

JERICHO TUMBLED

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOSHUA 5-6



The STORY

Read "Strange Orders" and "The Walls Fall Down" from The Children's Bible in 365 Stories (pages 95-97).

Please note: The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What did Joshua have to do before the Israelites conquered Canaan? (Israel had to first capture the city of Jericho.)
- What did God's special messenger come to tell Joshua? (The special messenger came to remind Joshua that God would tell him how to defeat Jericho.)
- How many days did Israel march silently around Jericho? (Six days.)
- What miraculous thing happened on the seventh day? (When the priests blew their trumpets and the people shouted, the walls of Jericho fell down.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Israelites blowing trumpets and the walls of Jericho falling down. Engage the children by asking:

- 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 men of Jericho thought on the seventh day when the walls came tumbling down at the sound of the Israelite's 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.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- How was Rahab's courage and faith in God rewarded? (The spies remembered her and her family and rescued them before destroying the city.)
- What do you think the Israelites were thinking when they were marching around the walled city of Jericho? (Elicit that they may have been afraid or doubted God's wisdom.)
- What do you think the Israelites thought on the seventh day when the Lord caused the walls of Jericho to fall down? (They were amazed and joyful at God's power and faithfulness.)

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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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.

