

# THE BATTLE OF JERICO

JOSHUA 6

## GOAL

▶ To help children understand God's ability to fight on their behalf to overcome their greatest opposition.

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## CHARACTERS

▶ **Joshua:** God appointed this man as the new leader of Israel.

**People of Israel:** They marched around Jericho as God commanded.

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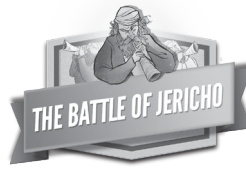
## MEMORY VERSE

▶ **Proverbs 21:31:** The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord.

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## OVERVIEW

▶ **Read Joshua 6:** After God brings His people into the Promised Land, they must take over. God proves His power by miraculously defeating Jericho on their behalf.



## SUGGESTIONS

▶ **Conquering and destroying a walled city like Jericho was a time-consuming undertaking that often took the lives of many soldiers. The Israelites faced a seemingly impossible task—but God had a plan.**

**1. God's plan:** The walls around Jericho made the task of destroying the city an impossibility for the Israelites. God created the battle plan and told Joshua exactly what they needed to do to be victorious. The battle belonged to the Lord.

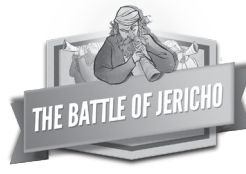
**2. Israel's faith:** The Israelites were to conquer and destroy a city by employing a truly unconventional battle plan. How could marching around a city for seven days bring down those huge walls? Regardless of how ridiculous it sounded to them, they believed in God's power. They believed that if God wanted them to do this, He would give them the victory. Through faith, the Israelites carried out God's battle plan.

**3. Obedience is key:** The Lord's plan was simple enough. They were to walk around the city, sound the trumpets, and not say a word until the seventh day. The Israelites followed God's instructions to the letter, and the walls tumbled down without even having to touch them. Their obedience to God brought the Israelites victory.

## PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

▶ **Knock It Down! | Supplies:** beanbags and cardboard boxes or other items that can be used to build a wall

Make a wall that can be knocked down easily and set up again quickly. Give each student a chance to knock down the wall with the beanbags.



MEMORY  
VERSE  
MEANING

▷ When used in battle, horses often gave soldiers an advantage over their enemies, but it is because of God that their battles were won. We use the tools and talents God has given us to fight the battles we face every day. We are victorious because God has given us these things and because He fights for us.

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POST-LESSON  
ACTIVITY

▷ **Make a Trumpet | Supplies:** paper, tape, markers, crayons, other craft supplies.

Instruct the students to roll the piece of paper into a trumpet shape, and apply tape so the paper will remain in this shape. Allow the students to decorate their trumpets.

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TAKE  
HOME

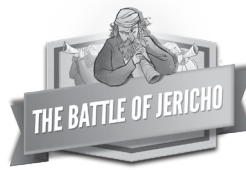
▷ Sometimes we face obstacles in our lives that seem as big as the walls that surrounded Jericho. This victory was recorded in Scripture to show us God's great power and to serve as encouragement to us today. The God who brought down the walls of Jericho is the same God we serve today. There is no situation or obstacle too big for God to overcome.

**1. God fights our battles:** God possesses unimaginable power that He uses on our behalf. Nothing is impossible for God. When we face seemingly impossible situations in life, we should turn to God in prayer and have faith that He has a plan and will fight this battle for us.

**2. Faith, not sight is important:** By human standards, the strategy employed to bring down the walls of Jericho was ridiculous. If we believe that God is all-powerful and all-knowing, no matter how ridiculous the plan, we should do as God commands. We will not always understand why He wants us to do things, but we must believe that there is a reason, it is good, and it will lead to success.

**3. Obedience brings victory:** When God gives us directions on how to accomplish something, we should follow each and every step. Each obedient step we take is a step toward victory.

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## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 1



**Q1a:** What was the name of the fortified city?

**A1:** The fortified city was named Jericho.

**Q1b:** If a food fight broke out in your school cafeteria, where would you want to be: standing in the middle of the room or against a wall behind a table?

**TN:** Standing in the middle of the room wouldn't provide us much cover from the food being thrown from every direction. We'd be an easy target. Up against a wall behind a table that we can use for cover would be a much more defensible location. During biblical times, most cities were surrounded by walls. This helped the people to protect themselves and their city from invasion. Without walls, cities were like a person standing in the middle of the room during a food fight: they could be attacked from any direction.

