



God Gives Victory Over Jericho

Joshua 6:1-27

When kids think of power, they often think of physical strength. Children generally increase in their physical strength as they grow from year to year. The feeling of physical strength and power is important and affirms that they're growing and becoming more independent. But they don't always have the strength or power they feel they need when they're worried or afraid. Use this lesson to help kids understand that God's power gives them strength mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.



► Bible Point

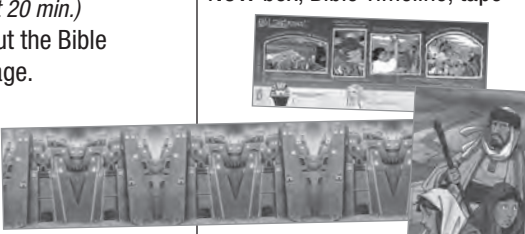
God's power works for good.

Key Verse

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:6-7).


Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will rely on God's power in their lives.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Powerless Walking <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a spinning game and discover they're unable to walk in a straight line on their own.	masking tape	
2 Bible Exploration	God Gives Victory Over Jericho <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Act out the Bible passage.	Bible, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson), paper Teacher Pack: CD, "Walls of Jericho" posters, "Rahab and Family" poster, FaithWeaver NOW box, Bible Timeline, tape 	Tape the "Walls of Jericho" posters together.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	God's Power <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Create commercials to show how God's power helps us.		
	God's Mighty Hand <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and write worries or concerns in "God's hand."	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, pens, scissors (several pairs)	Tear out the Lesson 13 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
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.





God Gives Victory Over Jericho

Joshua 6:1-27

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS



God Promises Victory at Jericho

Archaeologists have found the site of ancient Jericho but are still uncertain which city is the one delivered into the hands of the Israelites because it has been destroyed so many times. In light of the curse put upon Jericho in Joshua 6:26, the archaeological findings are interesting indeed.

Joshua Receives a Message From God

While scouting out the city, Joshua was no doubt surprised to see a man with a drawn sword in front of him (Joshua 5:13). We don't know if this was an appearance of God himself, a preincarnate appearance of Jesus, or an angel; however, we do know that he was someone sent from God. Notice how the messenger responds to Joshua's question: "Are you for us or for our enemies?" The messenger was the commander of the Lord's army. It was up to Joshua and Israel to be on the Lord's side, not for the commander to be on Joshua's side!

In the middle of God's message to Joshua, the writer stops to mention a very important fact in Joshua 6:1: The people of Jericho had closed up their city, counting on its strong fortifications to protect them. It was so firmly sealed that no one could go in or out. This meant that no one from Jericho would get in the way as the Israelites marched around the city walls!

God Fulfills the Promise

Notice that God not only told Joshua what to do but also told him precisely what would happen (Joshua 6:5). Assuming that the word from God spread among the Israelites, imagine their increasing anticipation as the army marched silently around the city day after day and then seven times on the seventh day. The people knew that God was about to do something spectacular!

Just as promised, Rahab and her family were spared because of the faith she had shown in hiding the Hebrew spies. God's power worked to save her and the Israelites, while at the same time it was working to destroy the inhabitants of Jericho for their idolatry and immorality.

The Jesus Connection

A relationship with Jesus allows us to walk in confidence, as his power of forgiveness has given us freedom. His love for us provides us with what we need to be clean in his perfect eyes.

Take a few minutes to write down as many words of prayer as you can that show the character of God. Each day, meditate on one of these characteristics and how God has shown those characteristics in your life. Give God praise, and acknowledge God's mighty work in your life.





Powerless Walking Supplies

masking tape

1 GETTING STARTED

Powerless Walking

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Have kids form trios. Place masking tape in a straight line on the floor in front of each group. Say: **One person in each group will spin around several times and then try to walk in a straight line on the masking tape in front of you. Each of you will do this once. The two nonspinners may make sure the spinner doesn't fall down, but you may not help him or her walk the straight line.**

Have each child in the trios attempt this once.

