

Upper Elementary

Jericho

All scripture quotations are taken from the World English Bible, 2020.

Checklist

- ☐ hula hoop
- ☐ model or picture of Ark of the Covenant
- ☐ paper
- ☐ cardboard cut to shape of a shield
- ☐ Jenga

Topic:	Battle of Jericho
*Note to Teacher:	Students may have concerns about why God would send the Israelites into Canaan to take over someone else's land. God was not just giving the land to the Israelites as a gift. He was also using the Israelites as a means of punishing the Canaanites. Both non-religiously affiliated historical writings and archaeological evidence back up the Bible's accounts (Deut. 18:9-13) that the people of Canaan frequently sacrificed children and babies to their idols. By having the Israelites defeat the Canaanites, God was saving the lives of countless children. God's plan punished the people who killed innocent children. Centuries later, God would give Israel to a pagan nation, Babylon, to punish the Israelites for killing children, and mistreating the poor and immigrants (Jeremiah 7).

Intro:	Make balls out of crumpled paper. Divide children in half and let them have a paper ball war. Stand on one side and block the paper balls with a shield. Was the fight even? Why not? (the teacher was helping one side) When we are following God, we don't need to worry about being outnumbered. He is fighting for us.
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Jericho



Deuteronomy 9:4-6	Don't say in your heart, after Yahweh your God has thrust them out from before you, "For my righteousness Yahweh has brought me in to possess this land;" because Yahweh drives them out before you because of the wickedness of these nations. Not for your righteousness or for the uprightness of your heart do you go in to possess their land; but for the wickedness of these nations Yahweh your God does drive them out from before you, and that he may establish the word which Yahweh swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. Know therefore that Yahweh your God doesn't give you this good land to possess for your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people.
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	Did God just decide to be nice to the Israelites and mean to the other people for no reason? NO! The people who lived there did very evil things. God had the Israelites come as their punishment.
Joshua 5:13-15	When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man stood in front of him with his sword drawn in his hand. Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our enemies?" He said, "No; but I have come now as commander of Yahweh's army." Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and worshiped, and asked him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" The prince of Yahweh's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals, for the place on which you stand is holy." Joshua did so.

God told the Israelites to take charge of Jericho because:

- ☐ God likes to play favorites
- ☐ God is fair and disciplines those who do evil things



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	Ask children to name things they have wanted that another person or group has wanted also (fighting with a sibling over dessert, running for class president, playing a baseball game against another team). Write them on the board.
	Was this about God taking a side? (no, He was giving a punishment to the city of Jericho for doing terrible things) God isn't interested in taking sides over things like who should get more ice cream or who will be class president or which team will win the baseball game. God disciplines those who rebel against Him and rewards those who are faithful to His way. Believing in God doesn't mean you get whatever you want. It means God is looking out for you and being fair.
Joshua 6:1-5	Now Jericho was tightly shut up because of the children of Israel. No one went out, and no one came in. Yahweh said to Joshua, "Behold, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the mighty men of valor. All of your men of war shall march around the city, going around the city once. You shall do this six days. Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day, you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. It shall be that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the city wall will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, every man straight in front of him."

God takes a side:

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- ☐ when you want the bigger half of the cookie
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Jericho was a very powerful city. What made it even stronger was its wall. Nowadays cities do not have walls. But many old cities have a large wall around them for safety. This was to keep anyone from taking over. To enter the city, you had to go to one of the gates and be allowed in. Guards watched the gates and only let in the people who lived there or who had permission to visit. The people of Jericho believed the Israelites could never get in, but God had a plan.



Jericho is believed to be the oldest walled city in the world. It was called the "City of Palm Trees" in the Bible. People first moved there because it has many natural springs of water in and around it. It is in the Jordan Valley, 846 feet below sea level.



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Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up Yahweh's ark. The seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns in front of Yahweh's ark went on continually, and blew the trumpets. The armed men went in front of them. The rear guard came after Yahweh's ark. The trumpets sounded as they went. The second day they marched around the city once, and returned into the camp. They did this six days. On the seventh day, they rose early at the dawning of the day, and marched around the city in the same way seven times. On this day only they marched around the city seven times.



