

Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho

Joshua 2:1-24

Third- and fourth-graders are beginning to be able to relate what happens in the Bible to what happens in their own lives. Faith is still a pretty abstract concept for kids this age. They can relate to some of the more obvious examples of faith, such as those used in this lesson. Use Rahab's faith to encourage your kids and to teach them that God can make big things happen in our lives when we supply a little faith.



► Bible Point

We can have faith that God will do big things in our lives.

Key Verse

"And without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6).


Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will act on their faith that God will do big things in their lives.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Circle of Faith <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Decide whether to jump inside a tape circle, and talk about faith.	masking tape	Make a 3-foot-wide circle on the floor with masking tape.
2 Bible Exploration	The Jericho Spies <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Sneak into Jericho, hide at Rahab's house, and then report back to Joshua.	Bible, CD player, paper, scissors (several pairs), copies of the "Rahab's Faith Script" handout (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	Set up a table in the center of your room to represent the walls of Jericho.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Pleasing God <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse and how it connects to their lives.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	Tear out the Lesson 11 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
	Faith Finders <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Make scarlet cord bookmarks to use in their Bibles.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, 6-inch length of red ribbon per child, scissors (several pairs), glue sticks, clear mailing tape	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Circle of Faith Supplies

masking tape

Circle of Faith Easy Prep

Make a 3-foot-wide circle on the floor with masking tape.

1 GETTING STARTED

Circle of Faith

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Have kids stand around the outside of the circle you created beforehand.

Ask:

- If I ask you to jump inside this circle, do you think the floor will hold you up? Why or why not?
- What if I tell you that, instead of the floor, there's really only a big hole inside this circle? Do you still have faith that the floor will hold you up?

Say: **The Bible tells us in Hebrews 11:1 that faith “is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” If you jump into this circle, you hope that the floor will hold you. And even though you can't see the support beneath the floor, you seem certain that the floor is strong enough to hold you. I'd have to say that you have faith that the floor will hold you. Are you ready to try?**

Count to three, and have kids jump inside the circle. Say: **You were right! Your faith was rewarded by not falling in a hole but by having the floor hold you.**

Now let's test our faith that there will be plenty of air to breathe. Take a really deep breath and then hold it until I tell you to breathe.

After kids hold their breath for about 15 seconds, say: **Okay, everybody, breathe! Even though you couldn't see the air, you knew it was there. Filling your lungs when you finally took a breath rewarded your faith that the air was there.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you know there would be air for you to breathe?
- How does that help you understand faith in God?
- What's easy or difficult for you about having faith in God?

Say: **Today in the Bible, we'll meet a woman who had faith in God. She learned that ► WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES. Just like we know that the wind is there even though we can't see it, we can have faith that God is at work in our lives. We can do big things for him because he's the one in charge.**





2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

The Jericho Spies

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute paper and scissors. Ask kids to cut the paper into strips, about 10-15 strips per child. Say: **These will be stalks of flax.**

Have kids gather in one corner of the room as your starting point. The opposite corner will be Rahab's roof. Leave the stalks of flax at the Rahab's roof location. Say: **God told Joshua to lead his people into the land God had promised to them. And that land included the city of Jericho. Today's Bible passage comes from the second chapter of the book of Joshua.**

Open your Bible to Joshua 2:1-24, and show kids the passage.

Say: **Joshua wanted to see exactly what he was up against before he invaded Jericho, so he secretly sent two spies there to check things out. We're going to pretend that we're those two spies.**

Begin whispering. **We'll have to be very quiet because if the soldiers in Jericho catch us, they'll throw us in prison—or worse! Follow me, but be very, very quiet!**

Crawl across the room, leading the kids toward the table. Gather kids, still crawling, in front of the table.

Continue whispering. **Okay, here we are, right at the wall surrounding Jericho. This is a dangerous mission. If any of you want to turn back, now's your chance. Otherwise, stay right behind me—and be quiet!**

Crawl under the length of the table toward the opposite corner of the room. Once everyone is out from under the table, gather kids. Whisper: **Okay, we're inside the city!**

Ask:

- **Where do you think we should go to get the best information without being caught?** Let kids offer a few ideas.

Whisper: **I see what looks like a hotel or a house over there, built right into these heavy walls. Maybe if we...shh! Get down—I hear soldiers!**

Quickly lie on the floor, pretending to wait as soldiers pass by. Then kneel again. Whisper: **Whew! That was close! Now what was I...oh, yeah. Let's see if we can get over to that house.**



The Jericho Spies Supplies

Bible
CD player
paper
scissors (several pairs)
copies of the "Rahab's Faith Script" handout (at the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "Rahab's Faith" (track 19)

The Jericho Spies Easy Prep

Set up a table in the center of your room to represent the walls of Jericho.





Lead kids in crawling to the corner representing Rahab's roof. Whisper: **It looks as if a woman owns this place. Uh-oh. She spotted us. Let me do the talking, okay? Just follow me, and do everything I do, okay?**

Distribute copies of the "Rahab's Faith Script" handout, and play "Rahab's Faith" (track 19 on the CD). Lead kids in following the actions on the handout as if you were really interacting with Rahab. When the track ends, gather kids in a circle.

Say: **That was quite an adventure! The Bible tells us that the spies returned to the Israelites and reported their findings to Joshua. Let's pretend we're reporting our findings, too.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Have kids find a partner to answer these next few questions.

Ask:

- How could you tell that Rahab had faith in God?
- Tell a few ways that Rahab had to have faith based on the adventure you just heard about.
- What did Rahab's adventure show you about faith?
- When has your faith in God helped you?

