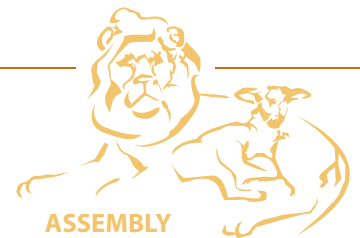


JERICHO TUMBLED

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOSHUA 5-6



After so many years of wandering in the desert, the children of Israel believe God for themselves and see amazing miracles as a result.

The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

ENTERING THE PROMISED LAND

Supplies:

- bring two large, gift-wrapped boxes (one box should be wrapped so the lid can come off easily to see the contents)
- souvenirs such as fruit or vegetable, seeds, soil, water, milk, honey, picture or model of a home, picture of a leader or action figure, trumpet, etc.

Have the children make a huge circle around a box. Don't let them touch the box but hopefully the wrapping will be exciting enough to stimulate their interest. Tell the children that you or another teacher they know brought in the box. Describe this teacher's character emphasizing their love for the children, desire to bless the children, and desire to give the children good things. Emphasize the character of the gift-giver before you talk about the gift itself.

Go around the circle and have each child guess what is in the box. Link their answers to what you know about the gift-giver. Point out that the gift itself ultimately reflects the character of gift-giver. For example: suppose one child says that the box contains puppies for the entire class. Ask the group: Does the teacher own a dog? Is the teacher a lover of animals too? After doing this for a while, have two students unwrap the box. Inside they discover a map of the Promised Land and souvenirs of this land including:

- good fruit to eat – maybe some peanuts thrown in too (representing vegetables)
- seeds to plant
- rich soil to plant in, symbolizing the land
- water - a huge need in that it is arid country
- a model or picture of a house symbolizing the houses they would build, live in
- an action figure symbolizing the gift of leaders
- milk and honey - it is called the land of milk and honey
- a trumpet or horn (recalling the victory over Jericho)

The children will be disappointed, but explain to them that this is what God gave to the Israelites when they obeyed God and followed Joshua into the Promised Land. God gave more than they asked or imagined to these children of former slaves.

Lastly, show them another wrapped box to remain unopened. This symbolizes all of the promises and blessings for those who patiently and humbly trust the Lord with their lives and obey all he commands us to do.

JERICHO TUMBLED

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOSHUA 5-6

TRUST AND OBEY

Supplies:

- bring two large, gift-wrapped boxes (one box should be wrapped so the lid can come off easily to see the contents)
- souvenirs such as fruit or vegetable, seeds, soil, water, milk, honey, picture or model of a home, picture of a leader or action figure, trumpet, etc.

Objective: Young children must learn to obey. Discipline teaches children the importance of obedience and the consequences of disobedience. The following exercise invites the children to demonstrate discernment by telling us what should be done to “train up the child in the way he should go,” and thus inherit the blessings of obedience as well as realize their need for the Savior!

Scenario #1: A Lying Heart

Johnny and his sister Susan are playing with their toys in the basement. Johnny is building a castle and Susan is playing with her baby doll pretending to be a mommy. Their mother is upstairs in the kitchen tidying it up from that morning's breakfast. Johnny leaves the basement to go ask his mommy a question.

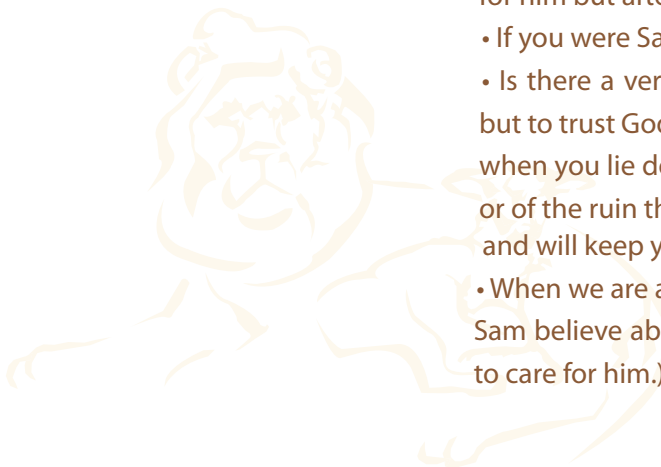
When he returns, he finds his castle has been destroyed. Its pieces have been tossed back into the box and everything he was working on has been ruined. Johnny is upset and asks Susan if she has taken the castle apart while Johnny was out of the room. Susan says, “No, I didn't take the castle apart but a big bear took the castle apart.” When asked where the bear is now, Susan says, “The bear left and went back outside. He was only here while you were upstairs.”

- Did Susan tell the truth? (No)
- Did Susan act kindly toward her brother? (No)
- What would Susan's mommy do now? (Elicit that there are consequences for lying.)

Scenario #2: A Fearful Heart

Sam has just had a nightmare. He dreamed that an elephant crept into his room and was hiding in his closet. This was a big elephant, with long white tusks and huge ears. Sam wakes up crying and shaking and he's afraid of an elephant in his room. His dad comes into the room to comfort him and pray for him but after he leaves Sam is still afraid.

- If you were Sam's daddy, what would you say to him? (Accept any answer.)
- Is there a verse from Scripture that would encourage Sam to not be afraid but to trust God? (Proverbs 3:24-25: when you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked, for the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared.)
- When we are afraid we believe something in our hearts about God. What does Sam believe about God when he is afraid? (He's not trusting in God's promise to care for him.)



JERICHO TUMBLED

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOSHUA 5-6

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.

