




God Gives Victory Over Jericho

Joshua 6:1-27

Preteens are just discovering what power really is. They're at the beginning of the adolescent transition from being completely parented to being a little more independent. An important part of that transition is gaining an appropriate sense of personal power and how to use it. The best way for kids to learn this is through looking at God's example. Kids can model their use of power after God's—and get their power from him. Use this lesson to help them understand God's power and how it works for good.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Power to Celebrate (about 15 min.) Have a party to celebrate the ways they've experienced power in their lives.	CD player, party decorations (streamers, confetti), tape, markers, balloons, construction paper Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Power Cartoons (about 20 min.) Place themselves in a cartoon to represent the Bible passage.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, pencils with erasers, paper Teacher Pack: Bible Timeline 	Tear out the Lesson 13 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



►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 express to others how they believe God's power is working in their lives.





LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Proclaiming God's Power <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Write or draw pictures of God's power in their lives, and then find powerful ways to proclaim that power.	Bible Buzz, pens, paper	Set up 7 stations. Number each station with a sign, and place paper and pens at each station.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz	
	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.





Joshua 6:1-27

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

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.

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!

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.

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.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Power to Celebrate Supplies

CD player
party decorations
(streamers, confetti)
tape
markers
balloons
construction paper
Teacher Pack
CD: "Celebration Music"
(track 16)

BALLOON WARNING

To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly. Balloons may contain latex.

1 GETTING STARTED

Power to Celebrate

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Say: **We're going to have a party today. It will be sort of a celebration of the way we've experienced power in our lives. Let's get ready for the celebration by decorating our meeting area.**

Distribute party decorations, and instruct kids to decorate your meeting area. Have kids work together to create a large "Power Party" banner with construction paper and markers, taping together their pieces of construction paper. Kids can hang the banner in your meeting area along with other party decorations. While you decorate, play "Celebration Music" (track 16 on the CD), repeating it as many times as necessary.

After the party scene has been set, have kids find partners and sit together.

Say: **Let's use a question to help us celebrate the powerful things around us: What are some things you consider powerful? Whenever someone answers this question, we'll all celebrate that powerful thing. Our celebration can be packed with power, too. We can be really loud, jump and run a lot, or even turn on extra lights. Think of powerful ways to celebrate.** Give kids balloons to use in the celebration as they throw a big, loud party for a few minutes.

As kids think of powerful ways to celebrate, have them do those things. As more and more kids join in, this will become a rambunctious, power-packed celebration.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some of the best uses of power that you see every day?**
- **Explain whether you think power is mostly a good thing or a bad thing.**
- **What makes you think you can trust God's power?**

Say: **We've all experienced different kinds of power in our lives. Today we're going to celebrate ways ► GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD in our lives. Let's take a look at how God showed his power in a specific situation in the Bible. God has a lot of power. He's stronger than we could ever imagine.**





2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Power Cartoons

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Have kids sit, and distribute paper, pencils, Bibles, and this week’s Bible Buzz pages. Say: **Find the “Power Experience” section on your Bible Buzz pages. I’ll tell you which section of the Bible passage we’re looking at, and I can read it aloud to you, or if anyone else wants to read any of the sections aloud, you are welcome to do so. After someone reads each section, you’ll use your blank paper and pencils to draw a frame of a cartoon about what’s going on in that scene. When you hear the next section, you’ll create a new frame in your comic strip.** Show kids the outlines on their Bible Buzz pages in the “Power Experience” section. Tell them that they’ll be tracing parts of these images and adding their own elements to make their cartoon images. They’ll need to have between one and three components from Bible Buzz in each frame. They can fill in details around these traced images.

Take kids through these verses, pausing for them to modify their drawings after each new section is read.

- Joshua 6:1-7
- Joshua 6:8-14
- Joshua 6:15-21
- Joshua 6:22-27

After kids have had a chance to hear and see the Bible passage in their own illustrations, say: **Find a place by yourself. Draw yourself into your cartoon, and pray that God will do mighty things in your life.** Allow time.

