

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**
Jericho Trivia
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ trivia questions and answers (see below)
 - ✓ a prize for the winning team
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
Give Credit Where Credit Is Due
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **15 MIN**
The Commander
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
The Walls Came Down
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ large brown or gray sheet (Paint some very simple outlines of stones on the sheet if you want to make it more realistic.)
 - ✓ two chairs
 - ✓ cardboard paper towel tubes (several)

TOTAL 80 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.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Preincarnate

Preincarnate means “before the incarnation.” The incarnation was when God emptied himself of his glory and became man. Jesus was God incarnated into man. A preincarnate appearance of God the Son is an appearance of the Son before he became a man. The commander of the army of the Lord is seen by most commentators as a preincarnate appearance of the Son of God.

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

Jericho Trivia

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ trivia questions and answers (see below)
- ✓ a prize for the winning team

Read the story to the class and then divide the class into two teams. Have them take turns answering the following questions. The team with the most points in the end is the winner. Only one person is allowed to answer a question, and each person is only allowed to answer one question. Each team must select a person to answer the question before it is read. If the question is answered incorrectly, the opposing team may pick someone to answer it. If the question is answered correctly on the first try, it is worth five points. Each subsequent try by the opposing team is worth one point less.

No.	Trivia question	Answer
1	What were the names of the two spies that were sent to Jericho?	Remind the children this is not Joshua and Caleb. We don’t know their names.
2	What was the name of the woman who helped the spies in Jericho?	Rahab
3	What was the name of the river that God dried up for the Israelites to cross?	The Jordan River
4	Who met Joshua prior to the battle of Jericho?	The commander of the army of the Lord

5	What was Joshua asked to do by the commander before he received instructions regarding the battle of Jericho?	Take off his sandals
6	How many days did Israel march around Jericho?	Seven
7	How many times did Israel march around Jericho on the last day?	Seven
8	What were the trumpets made of?	Rams' horns
9	How many priests were to march around the city?	Seven
10	What was the signal for Israel to shout?	When the priests blew a long blast on the rams' horns
11	What caused the walls of Jericho to come crashing down?	God brought down the walls of Jericho at the shout of the people.
12	Besides the people and the priests, what else did Israel bring with them to march around Jericho?	The ark
13	What are the four metals the people were to save for the Lord?	Gold, silver, bronze, and iron
14	How was Jericho completely destroyed?	Israel burned the city.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

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

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Give Credit Where Credit Is Due

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

Compare Joshua's commission and battle plan (Joshua 5:13—6:5) with that of Moses (Exodus 3:1–12). Write out some of the similarities and differences on the whiteboard.

Ask the class why God didn't have Israel destroy Jericho in the usual way, with a battle. (God wanted to make sure that he received the glory for the victory. God understands the pride of man and how quickly we take credit for our accomplishments. There is simply no way Israel could take credit for such a victory.)

Talk about how we are all tempted to take credit for our accomplishments. Perhaps some of the children can think of things they accomplished for which they can't take credit. Perhaps they found a ten-dollar bill, or won a contest, or received a nice gift. It would be foolish to say, "Look how rich I have become," or "I am so great for winning this," or "Look what a great thing I have" without acknowledging that it was provided by another.

Ask, "How does the battle of Jericho bring glory to God?" (The city was destroyed by supernatural means just as the Egyptians were drowned in the Red Sea. The theme of false gods in the Bible is that they are made of wood or stone and cannot speak or act. On the other hand, our God is a living God who has a relationship with his people. He is all-powerful, and these events bring him glory.)

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 15 MIN

The Commander

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper

Have the children draw a picture of the commander of the army of the Lord.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN**The Walls Came Down****SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ large brown or gray sheet (Paint some very simple outlines of stones on the sheet if you want to make it more realistic.)
- ✓ two chairs
- ✓ cardboard paper towel tubes (several)

Reenact the destruction of Jericho. Divide the class into Israelites and people of Jericho. From among the Israelites choose several priests and give them the cardboard paper towel tubes (rams' horns). From among the people of Jericho assign the roles of messenger and Rahab.

Set the chairs up so that two of your taller students can each stand on a chair and hold up the sheet lengthwise, forming Jericho's wall. Have all the people of Jericho outside the walls. Have a messenger come running to say, "Israel has crossed over the Jordan on dry ground. They are coming. Get into the city!"

Have all the people of Jericho run behind the curtain and tremble. Then instruct the Israelites to form a column and start to march around the city. (Have the children march around the children holding up the sheet in a circle.) After they march around seven times, have the priests (those with the cardboard tubes) blow their trumpets by tooting in the tubes. Then have all of Israel give a shout. With that, the two students holding up the curtain should shake the sheet and then collapse it slowly to the ground. Then Israel should go into Jericho and pretend to burn it down. All the people of Jericho should fall down except for Rahab who is saved.

Use this skit to introduce a discussion on why God destroyed Jericho. Remind the children that all the people in the land worshiped idols and that God used Israel to punish them for their idolatry.