through the Bible. Great answers! All of those answers are reasons that our God is one true God. He is mightier, stronger, and greater than anyone else!

Sing "Our God."

Big Picture Question (1 minute)

Leader: "The Israelites faced a big battle in today's Bible story. Our big picture question is, **Who fought the battle of Jericho?** Wait a minute. Don't shout out an answer yet!"

"You may think you know who fought the battle, but we need to examine our Bible story first. Open your Bibles to Joshua 2. Joshua comes after the Book of Deuteronomy, and it is close to the front of your Bible. Remember, anytime you need to find a book in the Bible you can turn to the front and find the table of contents or contents page."

"The table of contents page has a list of all the books of the Bible and the page numbers where you can find them."

Bible story Video (9 minutes)

Show the Bible story video "The Conquest of Jericho."

Leader: "Our big picture question is, **Who fought the battle of Jericho?** Shout out what you think the answer is. God fought for His people and handed Jericho over **to the Israelites**. God told Joshua exactly what to do to conquer Jericho. God fought for His people. He caused all the walls of Jericho to collapse so the Israelites were able to walk into Jericho and conquer the city. God ordered the Israelites to destroy the city. Only a few types of items like silver and gold were to be saved. Those items were for the treasury of the Lord. All other items were to be completely destroyed. The Israelites were not to keep anything from Jericho for themselves."

"Because she followed God and protected the spies, Rahab and her family were saved. Later Rahab married one of the Israelite men. Her choice to follow God changed Rahab's life. Rahab is mentioned in Jesus' genealogy found in Matthew 1. The genealogy is the list of people in Jesus' family. Because Rahab chose to follow Jesus, the legacy of her family changed. Rahab became a member of Jesus' earthly family."

"Why do you think God didn't want the Israelites to take anything from Jericho? Do you remember our Christ connection? God promised to provide for the Israelites. He would give them everything they needed. The Israelites needed to trust God and obey His commands."

"God also promises to provide for His people today. Matthew 6:33 tells Christians to focus on God and His righteousness. To be *righteous* is to do what is right. God is perfectly righteous. He always does what is right. His ways and plans are always right. When we follow God, He will provide for us like He did for the Israelites."

Key Passage (4 minutes)

Leader: "Who remembers where our key passage is found in the Bible? Yes. It is Joshua 24:15. Do I have a volunteer who would like to lead the group to read our key passage?"

Select a volunteer to lead the group to read the key passage in unison.

Leader: "Every day we have a choice to follow God's commands or to sin by following someone or something else. Following God is not always easy, but His ways and commands are perfect."

Key Passage:

“And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Joshua 24:15

Prayer (2 minutes)

[Kneel again beside the pile of stones from the fort.]

Leader: “I don’t think I will ever look at our old fort with its piles of old stone and not think about the city of Jericho. The walls of our fort have slowly worn away over time, but the walls of Jericho completely collapsed because God fought for His people.”

“Say our big picture question and answer with me. **Who fought the battle of Jericho? God fought for His people and handed Jericho over to the Israelites.** Next week we will continue the story of the Israelites and what happened at the city of Jericho.”

Close in prayer, asking God to help kids trust that He will provide for their needs every day.

Dismiss to Small Groups