

## **Lesson 50 - Joshua & the Battle of Jericho**

### **Aims**

- \* To learn about the power of faith and the power of God

### **Materials**

- \* The Beginner's Bible
- \* March Round the Walls with Joshua - an action rhyme book
- \* Visual aids - pictures from the story
- \* Wooden blocks
- \* Spot-the-difference pictures

**Key word:** faith - to believe in the power of God

### **Lesson Outline**

1. Introduction
2. Story
3. Discussion
4. Activities - correct order of pictures, perform actions, Tumble Tower game, spot-the difference, watch a dvd
5. Review the aims
6. Prayer

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### **1) Introduction**

- \* Faith means to trust in the power of God. Who remembers the people in the Bible who trusted in God? Noah, Abraham, Joseph and Moses are some of them. Today's story shows that great things are possible when we trust in God's power.

### **2) Story**

#### **The Twelve Spies**

Finally the Israelites arrived near the promised land. God told Moses to send 12 spies there. Moses picked 12 men. He told them, "Find out what the people are like. See if the land is good. Find out if the people are strong or weak."

The men went to the new country. They came back with a lot of good fruit and said, "The land is beautiful. It is filled with plenty of food. But the people there are big and strong. If we fight them, they will win for sure." The Israelites became afraid. "We cannot go into the country. It is too dangerous" they said.

But two of the spies, called Joshua and Caleb, said: "Be not afraid. God is with us. He has promised us this land. He will give it to us.. "But the rest of the Israelites did not listen to them, and God

became angry with his people. "The people do not have faith in me," God said, "You shall not go into the country yet. So for the next 40 years God's people wandered in the desert..

### **Rahab and the Spies**

After Moses died, God gave his people a new leader. His name was Joshua. God led them into the promised land, to a city called Jericho. A large wall went around the city. Joshua sent two spies to Jericho to see what it was like there.

The king of Jericho found out that the men had come to his city. He wanted to capture them. But they went home to a woman called Rahab, and she helped them to hide on the roof. When the soldiers arrived, she said, "The spies have already gone. If you hurry, you may catch them." So the soldiers ran off to find them.

Rahab house was located just beside the city wall. At night she let out the two men through her window with a rope. "Thank you for helping us," they said. "When we come back, we promise to save you and your family.

### **The Battle of Jericho**

Jericho was a strong and powerful city, but God told Joshua how he could get into the city. "March your army around Jericho with the priests blowing their horns. Do this once a day for six days. On the seventh day, have your army march around the city seven times." Joshua did exactly as God had said.

The priests blew their trumpets. The soldiers shouted loudly as they could. Then the great walls of Jericho came tumbling down. The Israelite army rushed in and took over the city. And the two men ran into the house of Rahab. They kept their promise and helped her and her family get out of town.

## **3) Questions**

1. How many spies did Moses send to the promised land?
2. What did they say when they returned?
3. Why was God angry?
4. How many years did God say they had to wander in the desert?
5. Who was the new leader after Moses?
6. Where did Joshua send two new spies
7. Who helped them?
8. God told Joshua how he could get into the city. What did He say?
9. What can we learn from this story?

## **4) Activities**

- \* Put the pictures in the correct order and retell the story in your own words
- \* March Round the Walls with Joshua - Perform actions that go with the story
- \* Tumble Tower Game - The object of the game is to remove one block each turn from the middle or bottom of the tower and place it on top without knocking over the tower.
- \* Spot-the -difference - find 10 differences between the pictures. Circle them. Colour the picture
- \* Watch a dvd: "Joshua and the Battle of Jericho." (Hanna-Barbera's "The Greatest Adventure: Stories From the Bible".

## **5) Review the lesson aim**

\* To learn about the power of faith and the power of God

- According to ten of the twelve spies, conquering Canaan was impossible. Yet that is exactly what Israel did. God gave the Israelites the power to do what they could never have done by themselves.
- Joshua trusted God; he believed that he could do anything with God's help.
- It is the same with us. If we have faith in God, we can do great things.

