



May 7

The Conquest of Jericho

3rd-5th

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.

TEACHER BIBLE STUDY

The Lord brought His people into the promised land. Now they had a task set before them: conquer the people living in the land. The first city the Israelites came to was Jericho. The people of Jericho had heard about God and what He had done for the Israelites. They understood God's power and wanted nothing to do with Him.

Joshua sent spies to Jericho to check it out. A prostitute named Rahab knew how powerful God was. She wanted to be on God's side. Rahab hid the spies and kept them safe from the people of Jericho. In return, the spies promised that Rahab and her family would be safe when the Israelites conquered the city.

The people of Jericho worshiped false gods, and God was bringing His judgment against them. The Lord's reputation went ahead of the Israelites, creating fear in the people of Jericho. God was in control. He told Joshua that the battle would be just fine. (See Josh. 6:2.)

The battle of Jericho was fought by faith. The Israelites 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 trumpets sounded, declaring, "The Lord is near!"

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 was going to provide for all of their needs. They had no reason to plunder Jericho.

Jesus spoke of the Lord's provision in Matthew 6:33. As you teach kids this week, lead them to trust God for all of their needs, including their greatest need—to be rescued from sin by Jesus Christ.

THE BIBLE STORY

The Conquest of Jericho Joshua 2; 6

The Israelites were camping near the Jordan River. The Israelites were so close to the land God had promised to give them! There was one more thing they had to do: take it over. Many other people lived in Canaan (KAYnuhn), and the Israelites had to defeat them.

Joshua sent two spies into Jericho to check it out. They stayed at the house of a woman named Rahab (RAY hab). The king of Jericho heard the spies were with Rahab, so Rahab hid the men on her roof to keep them safe. Rahab had heard what God did to Pharaoh and believed in God. She wanted to help His people. When it was safe for the spies to leave, Rahab said, "Please be kind to my family since we 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.

Now the city of Jericho was closed up—no one left, and no one entered in. The people in Jericho knew the Israelites were near. They hid behind the walls of the city. God said to Joshua, "Jericho is yours. You will conquer it.

Here is what you should do: March around the city one time each day for six days. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, and the priests should blow the trumpets. Then all the people should shout, and the walls of Jericho will fall down. The Israelites can then go into the city and conquer it."

Just as God said, 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, just like Joshua commanded them. 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 so that the Israelites went into the city and captured it. They destroyed everything in the city, keeping none of it for themselves.

The two spies spared a woman named Rahab (RAY hab) and her family, who had hidden them when they were spies in the land. Rahab was saved because of her faith in God. Joshua declared, "Anyone who tries to rebuild this city will be cursed."

God was with Joshua, and everyone in the land knew of Joshua and what he had done.

Christ Connection: God gave the city of Jericho to the Israelites. He fought the battle for them and told them not to take anything from the city. God promised to provide for His people's needs. Jesus spoke of God's provision in Matthew 6:33, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you." Jesus meets our greatest need—to be saved from our sin. We can trust Him for our salvation.

BIBLE STORY REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS [about 15 min]

Guide kids to create a newspaper front page about today's Bible story. Kids need to create a headline and an article. Allow kids to be creative by drawing pictures. If you have a large group, form smaller groups of kids and lead each group to create its own newspaper. Encourage kids to look at Joshua 2 and Joshua 6 to find quotes for the article.

Say: *"Who fought the battle of Jericho? God fought for His people and handed Jericho over to the Israelites."*

••Who meets our greatest need? (*Jesus meets our greatest need—to be saved from our sin. We can trust Him for our salvation.*)

••Jesus told His followers in Matthew 6 that following God's commands and seeking His righteousness is what they should focus on. God will provide for His people's needs when they follow Him.

PRAYER STATION [about 15 min]

We really desire for kids to learn to pray, so we have created activities to go along with different aspects of prayer. Choose a Prayer Station box and walk through the activity with the kids. Each will have a set of instructions or "Teacher Card" for you to talk with the kids about as you do the prayer activity and pray with your group of kids. If you find it helpful, you can always split your group up between both volunteers to provide a smaller group for a more meaningful prayer time.

Remember, kids are learning to pray by your example. The importance and energy you put into prayer will be directly reflected in your class!

KEY PASSAGE/ BIBLE MEMORY TIME [about 10 min]

It is our desire for the kids to begin to hide God's Word in their hearts, so we would like the kids to work on memorizing the Key Passage for the Unit, other verses in the Bible and the Books of the Bible. Tickets will be rewarded for memorization, as well as bringing Bibles to church. Tickets will be used in a drawing at the end of each Unit.

Choose any of the following activities to start the fun! (Award tickets as you see fit!)

- Have kids work on the key passage in fun ways (say it loud, soft, jumping up and down, with motions, etc. Any way to make it come alive!)
- Have kids look through the Key Passage Notebook to review and state for memory past key passages.
- Have kids look up Key Passages and highlight them in their Bibles.
- Play Bible Drill Games. Call out a book of the Bible and the first to locate it wins!
- Allow kids to put the books of the Bible in order. (Game materials provided)
- Challenge kids to memorize new verses and retell them to you from memory!

Be creative and get the kids into God's Word!

SINK IN ACTIVITY [about 10-15 min each] (Choose one or both!)

Activity #1: Who Has the Scarlet Cord?

Instruct kids to form a circle. Kids should stand, cup their hands behind their backs, and close their eyes. Explain that you will walk around the circle and place the scarlet cord in one kid's hands. Pause behind each player. After you have given someone the cord, finish moving around the circle, and then announce that everyone may open their eyes and take turns guessing who has the cord. Play several times.

Say: "You had to guess who had the cord. The word *who* is part of today's big picture question. The Israelites had crossed the Jordan River. Now they must conquer the land. The first challenge they faced was a city with a big wall. *Who* had an important part in today's bible story?"

Activity #2: Quiet Ball

Form two teams. Each team must spread out across the room in a zigzag formation. On your command, the first player in the line will toss the ball to the second player in the line. Each player will toss the ball until it reaches the end of the line. Challenge kids to pass the ball across the room seven times without speaking or making noise. If a player drops a ball, he may pick it up and play from that point as long as no one on the team talks. If a player talks, the team must start over. When a team is completely finished, they must shout together "God is great!"

Say: "God instructed the Israelites to follow His commands to defeat the city of Jericho. One of His commands involved being completely silent. Did the Israelites always obey God and His commands? Name one time they did not. How well did the Israelites obey God's directions with Jericho?"

****THE HANDOFF****

As children are picked up, briefly state one of the things that were talked about in class today. You can do this by asking the child a question in front of their parent, or remind them of something they learned.

Christ at home!

Supplies Needed: paper for newspaper article, markers, red piece of yarn, 2 balls