

Lower Elementary

Jericho

Note to Teachers and Parents:

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).

Checklist

- ☐ paper towel rolls
- ☐ jumbo blocks
- ☐ paper plates
- ☐ scissors

Introduction:

Who is really good at listening?

Play telephone to find out. I'll give an instruction and the person who hears it last has to do it.

(Give an instruction as the first sentence.)

Did the final sentence make much sense?

Think about instructions that are hard to follow or sound silly/wrong to you.

When the twelve spies returned from Canaan, they told the Israelites that the land was filled with good soil for farming enormous crops, but that it was also filled with fierce warriors who did evil things. Both of these things were true. But unlike the other ten leaders, Joshua and Caleb insisted that if God had told them to enter the Promised Land and claim it, He would give them victory over the people there.



“I am not giving you this land because you have done anything to earn it,” God told the Israelites. “I am sending you to take this land because of the horrible crimes that the people here have committed. They have done the worst possible things you could imagine and need to be punished.”*

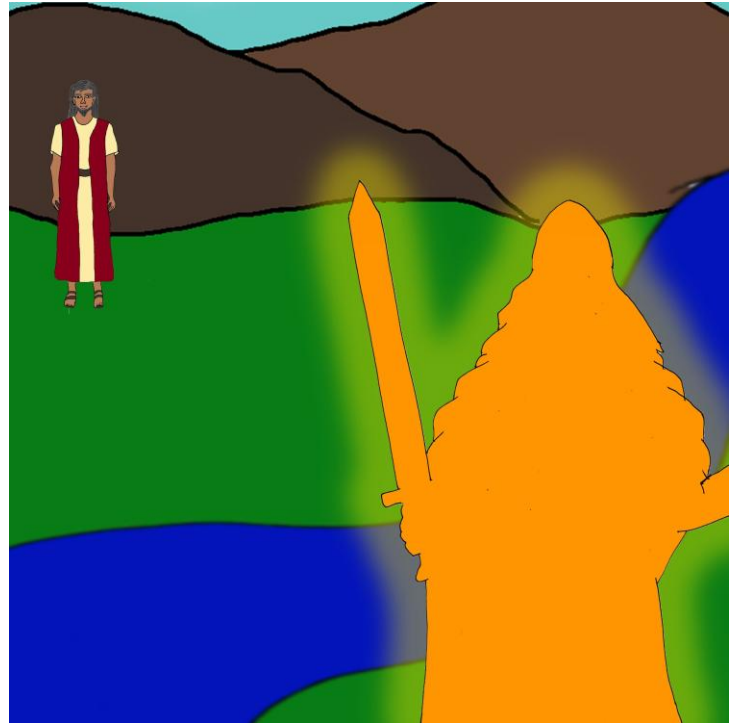
Forty years later, the new generation of Israelites, who had been small children when they left Egypt, were now ready to enter Canaan.



One day Joshua was walking near the city of Jericho and saw a man in the distance, holding a sword. Thinking it might be one of the warriors of the land, Joshua came closer and asked, “Whose side are you on? Ours or theirs?” “I’m not on either side,” the man replied. “I’m the commander of the Lord’s army.”

Joshua was overcome by these words and bowed down. “What do you want me to do?” he asked.

“First, you need to take off your sandals,” the man told him. “The ground you stand on is holy.”



Knowing that the Israelites had crossed the Jordan River and were getting closer to them, the people of Jericho were staying inside the walls of their city. Meanwhile, God told Joshua how to defeat Jericho. Joshua led the Israelites around the city walls. They walked with the Ark of the Covenant and the priests carried trumpets. Every day for a week they did this. The people of Jericho watched curiously, wondering what strange plan the Israelites had.



On the seventh day, everyone woke up before sunrise. Just like they had done for the last seven days, the people marched around the walls of the city. Only this time, they circled the walls seven times. As they finished the final lap, the priests blew their trumpets, and everyone shouted. The bricks of the wall began to shake. The Israelites backed away and watched as the mighty wall of Jericho, which had caused so much fear before, suddenly crumbled before their very eyes, collapsing into a pile of rubble.



