


Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho

Joshua 2:1-24



Many pre-kindergarten and kindergarten children still believe both truth and fiction as reality, so it's important to teach them the groundwork of truth concerning God. While 5- and 6-year-olds are concrete learners, they still have the wonderful characteristic of believing what they're told by trusted adults. Use this lesson to help kids see how their belief in God has concrete application to their daily lives.

| LESSON | WHAT CHILDREN DO | SUPPLIES | EASY PREP |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1</p> <p>Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i></p> | <p>Welcoming Song Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.</p> | <p>CD player Teacher Pack: CD</p> | |
| <p>2</p> <p>Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i></p> | <p>God's Mighty Hand Try to lift a heavy basket, and talk about God's mighty hand.</p> | <p>Bible, laundry basket, heavy items to fill the laundry basket</p> | |
| <p>3</p> <p>Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i></p> | <p>Theo's News Find out what binoculars have to do with the Bible.</p> | <p>Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, binoculars Teacher Pack: CD</p> | <p>Place the binoculars in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.</p> <p>Make binoculars out of paper towel tubes if you don't have binoculars.</p> |
| | <p>Bible Time: Believing Spies Have fun following a spy to find out what happened in the Bible.</p> | <p>Bible, CD player, stickers, tape Teacher Pack: CD, "I Spy" script, "Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)</p>  | <p>Place the stickers on the "Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho" poster. Kids will find them and identify them as not fitting in with the rest of the poster.</p> |

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

► Bible Point
Believe in God.

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
Children will express their belief in God.

| LESSON | WHAT CHILDREN DO | SUPPLIES | EASY PREP |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p style="text-align: center;">4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p> | <p>Center 1: Rahab and the Spies Create scenes to help them retell the Bible passage.</p> | My Bible Playground, washable markers, several pairs of scissors, tape, red yarn, green or yellow sticky notes | Remove the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Playground student book. |
| | <p>Center 2: Sandwiched Spies Make spy snacks.</p> | paper plates, 1 slice of bread and 1 slice of sandwich meat per child, person-shaped cookie cutter, grated cheese, antibacterial gel (optional) | |
| | <p>Center 3: Hide the Spy Play a hiding game.</p> | bedsheet | |
| | <p>Center 4: Where Are the Spies? Play a guessing game with pictures they draw.</p> | paper, markers | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p> | <p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p> | My Bible Playground, washable markers | |
| | <p>"Believe" Prayer Ask God to help them believe in him.</p> | | |
| | <p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p> | | |

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho

Joshua 2:1-24

A Different Method

As Joshua prepared to send spies into the Promised Land, no doubt he remembered the fiasco of 40 years earlier when Moses sent a large group of spies into the land. This time Joshua sent only two and gave them a very specific mission: Investigate Jericho. He sent them “secretly,” not wanting the Canaanites to know what they were doing and probably also to protect the Israelites from the distressful result of the first spy mission.

Good Gossip

It may seem suspicious that the place the spies went was to the home of a prostitute. However, it’s likely that this was a place where gossip would abound. In addition, the word most often translated “prostitute” can just as accurately be translated “innkeeper.” Either way, it was a place where the spies were able to hear and gauge how the people of Jericho felt about the Israelites who were camped just across the Jordan River.

A Woman of Faith

Rahab, though she lied about hiding the spies in her house, had apparently become a believer in God through what she had heard about the Israelites’ experiences and conquests. She hid the men at great personal risk. She was commended for her strong faith in the New Testament in Hebrews 11:31. Note that God did not commend her for lying but for acting in faith and hiding the spies. God blessed her for that faith.

The end of this event lies beyond the scope of today’s passage. During the victory over Jericho, Rahab and her family were indeed spared from death (Joshua 6:17). Moreover, the New Testament attests to her faithfulness and includes her in the line of King David and of Jesus (Matthew 1:5)!

The Jesus Connection

Rahab’s faith landed her among Jesus’ ancestors. When we venture forth with a small act of faith, God responds and shows us his much larger faithfulness. In what areas of your life would you like to show more faithfulness to God? What are some ways you’ve seen God’s faithfulness to you? You can write your prayer asking God to use you to do big things. There’s nothing too big for the God of the universe who wants to lead and guide your life.



Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Believing in Him"
(track 22), "He Cares
for You" (1 Peter 5:7)
(track 8)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song

Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in doing the motions and singing "Believing in Him" (track 22 on the CD) to the tune of "Skip to My Lou."

Please God (*point to your happy smile*)

By believing in him. (*point up*)

Please God (*point to your happy smile*)

By believing in him. (*point up*)

Please God (*point to your happy smile*)

By believing in him. (*point up*)

That's what the Bible tells us. (*hold hands together like an open book*)

(Repeat 2 times.)

Say: I'm glad to get to spend time with you all today. We'll learn that God cares for us and we can ► **BELIEVE IN GOD.** Let's sing a song about how much God cares for us. Lead children in doing the motions and singing "He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) (track 8 on the CD).

What are you worried about now? (*shrug*)

Trying to figure it out now (*point to head to indicate thinking*)

God knows right where you are now. (*hold arms out*)

You know it's all in his hands now. (*hold hands together, palms up*)

You know he cares for you; (*hug self*)

He always cares for you. (*hug friend*)

You know he'll see you through; (*point in front of self*)

He'll always see you through. (*point in front of self*)

Cast all your anxiety (*pretend to throw something heavy*)

On him

Because he cares for you. (*point up*)

He cares for you. (*point to self*)

Cast all your anxiety (*pretend to throw something heavy*)

On him



Because he cares for you. (*point up*)
He cares for you. (*point to self*)
Jesus cares for you.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

What are you worried about now? (*shrug*)
Trying to figure it out now (*point to head to indicate thinking*)
God knows right where you are now. (*hold arms out*)
You know it's all in his hands now. (*hold hands together, palms up*)

"He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) by Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **God loves us so much! We can love him back when we ► BELIEVE IN GOD.**
Today we'll learn about some really brave guys who trusted God more than anything else. Let's find out more!

2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

God's Mighty Hand

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids sit in a circle. Open your Bible to 1 Peter 5:6-7, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, 1 Peter 5:6-7, says, "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." That means God is mighty and powerful and he's greater than us—he's great enough to take care of us. Let's practice our simplified Key Verse together.** Lead kids in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **God's mighty hand cares for you (1 Peter 5:6-7).**

Let's do an activity that will help us understand the Key Verse.

Have one child try to lift the basket. Ask another child to join in, and have both of them carry it a short distance. Then add two more children, and have all four carry the basket a short distance. Then start over, letting some other children carry the basket. Continue until each child has had a turn to lift the basket.

Say: **Our basket was very, very hard for one pair of hands to move. It was even hard for two pairs of hands to move. When four of you worked together, it became easier. But God's mighty hands are stronger and mightier than all of our hands in this room put together. With no trouble at all, God can do things that seem impossible to us!**



God's Mighty Hand Supplies

- Bible
- laundry basket
- heavy items to fill the laundry basket





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about the strongest person you know.
- What do you think about God being even mightier and stronger than that person?
- How can you believe in God's mighty power to care for and protect you?

Say: It's good to know that God's mighty hand cares for us. Like we had a hard time lifting the basket, we can't always take care of ourselves. Thankfully, God is good, and he can take care of us. When we ► **BELIEVE IN GOD**, we make God happy and help others know him better, too. Let's talk to Theo about something that can help us remember the Bible passage we're going to hear.

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)

Theo puppet

CD player

binoculars

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 3)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the binoculars in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.

Make binoculars out of paper towel tubes if you don't have binoculars.

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody! (*looks off in the distance*)

Teacher: Hello, Theo! What are you looking at?

Theo: I'm looking for my bestest friend, Becky Beagle. We're supposed to go rollerblading today. Does anyone see Becky?

(*Pause for kids to answer Theo's question.*)

Teacher: While you wait for Becky Beagle, do you want to help us look inside the Surprise Box?

(*Invite a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the binoculars around the circle so everyone can see them up close. Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.*)

Theo: Oh! I bet those would help me look for my bestest friend! Can I take a look?

(*Allow Theo to look through the binoculars briefly, making silly comments about how the kids look like they're really close.*)

Teacher: Theo, these binoculars could have many uses. Can you think of some other uses besides looking at our friends here?

Theo: Well, I once saw Superpup use binoculars to spy on some bad guys.