### SLIDE 2

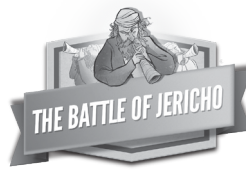


**Q2a:** What God tell Joshua to do for seven days?

**A2:** God told Joshua to have the priests and soldiers march around the walls of Jericho for seven days.

**Q2b:** How would you have planned to bring down the walls of Jericho?

**TN:** Let students come up with answers. It's important for us to remember that they did not have the tools or weapons we have today, so anything the Israelites were capable of doing on their own would have been incredibly time-consuming. It could have taken them months to conquer Jericho by conventional methods and may have cost them many lives in the process. God didn't want to take that long or lose any lives.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



**Q3a:** What happened when the people marching around Jericho began to shout?

**A3:** When the people began to shout, the walls of Jericho began to break apart fall.

**Q3b:** The best way to make macaroni and cheese is to put the unopened box in an unheated oven and tap dance for 5 minutes.

**TN:** Let the students think about this for a bit. This statement is completely nuts! There is no possible way that following those directions will result in edible macaroni and cheese. But what if God gave us those instructions? Using our understanding of how food is made, following these instructions wouldn't lead up to food we can eat, but the instructions don't have to make sense in order for God to make it work. Walking around a huge fortified city playing trumpets should have had no effect on the walls. But that was how God planned to conquer Jericho.

SLIDE 4

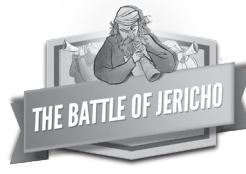


**Q4a:** The Israelites destroyed everything and everyone except who?

**A4:** The Israelites spared Rahab and her family.

**Q4b:** If you shouted at a wall in your house, do you think it would fall?

**TN:** No, the wall would not fall down because of our shouting at it. The only reason the walls surrounding Jericho fell is because God made that happen. In fact, God did not need the Israelites to march around the city for a single day; He could have knocked down the walls all on His own. Following these simple instructions gave the Israelites an opportunity to act out of faith and obedience to God. They had faith that God had a plan and that marching around the city for seven was their part to play in God's victory over Jericho.



**MEMORY  
VERSE**

▷ **Proverbs 21:31:** The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord.

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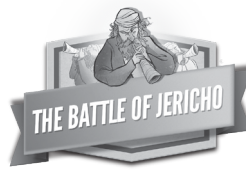
**BIG IDEA**

▷ We don't have to understand God's plan, we just need to obey it; God will bring us victory!

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**CLOSING  
PRAYER**

▷ Dear Lord, You are so great, powerful, and mighty. Thank You for fighting our battles and for leading us to Your promises. Help us to obey and have faith in Your plans. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 1

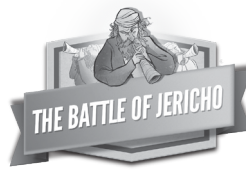


Israel came closer to their Promised Land. As they camped overlooking the fertile valley of their soon-to-be home, God showed them the strong city of Jericho. It was a fortified city with big, thick walls that prevented enemy soldiers from capturing it. For Israel to take possession of the land, this city had to be destroyed. God raised up a strong and courageous leader named Joshua to take charge of the people of Israel and lead them into the Promised Land. Joshua sent two spies to scout out the land and the city. While in the city, the spies were almost captured, but a woman named Rahab hid them from the soldiers. The spies reported back to Joshua and gave him information that could help them plan their attack.

### SLIDE 2



God spoke to Joshua and told him how to conquer Jericho. God instructed Joshua to have the soldiers and priests line up and march around the walls of Jericho. First in line would be the armed men, followed by the priests blowing their trumpets and carrying the Ark of the Covenant, and another guard of soldiers would bring up the rear. All these people were to march around the walls of Jericho once a day for six days. The trumpets would blow, but the people were not to say a single word or make any noise. Then, on the seventh day, they were to march around the city seven times and, on Joshua's signal, shout as loud as they could.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 3



On the morning of the seventh day, Joshua, the army, the priests, and the people did exactly as the Lord commanded. On their seventh circle around the city, Joshua gave the signal, and the people erupted in shouts. Their yelling was met with a huge rumble as the city walls of Jericho began to break apart and tumble down.



SLIDE 4



The massive stone fortress crumbled before their eyes, and Joshua and his army were able to capture the city and destroy everything in it. They burned the city to the ground, but kept all the gold and silver and placed it into the treasury of the Lord. As promised, they spared the lives of Rahab and her family. Once again, God gave the Israelites victory. A curse was placed on the city, and to this day, the walls of Jericho have never been rebuilt.