

LESSON 44

Jericho Falls

JOSHUA 3–6



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD CONQUERS JERICHO BUT SPARES ONE FAMILY BY HIS GRACE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

- 1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN**
Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
- 2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN**
Read Joshua 6 from the Scriptures or read story 44, "Jericho Falls," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
- 3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN**
A Trumpet Blast
SUPPLIES:
✓ trumpet player with trumpet
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN**
March around the City
SUPPLIES:
✓ drop cloth (place this under the table for easier cleanup)
✓ eight-foot long table
✓ large bag of foam cups
✓ one similar-sized hard (indestructible) plastic cup
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN**
Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
✓ coloring page 44—one copy for each child
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN**
Remember the Passover
SUPPLIES:
✓ unleavened bread (matzo)
✓ red paint thinned to look like blood
✓ bunch of dried flowers to mimic the hyssop the Israelites used to paint the blood on the door frames
✓ a doorway drawn on a large piece of paper, the larger the better.
On a 4-foot long piece of paper draw a half-scale doorway, 3-feet high and 1½-feet wide.

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

The people of Jericho melt with fear—As we saw last week, Rahab told the spies that the people of Jericho melted in fear when they heard how God had dried up the Red Sea so that Israel could travel through it. Even though it had happened forty years earlier, far away in Egypt, the people of Jericho were still afraid.

Now, God again enables his people to pass safely through a body of water. He brings Joshua and Israel through the Jordan River, even though it is at flood stage, so they can get to Jericho. Once again, this causes great fear among all the pagan people who hear about it.

God affirms his care and leadership of the people—The people finally enter the Promised Land after forty years of wandering in the wilderness! God quickly does three things that affirm his covenant with Israel and his choice of Joshua to replace Moses.

First, the younger men of Israel are dedicated to the Lord through circumcision. Second, the people of Israel celebrate the Passover meal, remembering their salvation from Egypt. Finally, as the Israelites approach Jericho, “the commander of the army of the Lord” appears to Joshua. This is actually the Son of God. Joshua has to remove his sandals because he stands on holy ground just as Moses did when God appeared to him in the burning bush.

Jericho falls under the power of God—Out of fear of the Israelites, the people of Jericho have locked themselves inside their walled city. Instead of attacking the city, Israel marches silently around it once each day for six days. On the seventh day they march around the city seven times.

This must have filled the citizens of the city with fear and confusion. After a week of silent marching, imagine their reaction when the Lord’s army begins to shout and blow rams’ horns! The city walls tumble to the ground, and the people of Jericho are destroyed. The only people to survive are Rahab and her family. God remembers Rahab and rewards her earlier efforts to save the two spies.

Even though they were afraid, there is no evidence that the people of Jericho turned away from their idols to worship the God of Israel.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Joshua 6 from the Scriptures or read story 44, "Jericho Falls," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

A Trumpet Blast

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ trumpet player with trumpet

Tell the story of Jericho but have the trumpet player play an appropriate charge or march in the correct spots. But then turn it into a comedy where the trumpet player plays at odd places in the story and finally starts playing a familiar song like “Happy Birthday.” By repeating your instructions to the trumpet player, the children will also hear the repetition and learn the story.

Then ask the class the following questions:

■ **Who destroyed Jericho?**

(Some of the children may say Israel, but the correct answer is God. None of the Israelites touched the wall until after it was destroyed.)

■ **How did Israel demonstrate their faith in God?**

(They did what God instructed them to do. They did not complain about having to march around the city with nothing happening for six days—imagine how silly they must have looked. Rather than attack, they marched around the city and blew trumpets and then went home.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

March around the City

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ drop cloth (place this under the table for easier cleanup)
- ✓ eight-foot long table
- ✓ large bag of foam cups
- ✓ one similar-sized hard (indestructible) plastic cup

This is a reenactment of the fall of Jericho.

Place the table in the center of the room and make a circle of cups (upside down) about two feet in diameter in the center of the table. Make sure the hard plastic cup is on the bottom of the stack. (This cup represents Rahab’s house that won’t be destroyed.) Stack a second level bridging from cup to cup. Continue as high as you can go. Clear the chairs from around the table.

Have the children seated as you tell the story of Jericho. Then tell them you are going to act out the story. Have them march around the “city” six times, pausing between each trip. Assign some of the children the role of the priests with trumpets. The priests can play, but everyone else should remain quiet. Instruct the children that on the seventh day Israel marched around the city seven times. At the sound of the rams’ horn they should shout loudly together. Tell the children when they shout they should reach out and shake the table to make the walls come down. Then, when you give them the signal to take the city, they should smash the cups with their hands.

When the mayhem is over, someone should have noticed that one of the cups is hard plastic and cannot be destroyed. Have the children help you clean up and then pull out the hard plastic cup.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **Who does the plastic cup represent?**
(The cup represents Rahab and her family.)

- **What happened to Rahab and her family when Jericho fell?**
(God honored the promise of the spies because Rahab believed God and helped the spies escape.)

- **What should we learn from how God saved Rahab?**
(God saved her because of her faith. He will save us if we believe as well.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 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.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 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.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Remember the Passover

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ unleavened bread (matzo)
- ✓ red paint thinned to look like blood
- ✓ bunch of dried flowers to mimic the hyssop the Israelites used to paint the blood on the door frames
- ✓ a doorway drawn on a large piece of paper, the larger the better. On a 4-foot long piece of paper draw a half-scale doorway, 3-feet high and 1½-feet wide.

Tape onto the classroom wall the doorway you have prepared.

Read Joshua 5:10–12 to the class where it tells us that prior to going into the Promised Land, the people of Israel celebrated the Passover. Then ask the class what they can tell you about the Passover. Prompt them to remember the basic details using the basic formula that follows:

What is the Passover?

A time to be ready to leave Have the children pretend to put on their coat and carry a staff.

A meal	Sit the children down and serve them unleavened bread.
A judgment	Have one of the children paint the door frame with blood.
A deliverance	Have all the children get up and march out of Egypt in a line.

Then share the connection with Jesus: that the blood on the doorpost represented the blood of Jesus shed for us so that God's judgment would pass over us and we would be delivered from our sin if we believe and place our trust in Jesus, the Lamb of God who was slain.

