

## JERICHO TUMBLED

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOSHUA 5-6



*God conquered Jericho but spared one family by His grace.*

## The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

### Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

**The people of Jericho melted with fear** – When the spies met with Rahab she told them that the people of Jericho melted in fear when they heard that God had dried up the Red Sea and allowed Israel to travel through it (see Joshua 2:10). Even though the Jordan River was at the flood stage they feared it could not stop a God who could part the Red Sea. If the people of Canaan were afraid before, it is no wonder they melted with fear when they heard that God had dried up the Jordan to allow Israel to cross over, see Joshua 5:1.

**God affirmed His care and leadership of the people** – Upon crossing the Jordan there were three affirmations of God's covenant with His people. First, the young men were dedicated to the Lord through circumcision. Second, the people of Israel celebrated the Passover meal to commemorate their salvation from Egypt and deliverance from death. Finally, in a remarkable demonstration of God's authority in the battle, the pre-incarnate Son of God met with Joshua. In a meeting reminiscent of Moses meeting with God, the commander of the army of the Lord instructed Joshua to take off his sandals for the place upon which he stood was holy ground (see Joshua 5:13-15).

**Jericho fell under the power of God** – After marching once around Jericho for six days without a sound, Israel marched again on the seventh day. But this time they marched around seven times. The people of Jericho must have been filled with fear and confusion. Imagine their reaction when the army of the Lord began to shout with the sounding of the ram's horn. Then the walls tumbled to the ground and the army of the Lord advanced to destroy the people of the city.

**Rahab is saved** – In a picture of the mercy of God and an expression of His promise to reach the nations, Rahab and her family were rescued from the collapsed city. God remembered and rewarded her earlier efforts to save the two spies, see Joshua 2.

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### WHERE IS JESUS?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

Hebrews 11:30 records this commentary on the walls of Jericho, "By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them 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 was 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 and Hebrews tells us it is Jesus who will perfect our faith for He is the only author and perfecter of faith! see Hebrews 12:1-2.

When the commander of the Army of the Lord appeared to Joshua. Joshua responded by falling on his face and worshipped 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. Although Jesus has not been born, the Son of God is eternal with His Father in heaven. Here the Son appears as the commander of the army of the Lord. As Jesus the Son of God laid down His sword and was lead like a lamb to the slaughter taking our sins upon Himself on the cross. When He returns, He will take up His sword again, see Revelation 19:15.



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# ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.

**Bible Passage: Zephaniah 3:15-20**

### Connecting the passage to Christ:

The passage mentions "The Lord the King of Israel is with you, never again will you fear any harm". Jesus is this wonderful King. It is through his work that our punishment was taken away. And in the heavenly place he is preparing for us, we will never again fear evil.

### Questions for reflection:

- What did Jesus do to bring an end to our fears? (Jesus died on the cross to bring an end to the fear of judgment. In heaven He will bring an end to all worldly fears, see Colossians 2:15.)
- What will happen in heaven to our enemies? (God will destroy our enemies, see 2 Thess. 1:5-7.)

## SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

### BE A DOER OF THE WORD

*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.*



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# ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS

*Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?*

### MARCH AROUND THE CITY

#### Supplies

- drop cloth (place this under the table for easier cleanup)
- 8' table
- large bag of foam cups
- one similar sized hard plastic cup

This is a reenactment of the fall of Jericho.

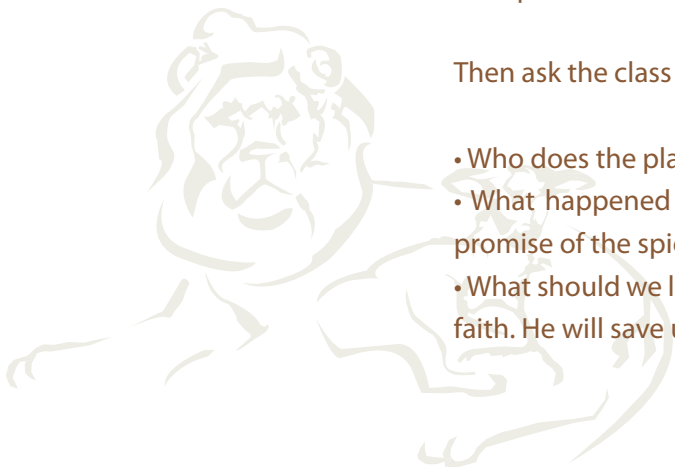
Place the table in the center of the room and make a circle of cups (upside down) about two feet in diameter in the center of the table. Make sure the hard plastic cup is on the bottom of the stack (This cup represents Rahab's house that won't be destroyed.) Stack a second level bridging from cup to 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. They 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.)



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### A TRUMPET BLAST

#### Supplies

bring in a guest who has a 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, then went home.)



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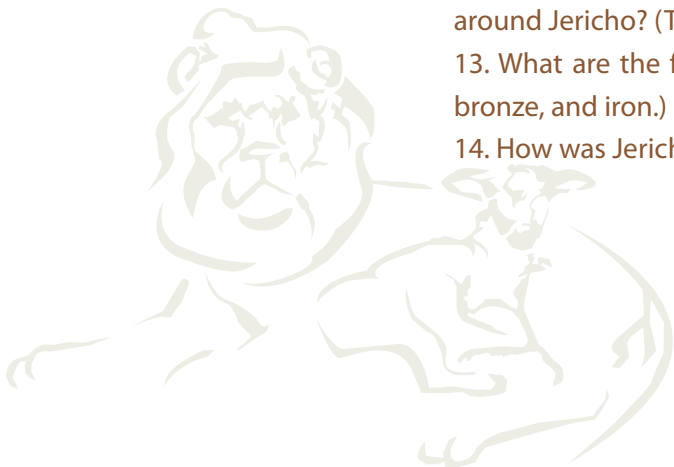
### JERICO TRIVIA

#### Supplies

- trivia cards with the questions and answers
- a prize for the winning team (boys or girls)

Read the story to the class and then divide the class into boys' and girls' 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. Each person can only 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 5 points. Each subsequent try by the opposing team is worth one point less.

1. What were the names of the two spies that were sent to Jericho? (We don't know their names. We know the names of the men who were sent by Moses but do not know these men's 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? (Ram's horns.)
9. How many priests were to march around the city? (Seven.)
10. What was the signal for Israel to shout? (When the priests blow a long blast on the ram's horn.)
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.)



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### PRAYER

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

### IN CLASS PROJECT

The first and second grade children can use the preschool coloring sheet and questions. Have the older children draw a picture of the commander of the army of the Lord.



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### FOR OLDER GRADES

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

Then ask the children the following questions:

- Why didn't God give Israel the strength to destroy the city in a short 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.)

Draw the children out regarding their own accomplishments. We all are 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.

- How does the battle of Jericho bring glory to God? (The city was destroyed by supernatural means just as the Egyptians were destroyed by the closing of the Red Sea. The theme of false gods in the Bible is that they cannot speak and are only made of wood or stone. 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.)

### A LITTLE BIT MORE

**Pre-incarnate** – Pre-incarnate means before the incarnation. The incarnation was when God emptied Himself of His glory and became man. Jesus was God incarnated into man. A pre-incarnate 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 pre-incarnate appearance of the Son of God.