The Israelites cheered and praised God. They could now walk right into the city, without having to find a way over the walls. Their parents had not trusted the Lord when He told them this was the land He had planned for them. But even when they were given instructions that sounded crazy, the new generation of Israelites chose to trust in God and follow His plan. And God did not disappoint them in showing how incredibly powerful He is.



Closing Discussion:



Who was the new leader God gave his people after Moses died?
After wandering in the desert for 40 years, how would you have felt about finally getting to move into your new home?
Did God's instructions sound strange?
If God hadn't done a miracle, would His people realize He was the one in charge?
What did God really want his people to do most of all? (trust Him)
What promise did God's people make?
Did they keep it?
What does God want most of all from us? (to obey and trust Him)

Craft:

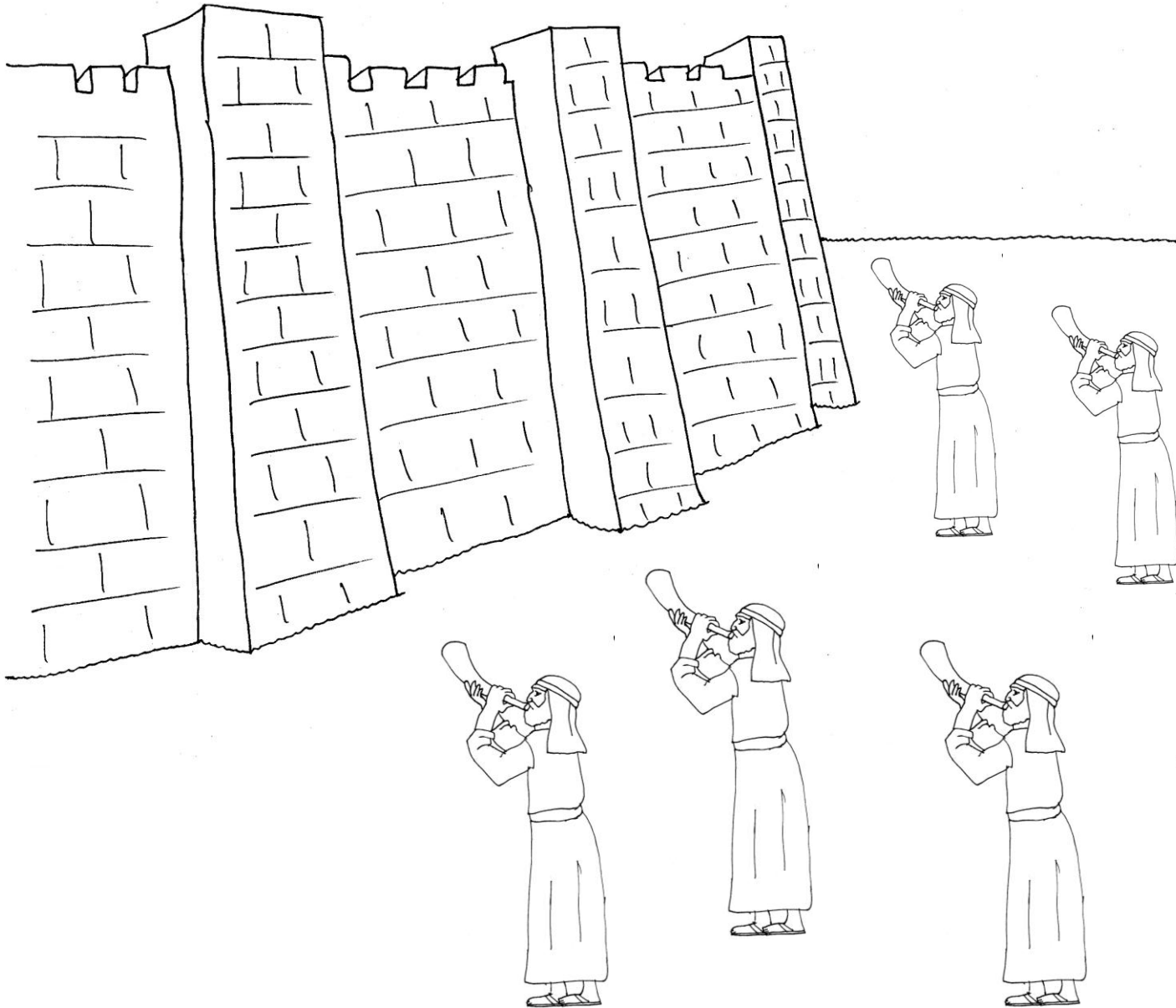
Moveable Walls of Jericho

Closing Activity:

Build walls of Jericho with blocks, march around and knock down.