Teacher: Exactly! Today in the Bible, we're going to learn about some spies. Since it was in Bible times, I don't think they had binoculars, but that would've been helpful. God told the guys in the Bible to go spy on some special land he wanted them to have. They

were able to ► **BELIEVE IN GOD**, and they trusted that things would work out for the best.

Theo: That sounds so secretive. I think I see Becky Beagle. I gotta go!

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think of reading about spies in the Bible?
- Tell about a time you did something secretive to surprise someone.
- Explain whether you think God is like or unlike a superhero.

Say: **God is better than any superhero because he can do anything. We can ► BELIEVE IN GOD every day. God gave some men a really special job in the Bible. Let's find out what those spies were up to.**

Bible Time: Believing Spies

What You'll Do ■■■■

Open your Bible to Joshua 2:1-24, and show kids the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Remove the "I Spy" script from the Teacher Pack, and follow along as you play "I Spy" (track 23 on the CD). A spy will introduce himself and lead the children on an adventure. After the spy says, "Okay, follow me," encourage the children to follow your lead in performing the simple actions on the script.

After the segment, turn off the CD and have kids sit in a circle.

Say: **Joshua's spies went to that land because God told the Israelites they were going to get the land. The spies went to see what to expect when they got the land.**

Hang up the "Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho" poster.

Say: **Here's a picture of what happened in the Bible. Included in this poster are some things that don't belong in the picture. Let's act like spies and see what we can find that doesn't belong.**

Encourage children to find and call out the things that don't belong in the picture.

Say: **You're good spies!**



Bible Time: Believing Spies Supplies

Bible
CD player
stickers
tape

Teacher Pack
CD: "I Spy" (track 23)
"I Spy" script
"Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Bible Time: Believing Spies Easy Prep

Place the stickers on the "Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho" poster. Kids will find them and identify them as not fitting in with the rest of the poster.



Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What were you thinking as you spotted hidden things on the poster?
- Tell about a time you spotted God in your life.
- What are some things that can help you remember to believe in God in the future?

Say: **Rahab believed in God—that’s why she wanted to help the spies. We can ► BELIEVE IN GOD, just like Rahab did. When we look for God, we can “spy” him, kind of like we spied the pictures in our activity.**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today’s Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you’re ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they’d like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center’s description.

■ CENTER 1:

Rahab and the Spies

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Rahab helped the spies and showed that she believed in God even though that’s not what everyone around her was doing. We can believe in God no matter what everyone around us thinks.**

Distribute the My Bible Playground pages, and have kids write their names on their papers. Let kids cut out the two spies from the bottom of the page. Show children how to cut and fold back the blank window to make it open and close. Have kids use the sticky notes to hide the spies on the roof. Tape the red yarn to the back of the blank window, allowing most of the yarn to hang out the front of the window. The spies can now escape through that window. Have kids form pairs, and let partners practice telling what happened in the Bible using their pages.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think of the way Rahab helped the spies?

Center 1: Rahab and the Spies Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers
several pairs of scissors
tape
red yarn
green or yellow sticky
notes

Center 1: Rahab and the Spies Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
11 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book.

- How can you ► BELIEVE IN GOD even when it's difficult?

Say: It's wonderful for us when we ► BELIEVE IN GOD, just as Rahab and the spies believed in him. God may ask us to do things that don't make sense to us, but his plans are better than ours. When things are difficult, that's the perfect time for us to keep trusting God.

■ **CENTER 2:**

Sandwiched Spies

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands. Then gather everyone around the table.

Say: **In the Bible we learned that Rahab hid the spies on her roof because she believed in God. Let's make a yummy snack and help Rahab hide the spies.**

Give each child a paper plate to work on, a piece of bread, and a slice of sandwich meat.
Say: **Your piece of bread represents Rahab's roof.**

Let each child use a person-shaped cookie cutter to cut out two shapes from thinly sliced sandwich meat. Have them place their "spies" on the "roof." Then give each child a small handful of grated cheese. Encourage the children to cover the spies with the cheese to hide them.

Say a prayer, asking God to help you believe in him and thanking him for the food. Allow children to eat their snacks, reviewing the passage again while eating.