Joshua 6:12-15

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	Play a version of Simon Says (God Says): Hold out a hula hoop and place it on the floor (as applicable) and give students instructions to crawl under it, tiptoe over it, step in the middle, then over it, jump over it, walk backward over it, take a giant step across it, crawl across it on their hands and knees, and skip around it. Did the instructions make sense? Did you follow them anyway?
Joshua 6:20	So, the people shouted and the priests blew the trumpets. When the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted with a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight in front of him, and they took the city.
	Were the Israelites faithful to God when they disobeyed Him in the wilderness and complained against Him? (no) Were they being faithful now? (yes) Do you think God's plan made sense to everyone who heard it? (probably not) Did the people trust God and follow His instructions? (yes) Even when God's instructions don't make sense, if we obey, we will be surprised by what He can do.
Closing:	Have children make a tower of Jenga blocks. Pass the ark around the table. Each time it reaches you, remove a block from the bottom. See how many times you have to go around before the tower collapses.



The Ark of the Covenant was a wooden box covered in gold. It had two gold cherubim covering it with their wings. Inside the box were the Ten Commandments and Aaron's rod (walking stick).



Faithful (adjective)

1. Strict or thorough in the performance of duty
2. True to one's word
3. Constant
4. Reliable, trusted or believed



Joshua 6:20

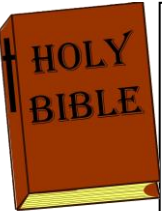
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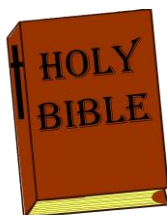
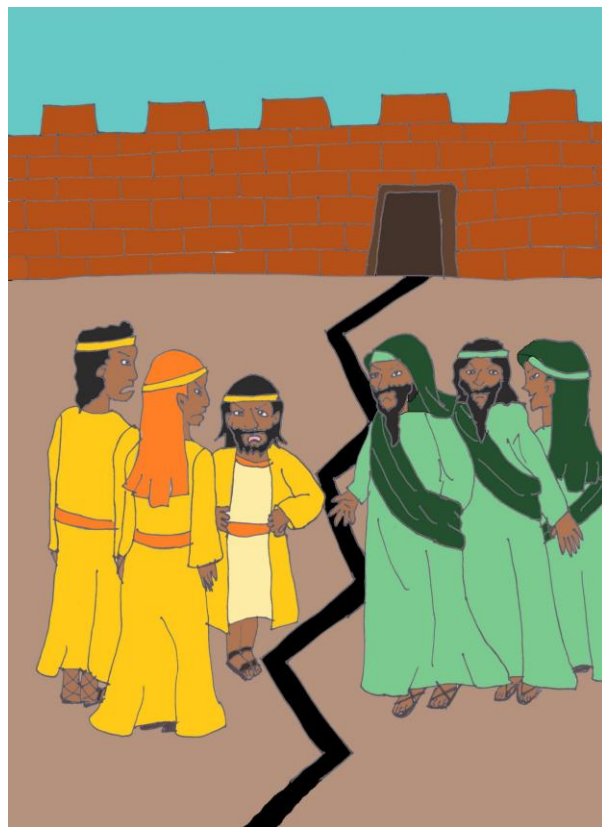


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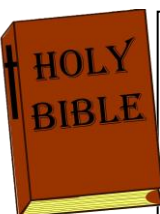


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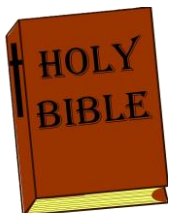


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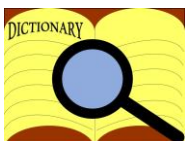
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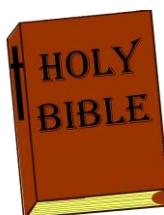


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Jericho



Name: _____

P	O	P	L	C	A	N	A	A	N
R	A	R	K	L	K	J	J	G	H
O	I	I	T	P	O	I	J	F	A
M	J	E	R	I	C	H	O	D	R
I	U	S	U	Y	U	D	S	S	M
S	Y	T	M	T	R	N	H	A	Y
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D	R	D	E	S	L	L	A	W	C
A	E	S	T	Q	A	S	D	F	V
Q	W	F	G	H	J	K	L	V	B
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JERICHO
JOSHUA
TRUMPET
WALLS
PRIESTS
ARK

COVENANT
ARMY
PROMISED
LAND
CANAAN