Jericho

Name: _____

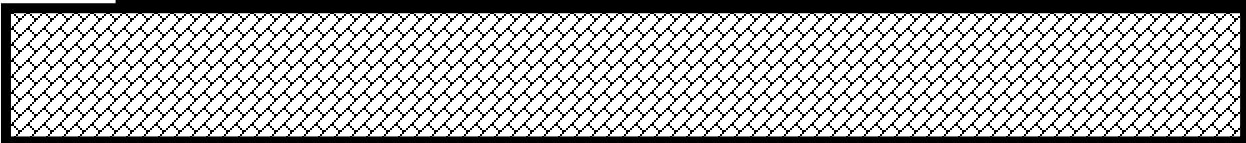
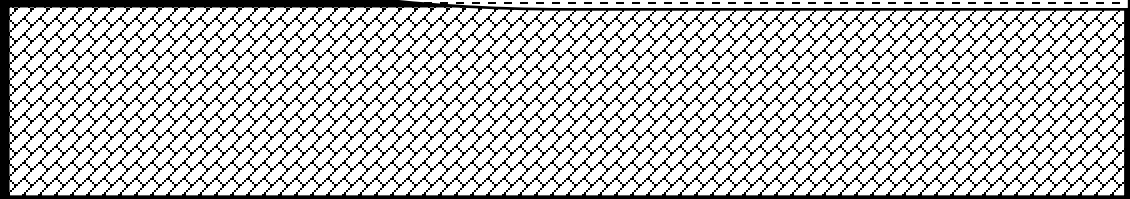
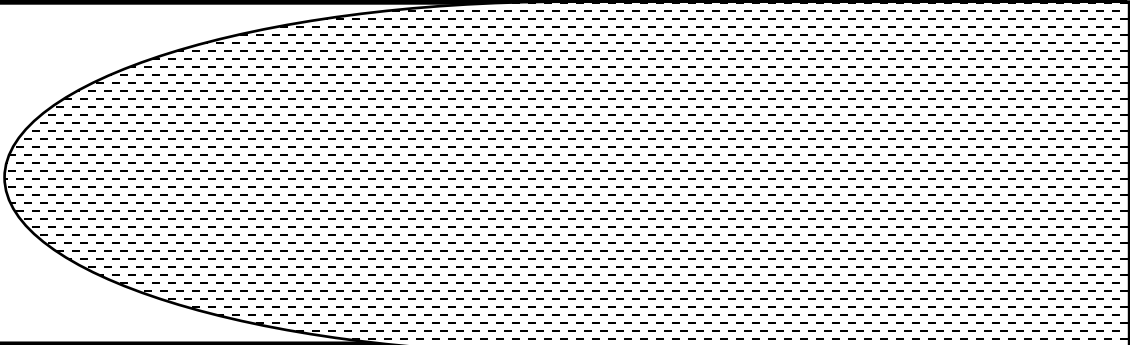
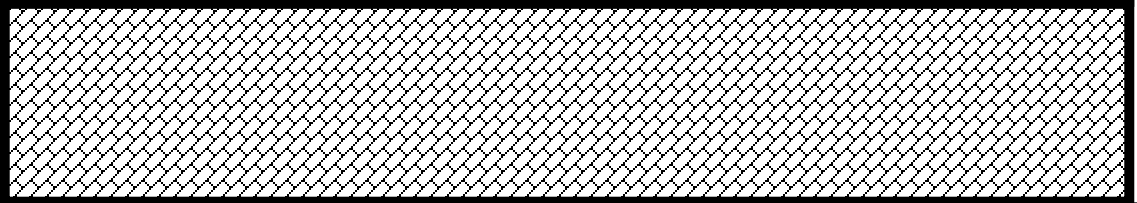
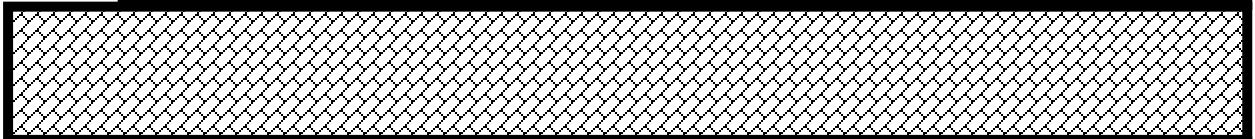
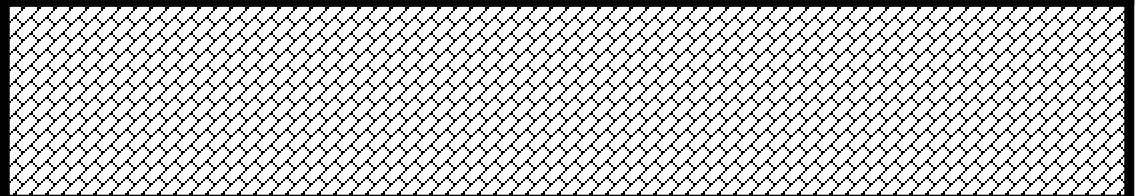
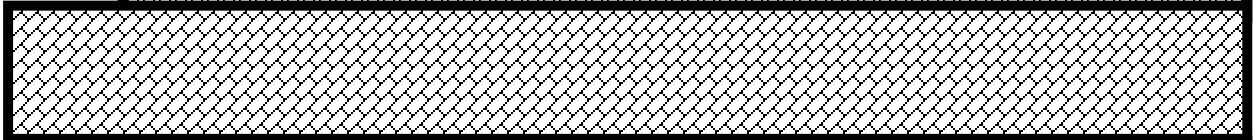
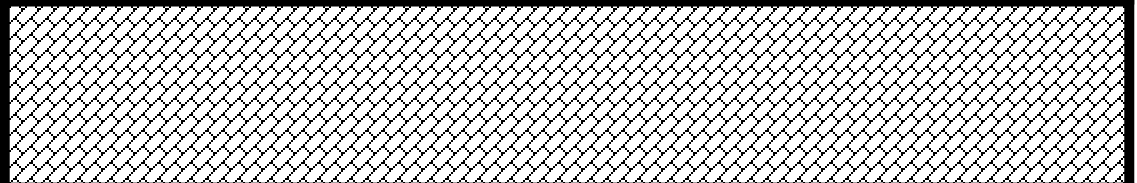
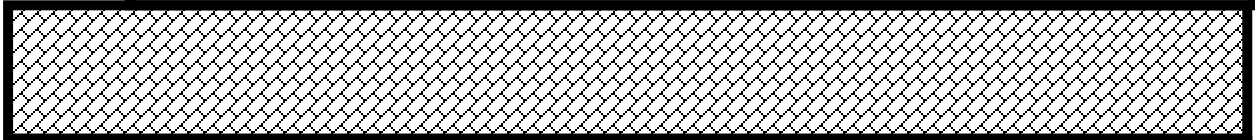


I've commanded you to be strong and brave. Don't ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the LORD your God, and I will be there to help you wherever you go. ~ Joshua 1:9

- ❖ Children color and cut out wall and Joshua
- ❖ Children tape or glue wall pieces together and place on paper plate
- ❖ Teacher tapes strips of paper to Joshua to go around wall



glue



glue

The diagram illustrates a vertical stack of 10 horizontal bars. The top bar is white and labeled 'glue'. The remaining 9 bars are filled with a diagonal hatching pattern. The bars are arranged in a staggered fashion, with each bar starting at a different horizontal offset from the left edge, creating a stepped appearance. The bars are separated by thin white gaps.