Say: **We hid the spies on Rahab's roof in our snack. That can help us remember how Rahab and the spies were very brave because they believed in God. They didn't know exactly what was going to happen, but God did. We can ► BELIEVE IN GOD, too.**

■ **CENTER 3:**

Hide the Spy

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's take turns helping others like Rahab did. Then we'll switch places and pretend to be the spies that Rahab helped.**

Clear any obstacles from a circular game area. Spread a sheet in the middle of the floor, and have children stand around its edge. Have the children count off by twos. If you have a very small class, you may want to count off by fours or ask some adults or teens to join you. Tell children to hold the edge of the sheet and march around in a circle. Let them know that when you sing their number, such as "one," all spies who are "ones" are



Center 2: Sandwiched Spies Supplies

- paper plates
- 1 slice of bread and 1 slice of sandwich meat per child
- person-shaped cookie cutter
- grated cheese
- antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 3: Hide the Spy Supplies

- bedsheet



to hide inside the sheet as the rest bring it down over them in a mushroom shape. Lead children as you sing the following to the tune of “London Bridge”:

 **Hiding spies in Jericho, Jericho, Jericho**, (*walk with sheet waist high, shaking it slightly when singing “Jericho”*)

To the roof before you go, (*lift sheet high*)

ONES, rush in now. (*bring sheet quickly down over children crouching inside, and then lift off*)

Play a few times to give each child a chance to be inside and outside the sheet.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like to hide under the sheet?**
- **Tell about a time you did something for God.**
- **Why might believing in God make you want to do things for him?**

Say: **Rahab hid the spies like you hid under the sheet in our game. Rahab believed in God enough to help two strangers. We can ► BELIEVE IN GOD enough to help others, too!**

CENTER 4:

Where Are the Spies?

What You’ll Do

Have kids form pairs. Say: **Rahab hid the spies, and you’re going to see if you can hide something from your partner.** Have pairs choose one person to be the Guesser and one person to be the Artist. Distribute a marker and piece of paper to each of the Artists.

Say: **If you have a piece of paper and a marker, take 10 seconds to draw something on your page.** Have the Guessers close their eyes so they don’t see the drawings.

After 10 seconds, say: **Artists, hold your drawing behind your back. Guessers, begin guessing things your partner might have drawn.** As kids guess, encourage the Artists to try to throw the Guessers off. Allow a minute or two.

Say: **Rahab hid the Israelite spies and even got the guards to go away and not look for them at her house. You Artists did a good job of hiding what you drew a picture of.** Have kids show their partners the thing they drew and explain it if necessary. When they’re done, have them switch roles.

Center 4: Where Are the Spies? Supplies

paper
markers



Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was easy or difficult about keeping your drawing a secret?**
- **How was following my instructions the same as or different from following God’s directions?**
- **Rahab hid God’s spies, and that showed that she believed in God. What are some ways you can show God you believe in him?**

Say: **Rahab hid the spies because she believed in God. We kept our drawings a secret even when it was difficult. We can do great things when we ► BELIEVE IN GOD, too.**

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do ■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today’s lesson to their lives throughout the week. Use this challenge to encourage your children’s growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that we ► BELIEVE IN GOD. I’d like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to practice believing in God.**

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

- 1. Go outside and pretend to be blown away by the wind. As you play, tell God that you believe in him and know he is real, just as you know the wind is real even though you can’t see it.**
- 2. Ask God to help you make a new friend this week. Then try talking to someone new at school or church. Believe in God to help you make a new friend.**
- 3. Draw a picture of you and God together. Give it to your mom or dad, and tell her or him why you believe in God.**

Say: **If you want to pretend, circle choice number 1. If you want to make a new friend, circle choice number 2. If you want to draw a picture, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Playground page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground washable markers





“Believe” Prayer

What You’ll Do

Have kids kneel on the floor with a partner. Say: **Take a minute to share with your partner one way you need help believing in God this week.** When kids finish, have them follow the motions to the following prayer with you.

Pray: **Dear God,**

We trust you to lead us. (*stand up and walk, having kids follow you*)

We believe you are God. (*raise hands*)

We want to please you. (*smile and jump with joy*)

We love you and give you praise. (*have kids give a round of applause for God*)

In Jesus’ name, amen.

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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