



## BE COURAGEOUS

### God Defeated Jericho | May 22, 2022 | 3rd - 5th grade

**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 performing 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: Choose Your Own Game**

**What You Need:** Socials Book, 3 pool noodles, masking tape, stopwatch/timer, score sheets, plastic cups, candy worms, lifesavers, paper clips, paper, bandaids, sticky tack/gum, scissors, stacks of books, 100 index cards, 50 pennies, scotch tape, measuring tape, 3 pool noodle circles, cones, I Spy activity pages, pencils

**Objective:** There are 5 activities in your Socials Book, kids will help decide the game of the day.

**Winning:** The goal is to get everyone in your group to participate in a game.

As kids are coming in, set up the game and ask kids to join you as you play the game. Games are a great way for kids to engage with each other and you as you get to know each other. Use this time to ask them questions about their week and any other important follow up questions to things you have talked about in the past.

**What You Say:** Ask this question: "Have you ever done something that seemed impossible? Tell me about it. Today, we'll learn about how God did something that seemed impossible. God defeated Jericho by giving the Israelites some very unusual instructions."

**Play a Worship Song or 2 from your Worship DVD/Roku**  
**Play the Bible teaching DVD/Roku**

### **APPLICATION ACTIVITY: Make Me Believe It**

**What You Need:** Believe it fact sheet (1 per kid)

**What You Do:**

- Direct kids to form groups of two or three.
- Prompt kids to imagine they are speaking to a friend who does not believe in miracles.
- Encourage kids to recall different parts of the story in order to convince their friend of the truth.
- Ask kids to take turns sharing evidence from the Bible story on the Believe it fact sheet that might help make their friend believe.
- After kids have a few moments to discuss in groups, gather everyone's attention and ask each group to share their best answer to this questions: Based on our Bible story today, how do you know the battle of Jericho was a miracle?
- Be sure to emphasize that we can believe in faith.

**What You Say:** "God often does things differently than people expect. Sometimes God does what seems impossible. Defeating a fortified city by marching, blowing trumpets, and shouting is definitely a miracle! God is all powerful, and only He can perform miracles."

### **TRANSITION ACTIVITY: Build it Up**

**What You Need:** small building supplies or straws and tape

**What You Do:**

- Provide building supplies (small building supplies or straws and tape) and direct kids to work together to create a city.

- Allow each kid to contribute one or two buildings.
- As kids work, encourage them to think about different ways to protect a city, such as walls, towers, moats, and so on.
- Guide kids to test the strength of some of their structures by placing small objects of various weights on them.
- If any of the structures collapse, ask kids to fortify them, or make them stronger.

**What You Say** “The city of Jericho was protected by a large wall. When the people of Jericho saw the Israelites coming, they fortified the city so no one could enter; however, nothing can stop God. Let’s look at our discussion questions to help us talk about how God defeated Jericho”

### 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.