Say: **The Bible tells us that the spies went back to Joshua and told him that the people of Jericho were terrified of the Israelites. The Bible also tells us that Rahab *did* put the scarlet cord in her window. And it was that act of faith that saved her life and the lives of her family members when the Israelites invaded the city. ► WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Pleasing God

What You'll Do ■■■■

Make sure each child has a Bible.

Say: **Our Key Verse today is Hebrews 11:6.** Have kids find the verse in their Bibles, and ask a willing child to read the verse aloud: "And without faith it is impossible to please God."

Say: **Find a partner, and discuss what you think this verse means.** Give kids a minute or two to talk, and then ask willing kids to share their insights with the rest of the group.

Pleasing God Supplies

Bibles
Bible Truth Sleuth
pens

Pleasing God Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 11
pages from each Bible
Truth Sleuth student
book.



Distribute pens and this week’s Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Have kids turn to the “Key Verse Connection” activity, and ask kids to write their answers to the questions in the spaces provided. When kids have finished writing, have pairs read their answers to each other.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What’s one way this verse can help you have faith each day?
- What big thing do you hope God will use you to do?

Say: **When we have faith, our faith pleases God. When we trust that God exists, and when we really want to do what he says, he’s pleased. ► WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES** as he did through Rahab.

Faith Finders

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Set out the lengths of red ribbon for kids to attach to bookmarks to represent the scarlet cord Rahab placed in her window. Have kids find the “Faith Finder” activity on today’s Bible Truth Sleuth page. Say: **You’ll be making bookmarks to remind you of today’s Bible adventure.**

Distribute scissors, and have kids cut out the bookmarks from the bottom of their student pages. Set out the mailing tape and glue sticks. Give each child a length of red ribbon, and have kids glue their ribbons to the bookmark lengthwise. Then have kids use mailing tape to laminate their bookmarks.

If kids have their own Bibles, have them turn to Hebrews 11:6 and insert their new bookmarks at that page. Point out how the scarlet cord hangs out of the Bible, just as Rahab’s scarlet cord hung from her window.

Say: **Tonight before you go to bed, open your Bible to the page where your bookmark is, and read today’s Key Verse to yourself. Remember that having faith pleases God. In your prayers, ask God to help you grow in faith. Then every day this week, use your bookmark to mark a different Bible verse that helps you have faith. A good place to start is with “The WORD for the Week” verses, which are on the back of your bookmark.**



Faith Finders Supplies

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- Bibles
 - Bible Truth Sleuth
 - 6-inch length of red ribbon per child
 - scissors (several pairs)
 - glue sticks
 - clear mailing tape





Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you needed faith.
- Tell about a person you know who has very strong faith. How have you noticed that person's faith?
- In what ways can you have faith in a situation you're facing?

Say: **No struggle is too difficult for God to handle. You can face any challenge when you have faith in God because he's always by your side. ► WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES. Just like Rahab, we don't need to be afraid because God will help us accomplish his will one step at a time.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Consider this week how ► WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Talk with your mom or dad about things she or he hoped for you when you were a baby. Tell your parent the things you hope God will do with your life and how you have faith for those things.**
- **Write a letter to God about any doubts you have in your faith, and ask God to help you overcome them.**
- **Write down any questions you have about God, and then talk to a Christian adult about them.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

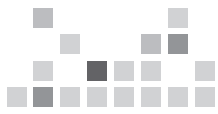
Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**





Say: **Rahab's faith meant that God used her to do something amazing. ► WE CAN HAVE FAITH THAT GOD WILL DO BIG THINGS IN OUR LIVES as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about faith. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Have kids form pairs and talk about ways they hope their faith in God can grow, and then have them pray for one another. Close by praying: **Dear God, thank you for being worthy of our faith. Thank you for taking care of us, just as you did Rahab. Help us have more and more faith so we can please you. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Rahab's Faith Script

Rahab: Greetings. I can see from your dress that you are foreigners here. May I help you? *(Shrug shoulders, duck head, and shake head no.)* Can it be? Why, you are Israelites! If you're caught here, you'll be killed! *(Look scared.)* And I hear those soldiers returning. Hurry! Follow me! I'll hide you on my roof. Climb this way! Hurry! *(Make climbing motions with your hands.)* Here! Hide here on my roof. *(Motion for kids to lie down on the floor.)* Lie down here, and don't move! I'll cover you with the stalks of flax I was drying up here. *(Cover kids with the paper stalks they've prepared, and turn out your room lights.)* Now lie still, and don't make a move. I'll see if I can get rid of the soldiers.

Soldiers: Rahab! Rahab! Get over here! Listen! We know that some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land. So the king of Jericho has sent you this message: Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.

Rahab: Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. At dusk, when it was time to close the gate, the men left. I don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them.

Soldiers: C'mon, let's go! Quickly! Out through the gate before it is shut! We'll check the road!

Rahab: You can come out now—they've gone. *(Remove the paper stalks, and let the kids sit up. Pretend to pick straw from your hair and face.)* I know that the Lord has given this land to you, and I also know that all the people of Jericho are afraid of you. We've heard of the amazing things the Lord has done for the Israelites, and our hearts are melting with fear. Now then, please promise me that you will show kindness to my family when you take over the city. I have shown kindness to you, so please show kindness to me. Give me a sign, so I know you won't hurt my family.

Spies: So be it! If you don't tell what we're doing, we will treat you kindly when the Lord gives us the land.

Rahab: Good. Now quickly, you must go! I'll use this rope to let you down from my window so you can run to the hills and hide.

Spies: *(Pretend to climb out of a window and down a rope.)* One final thing, Rahab. When we enter the land, you must take this scarlet cord and hang it out of your window. Make sure that everyone in your family is in the house, and that you have the scarlet cord showing from the window. That way we'll know to spare you and your family in this house.

Rahab: It is agreed. Now go!

(Lead kids in a crouching run to the side of the room where you started. Turn on the lights.)

OK
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