Ask kids to think of things that might help them walk in a straight line if they were to do this again.

Say: **Let's try it again, and this time the nonspinners will try some of the ideas you thought of to help those who are spinning walk straight.**

Have kids spin again, and this time let the other two kids from their trios help in various ways. Let each person have a chance to try again.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like to have help the second time you tried to walk?**
- **How is that like God helping you when you have something hard to do?**
- **What hard things have you had to do you that you were glad you had help with?**

Say: **In the Bible today, we'll learn about a time the Israelites were told to do something that seemed impossible to them. They needed God's power to do what they'd been told, so they had to trust God to help them. We can trust that ► GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD in our lives, too.**





2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

God Gives Victory Over Jericho

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Show kids the "God Gives Victory Over Jericho" picture on the Bible Timeline.

Have two willing kids hold up the "Walls of Jericho" poster during this activity.

Say: **Jericho was an ancient city. It had a huge wall all the way around it, much like the huge brick or stone walls that surround a castle. No one went in or out of the city unless they had permission. God told Joshua that the Israelites would have victory over Jericho. Although it seemed like a crazy idea, God told Joshua exactly what they needed to do to see God's power at work.**

Read aloud Joshua 6:1-5.

Ask:

- **Joshua needed God's help for this task. When have you had to do something really hard and needed God's help to do it?**
- **How does God's power work in our lives?**

Say: **As I continue to read our Bible passage, you'll act out what you hear as I say it.**

Have one child stealthily hide the "Rahab and Family" poster under a table in the room. The poster will remain hidden until someone comes to get it.

Say: **This all begins with Joshua calling for the priests and telling them to "take up the ark of the covenant."** Have two to four kids pick up the FaithWeaver NOW box, which represents the ark, and then wait.

Say: **Joshua told the priests to carry trumpets in front of the ark.** Have a couple of kids representing the priests with trumpets stand in front of the ark and roll up paper and hold it like trumpets. Have another child stand in front of the priests and another child stand behind the ark; they will act as armed guards. Everyone else will be Israelites and will follow the priests and armed guards.

Say: **Once everyone was in place, Joshua said, "Advance! March around the city, with the armed guard going ahead of the ark of the Lord." The priests blew the trumpets as they walked. But Joshua told the people, "Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout."**

Have kids march one time around the two kids holding the poster as the priests pretend to blow their trumpets. After they have gone around the walls of Jericho once, have them sit down.



God Gives Victory Over Jericho Supplies

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- Bibles
 - CD player
 - copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)
 - paper
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: "Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) (track 18)
 - "Walls of Jericho" posters
 - "Rahab and Family" poster
 - FaithWeaver NOW box
 - Bible Timeline
 - tape

God Gives Victory Over Jericho Easy Prep

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Tape the "Walls of Jericho" posters together.





Say: **They did this for six days in a row!** Have kids walk around the poster five more times, stopping each time to pretend to camp overnight. **The Israelites probably felt foolish marching around the city and then going back to camp each day.**


Say: **On the seventh day, the Israelites marched around the city seven more times.** Have kids march around the poster one more time, and make sure they don't talk at all as they walk.

Say: **After the Israelites had marched around Jericho seven times that seventh day, the priests blew their trumpets, and Joshua said, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city!"** Have kids stop and shout.

Say: **When the trumpets sounded and the people shouted, the walls around Jericho collapsed!** Have kids run through the poster, tearing it down as they go.

Say: **Then Joshua sent in the two men who had been spies to get Rahab and her family. Because Rahab hid them, they kept their promise to save her and her family.**

Send two kids to rescue Rahab. Say: **Then the Israelites destroyed the entire city and everything in it. And Joshua said very sternly that no one was supposed to rebuild the city. Let's sing to celebrate how God was with the Israelites!** Distribute copies of the lyrics page, and play "Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) (track 18 on the CD). Lead kids in singing along with the CD.

