



## BE COURAGEOUS

### God Defeated Jericho | May 22, 2022 | 1 year olds and 2 year olds

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Joshua 2 & 6

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** By faith, Rahab believed God would win the battle. 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.

**BOTTOM LINE:** True courage leads me to treat others like God has treated me.

**THE WIN FOR SUNDAY GROUPS:** Give kids a first look at The Bible, Jesus and our need for a Savior by embracing their physical needs or engaging their interests. Use The Code when necessary to help redirect kids and build relationships.

#### BIBLE PASSAGE CONTEXT

In our Bible story today, we see not just mercy, but courageous mercy. Rahab by faith, courageously trusted God and hid the Hebrew spies. Mercy is not courageous until being merciful costs us something. Rahab's mercy was pushed to the testing point.

She had compassion and, in doing so, risked her life. She showed mercy; as a result, she received mercy. Mercy is compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone when it is within one's power to punish or harm that person. Mercy was a key mark of Jesus' ministry. He modeled mercy for us on earth, showing numerous times compassion and forgiveness to those who didn't deserve it.

This is the beauty of Christ that we see in stories like Rahab. When the spies were sent to scout out Jericho, by faith, a woman named Rahab believed God would win the battle so she agreed to help the spies and God was gracious to her and promised to save her from the destruction of the city. The God we serve is lavish in His mercy and rich in His kindness. What Rahab experienced is a glimpse of God's mercy we see in Christ. Jesus is the full expression of the mercy and kindness of God. Jesus isn't concerned from a distance; He took on human flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus didn't just act mercifully when it was convenient. He laid down his life so that we could be forgiven.

Rahab modeled for us what Jesus preached in the Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy" (Matt. 5:7). Let us today be extenders of mercy to others because of the tender mercy of God in Christ we have received because of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

#### TAKEAWAYS

- Throughout the Bible, God displayed His great power by preforming miracles which means He did things that usually cannot be done. God could do them because He is all powerful and can do anything. God defeated Jericho not with an army but with a miracle.
- When 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. Rahab modeled for us what Jesus preached in the Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy" (Matt. 5:7).
- Jesus didn't just act mercifully when it was convenient. He laid down his life so that we could be forgiven.

- **Bottom Line:** True courage leads me to treat others like God has treated me.

## Places to Know

**Jericho-** One of the oldest cities in the world and known as the "City of palms." It had rich soil, abundant water, and constant sunshine.

**Small Group Prayer:** "God we are in awe of Your wonders and miraculous works. Only You have the power to do the impossible! Thank You for the miracle of salvation. We praise You. Please help us to trust in You and You alone. Amen."

### **SOCIAL ACTIVITY: Activity Dice**

**What You Need:** Activity Dice Play set

#### **What You Do:**

Set up the game according to set instructions. Feel free to modify game rules to fit your group. Celebrate any victory.

**Say:** That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let's pray and listen to our story today."

#### **Introduce the Story:**

Invite preschoolers to join you for group time. Encourage them to march to the group time area and then march in place as a group. Say this: "Thank you for marching with me. God told Joshua to have the Israelites march around the city of Jericho in our Bible story today. God showed His strength to the people when He defeated Jericho."

**Play a Worship Song or 2 from DVD or Roku**  
**Play the Teaching Video on DVD or Roku**

#### **RECAP the STORY:**

"Joshua sent two men into Jericho. They stayed at the house of a woman named Rahab. Rahab hid the men on her roof to keep them safe. She said to the men, "Please be kind to my family when God gives you the city. Please keep us safe." Rahab tied a red rope in her window so the Israelites would know where she lived. God told Joshua how to win the battle of Jericho. Joshua obeyed God. At the battle of Jericho, Joshua told the people to march quietly around Jericho. On the seventh day, they marched seven times. Then the priests blew the trumpets and the people shouted. Jericho's wall fell down. God gave His people the city and kept Rahab and her family safe. Rahab and her family lived with the Israelites from then on."

Check diapers

### **APPLICATION ACTIVITY: Make a Trumpet**

**What You Need:** Trumpet cut out (1 per kid), crayons and stickers, tape or glue, Jericho stickers (1 per kid)

#### **What You Do:**

- Distribute trumpets and decorating supplies to each toddler.
- Allow toddlers to decorate their papers.
- Tape each child's paper together in a cone shape, leaving a small opening on one end.
- Have each toddler place a Jericho sticker on their trumpet and write each kid's name on their trumpet.

**What You Say** "The people silently marched around the city of Jericho for six days. When the people blew their trumpets on the seventh day, God made the walls of Jericho fall down. God won the victory for His people."

### **TRANSITION ACTIVITY: Find the People**

**What You Need:** 2 people figures, sensory box with beans or shredded paper

**What You Do:**

- Hide the people in the sensory box.
- Encourage toddlers to move the beans or paper around to find the people.
- Help the toddlers hide the figures and search again.

**What You Say “**In our Bible story, we heard how Rahab obeyed God and hid two of God’s people to keep them safe. God kept Rahab and her family safe. When we are part of God’s family, God keeps us safe too.”

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- **Will God always give you what you ask Him for?**
- **Why can we trust God even if He doesn’t answer our prayers how we want Him to?**
- **Do you think God’s battle plan seemed strange to Joshua?** Point out that Joshua saw God’s miracles in the wilderness. Joshua knew that God uses impossible circumstances to bring about His purposes. God’s plans are perfect. We can trust Him even if we don’t understand His plans.
- **What did Rahab risk when she chose to save the two spies? Was it worth it?** Remind kids that Jericho was Israel’s enemy. Rahab may have been considered a traitor to her people if she was found to have helped Israel. Helping Israel came a great risk to not only her life, but to Rahab’s family as well. But her faith was rewarded. Not only did Rahab get to join God’s chosen people but also the Bible tells us that Rahab played a role in God’s plan to save sinners.
- **How did Jericho’s defeat show God’s power and mercy?** Emphasize that God defeated Jericho in a way no one else could have. Word spread to the Israelites’ enemies that God was mighty. Rahab had faith in God, and He made her a part of His people. God graciously allowed her life to be spared.

### **TRANSITION TO HOME: Prepare kids to talk with their family about what they learned today.**

- As family members arrive to pick up their kid, greet them and tell them one thing you noticed about their kid that day or something you talked to each kid about remembering this week.
- If there is time to chat with the family, ask how you can pray for them this week.
- Say bye to the kid and call them by name.