Talk With Kids ■■■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How do you think changing your picture each time relates to the way God’s power shows up in our lives?
- In what ways was having to rely on these traced drawings like or unlike the Israelites conquering Jericho?
- How did you see yourself fitting into today’s Bible passage?
- How do you think we can see God’s power today like the Israelites saw God’s power when he knocked down the walls of Jericho?
- What’s one area of your life in which you need to see God’s power at work?
- Considering the ways God’s power worked for good in this passage, how does that help you see God’s power in your life in a different way?



Power Cartoons Supplies

Bibles
Bible Buzz
pencils with erasers
paper
Teacher Pack
Bible Timeline

Power Cartoons Easy Prep

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





Proclaiming God's Power Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens
paper

Proclaiming God's Power Easy Prep

Set up 7 stations.
Number each station
with a sign, and place
paper and pens at each
station.

Say: ► **GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD** all the time. God does things differently with each person, so the way he shows his power in my life may not be the same as the way he shows his power in your life. But we can all trust God to use his power for good. Let's find out more about how we can anticipate God's power being used for good. God used his power to knock down a mighty wall for Joshua and the Israelites, and we can see God using his power for good in our world today, too.

3

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Proclaiming God's Power

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Like the Israelites, we're going to proclaim God's power seven times. I've set up seven stations throughout our room.**

Have kids find the "Power Station" section on their Bible Buzz pages. Allow kids to look over this section and decide which stations they want to go to first.

Say: **At each station, find the appropriately numbered statement on your Bible Buzz pages. Using the paper and pens at each station, show how God's power has worked in your life in the situation described on the Bible Buzz pages. You don't have to just write or draw; you can fold origami to tell your story or use the supplies in any other way. I'll let you know when you have just a few minutes left.**

Allow 15 minutes for kids to move between the stations at their own pace. Have kids leave their representations of God's power that they complete for each station at that station. Give kids a five-minute warning and a one-minute warning.

Ask kids to sit together.

Say: **There's a lot of power represented in your words and pictures. The Israelites celebrated God's power as they marched around Jericho. ► GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD.**

Have kids find the Key Verse, 1 Peter 5:6-7, on their Bible Buzz pages: "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." Say: **Talk with someone next to you about something that makes you anxious.** Allow a minute. **Now discuss how you can cast that anxiety into God's mighty hand.** Allow about a minute.

Ask a willing preteen to read the verse aloud, and then have kids repeat the verse a few times, cheering and yelling to celebrate at the places where the verse shows God using his power for good. Kids might stop at the word "mighty" or perhaps at "lift."





Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Which station has the most representations of God's power?
- Why do you think God's power might seem to show up some places more than others?
- What's your typical reaction to some of the ways God shows his power?
- In what ways would you like to change your reaction to God's power?

Say: We've just seen a lot of ways ► **GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD.** Joshua and the Israelites were in the middle of a pretty amazing miracle as God showed his power to his people. God's shown power in our lives, too. We can thank God and celebrate his power all the time because his power is always present.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Let's think this week about how we can remember that ► **GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD.**

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

- Help your parents remove a screw from something, and then put it back in by hand. Do this a second time, using a power tool. Talk together about how this is like the difference that God's power can make in your life compared with when you try to do everything on your own.
- Write a description of the most powerful thing you can think of, and then describe how God is more powerful than that thing.
- Have an arm-wrestling match with a parent or one of your siblings. Play several rounds, and at the end of each round, the winner will say one way God's power works for good.

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, place, and other ideas.



Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz



Say: **God showed his power the day he gave Jericho to the Israelites. Let's remember how ► GOD'S POWER WORKS FOR GOOD by following through with 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 Buzz 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. Have partners hold their hands out palm to palm as they face one another. Ask kids to back their feet up a few steps so they are leaning slightly against one another. Say: **As you rely on the power that you and your partner have to keep standing, remember that God's power never gets tired, even though we might.** Have them pray for their partners to lean on God's power in their lives, and then have them step back together and close the prayer time.