 **Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Do not be terrified;
Do not be discouraged,
For the Lord your God will be with you
Wherever you go.
Wherever you go.**

(Repeat twice.)

**Wherever you go.
Wherever you go.
Wherever you go.**

"Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) by Jay Stocker. © 2006, 2008 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What were you thinking about as you marched around the poster so many times?**
- **How did God's power work in this situation?**
- **In what ways do you hope God's power will work for your good right now?**





Say: **What seemed like a crazy idea wasn't so crazy after all! When the Israelites trusted and obeyed God, even when it seemed crazy, God used his power to defeat their enemies. God used his power to make them victorious. Our powerful God wants to help us, too. He wants to give us victory over the things we struggle with every day. ► GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD in our lives.**



3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

God's Power

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids form groups of three or four.

Say: **As we saw in today's Bible passage, God sure is powerful! God showed his power at the walls of Jericho, and he also shows his power in our lives. In your groups, you'll create a commercial to show how ► GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD in our lives. Be sure to mention today's Bible Point, ► GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD, during your commercial. You can advertise for God's power however you want, and you can use personal stories or the events that happened to Israel to demonstrate God's power.**

Allow time for groups to brainstorm and practice their commercials. After about 10 minutes, have groups take turns presenting their commercials to everyone else.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What about these commercials helps you remember that God's power works for good?**
- **How has God's power worked for good in your life?**
- **How can you "advertise" God's power to someone this week?**

Say: **Commercials make us remember things. Usually they encourage us to buy things, but these commercials help us remember how ► GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD. We can read our Bibles, share our stories with other people, and listen to other people to remember these things, too. God wants us to know that he's got the power to take care of things just as he helped the Israelites have victory over Jericho.**





God's Mighty Hand Supplies

Bibles
Bible Truth Sleuth
pens
scissors (several pairs)

God's Mighty Hand Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 13
pages from each Bible
Truth Sleuth student
book.

Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

God's Mighty Hand

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Make sure each child has a Bible.

Say: **Our Key Verse today is 1 Peter 5:6-7.**

Have kids find the verse in their Bibles, and ask a willing child to read the verse aloud: "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Have kids turn to the "God's Mighty Hand" activity and complete the activity. Allow about five minutes.

Say: **Just as the walls of Jericho crumbled when the people depended on God's power, our worries and anxieties will crumble when we depend on God's Word and his power.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's it like to struggle with worry over the things you wrote and talked about?**
- **How is that similar to the walls of Jericho?**
- **In what ways can you trust God to help you with your big worries and concerns?**

Say: **Just like the huge walls around the city of Jericho, we sometimes build up walls in our lives. We let our worries and fears build up around us until we feel as if we can't overcome them. God wants to help us with our worries. ► GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD in our lives. He can break down the biggest walls in our lives.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

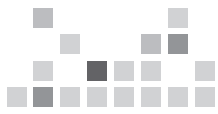
Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Consider this week how you can trust that ► GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD.**

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:





- Every time you worry about something, write it down on a piece of paper. Then throw it away, asking God to take that worry away.
- Whenever you use a TV, microwave, or radio, thank God for all the ways he uses his power for good.
- Read the headlines of a news website that your parents trust. Pray for the situations that you read about. Ask God to use his power for good in each of those situations.

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: **God did something amazing to show his power when he knocked down the walls of Jericho for the Israelites. In our lives, too, we can know that ► GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD as we follow through on our Daily Challenges this week.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about God's power. 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.

Close by having kids form small groups to pray and give their worries to God. Encourage kids to trust his power to help them, no matter where they are.



**Lyrics** ■■■■**Wherever You Go (Joshua 1:9)**

**Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Do not be terrified;
Do not be discouraged,
For the Lord your God will be with you
Wherever you go.
Wherever you go.**

(Repeat twice.)

**Wherever you go.
Wherever you go.
Wherever you go.**

"Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) by Jay Stocker. © 2006, 2008 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

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