

## **May 24 \*Unit 8 \* Session 2 \*Elementary**

### **The Battle of Jericho**

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Joshua 2; 6

**STORY POINT:** God brought down the walls of Jericho.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Deuteronomy 31:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.

### **OPENING ACTIVITY**

#### **Find the spies**

Hide around your room two action figures or other small toys to represent the Israelite spies. Invite your kids to find the hidden spies. You may use a stopwatch to see how quickly they can find the "spies." If time permits, allow the kids to hide the figures and time you searching for them.

**SAY** •In our story today, we will learn about a time two spies needed help hiding from those who wanted to find them. The spies were men from Israel, and the woman who helped them hide was not part of the nation of Israel. Why do you think she helped them?

### **THE BIBLE STORY**

Joshua 2; 6

The Israelites finally arrived at the promised land of Canaan (KAY nuhn), but there was one problem: other people were living there. God's people couldn't just walk in and set up their tents. They had to go to battle against their enemies, and they had to win. Joshua sent two spies into Jericho to see what it was like. The spies stayed at the house of a woman named Rahab (RAY hab). Rahab had heard about God and believed in Him. She wanted to help His people. When the king of Jericho was looking for the spies, she hid the men on her roof. When it was safe for the spies to leave, Rahab said, "Please be kind to my family since I have been kind to you. When you attack Jericho, please do not kill us." So the spies promised to keep Rahab and her family safe, and they left Jericho. Rahab tied a bright red rope in her window so the Israelites would know which house she lived in.

The people in Jericho hid behind the strong walls of the city. God told Joshua he would conquer Jericho. To do that, Joshua would need to lead the people to march around the city one time each day for six days. On the seventh day, they would march around the city seven times, and the priests would blow the trumpets. All the

people would shout, and the walls of Jericho would fall down. Then the Israelites could go into the city and take over. So Joshua commanded the people to carry the ark of the covenant and march around the city. The priests blew their trumpets. They marched around the city one time. Not one of the Israelites spoke or made a sound. On the second day, they silently marched around the city again and then returned to their camp. They did this every day for six days. On the seventh day, the Israelites got up early and marched around the city seven times. On the seventh time when the priests blew their trumpets, Joshua said, "Shout, for the Lord has given you the city!" So the people shouted, and the wall fell down flat. The Israelites went into the city and captured it. They kept Rahab and her family safe because she had helped the spies. God was with Joshua, and everyone in the land knew of Joshua and what he had done.

**Christ Connection:** By faith Rahab believed God would win the battle, and she asked the spies to show mercy to her family and keep them safe. When the Israelites attacked Jericho, Rahab and her family received mercy and became part of God's people. Jesus has won against sin and death. Everyone who trusts in Jesus receives mercy and becomes part of God's family forever.

### **Key passage activity**

Write each word or phrase of the key passage on a sticky note and place the words out of order on a wall. Invite your kids to take turns choosing the notes in the correct order. If any kid grabs the wrong word or phrase, return all words or phrases, display the key passage, and read it together. Then start again.

SAY •God promised to be with His people, the Israelites. When we trust in Jesus, we become part of God's family, which means we are God's people too! Because God is with us to guide us and help us love and obey Him, we have nothing to be afraid of. Isn't God good to save us and help us glorify Him?

### **Discussion & Bible skills**

Help your kids use the table of contents and large chapter numbers to find Joshua 2; 6. Remind them that Joshua is the first book in the Old Testament History division, which comes right after the Law. Briefly review the other books that are part of this division (Judges–Esther). Explain that we will eventually get to stories from those books as well.

Ask the following questions. Lead your kids to discuss:

1. Why did Rahab help the Israelite spies? (She had faith that God is the one true God and He would give Israel victory, Josh. 2:10-12)
2. What was God's plan to defeat Jericho? (The Israelites would march around the city for seven days playing trumpets. They would finally shout, and then the walls would fall; Josh. 6:3-5)

3. Did God's plan work? (Yes, His people conquered Jericho and Rahab's family was spared; Josh. 6:21-23)

4. Why do you think God's strategy was so different from human battle strategies? Guide kids to discuss the idea that when God does things in a way that no human could do without Him, it proves His power and might. God does things we cannot to remind us that we need Him.

5. Why do you think Rahab's story is included in the Bible? Guide kids to think about the fact that God loves all people, not just Israelites. Rahab had faith that God is the one true God and would give His people victory.

God saved Rahab and her family and even used Rahab to be a part of Jesus' family line.

6. How can we practice trusting God and having faith in Him? Guide kids to talk about some of the scary, sad, or frustrating situations they may face. Remind them that we can face those situations by trusting in God and remembering the hope we have through Jesus. Help them see that we can pray for help and have faith that God is working things for His glory and our good.

SAY •God brought down the walls of Jericho. He did it in a way that proved His power. He loves us and will do amazing things in our lives when we trust Him.

## **ACTIVITY**

Scarlet cord bookmark

Provide a strip of heavyweight paper to each kid. Help the kids punch one hole in the top and tie a length of red ribbon through their hole to hang off the top of the paper strip. Then instruct the kids to write the story point on by drawing pictures from the story on their bookmarks.

SAY •God brought down the walls of Jericho. He did it in a miraculous way that no human could have done alone. When you use this bookmark, remember that God loves His people and wants to help us. He sent Jesus to die for us and save us from our greatest enemies, sin and death. That is also something no human can do alone!

Reflection and prayer

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?