## **6) Prayer**

# Joshua & the Battle of Jericho



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**My Book of God**  
Unit 4 - People in the Bible Teach Us

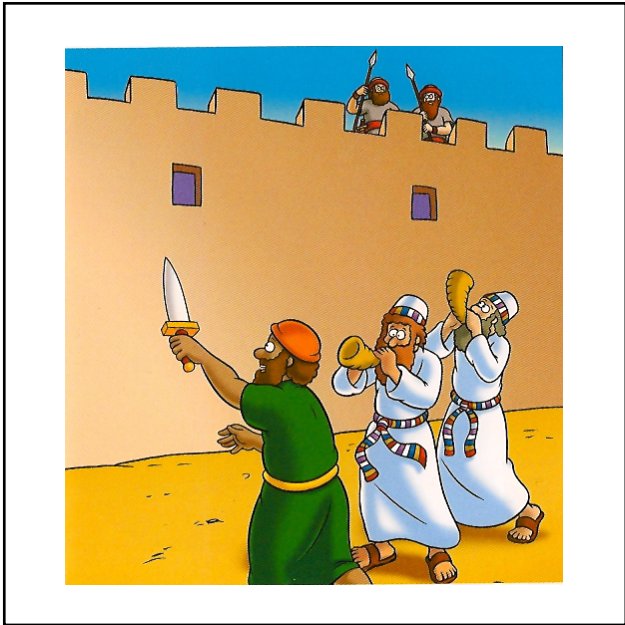
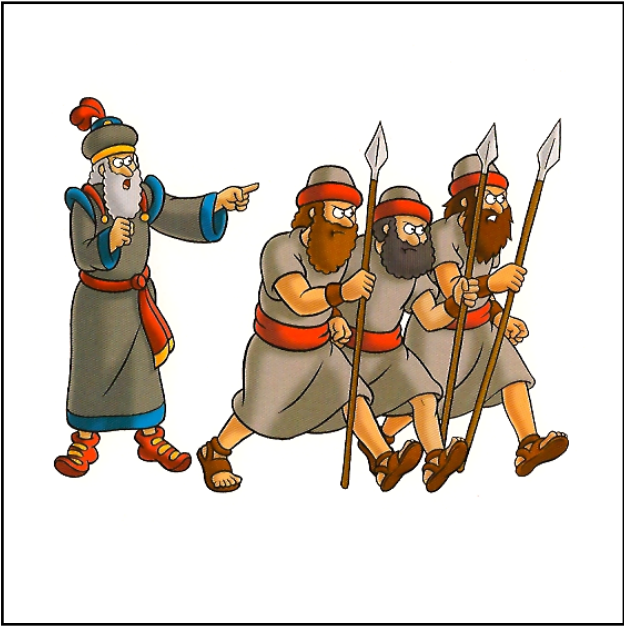
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**Joshua and  
the Battle of Jericho**

10 pairs







**Se!Se!** Här ligger Jeriko! Vilka tjocka murar! Säger Josua



Gör en kikare med händerna

**Knack! Knack!** Han knackar på porten. Men porten är stängd för Josua.



Knacka

**Tramp! Tramp!** Alla marscherar runt stadens murar med Josua.



Marschera på stället

**Tungt! Tungt!** Vi bär på Guds ark när vi går runt stadens murar med Josua.



Låtsas bära något tungt

**Tut! Tut!** Vandas nu djupt och blås högt I trumpeten! Säger Josua.



Blås som I en trumpet

**Schhh! Schhh!** Vi måste vara tysta tills solen går upp, viskar Josua.



Schhh!

**Runt! Runt!** Vi marscherar igen,  
sju varv runt stan, säger Josua



Gör sju varv med fingret i luften

**Ropa! Ropa!** Dags att föra oväsen!  
Nu skriker vi allt vi kan med Josua.



Händerna runt munnen

**Skak! Skak!** Murar börja skaka.  
Vänta tills den faller! Sägar Josua.



Stampa fortare och fortare

**Knak! Brak!** Och muren går i bitar.  
Akta er för stenar! Ropar Josua



Hoppa undan

**Ditåt! Ditåt!** Nu springer vi in i  
stan! Alla följer efter Josua.



Peka

**Tack! Tack!** Dags att tacka Gud  
som hjälpte oss all - och Josua.  
Josua.



Sträck upp armarna



Spot 10 differences



# Background Information

## **The 12 Spies** (Numbers 13:1-33)

At the border of the Promised Land, the people requested that spies be sent to investigate and report upon the land The LORD told Moses to choose 12 men, one from each tribe, to go and spy out the land. Among these were Caleb and Joshua. Their commission from Moses was to report on:

1. the people dwelling there - “strong or weak...few or many”
2. their dwellings and defenses
3. the land itself, its fertility, trees and fruits

They searched the land for 40 days. At Wadi Eshcol (meaning “grape cluster”), they collected pomegranates and figs and a grape cluster so big that it had to be carried by two men on a pole between them. At Hebron, they saw the descendants of Anak, who were so large they were considered giants. They also saw fortified cities.

When the spies returned, they told Moses all they had seen – the great fruits and the fertility of the land, truly “flowing with milk and honey”, but the spies reported that the people were strong, and their cities were fortified, and there were even giants in the land! Ten of the spies agreed that, “We are not able to go up against this people, for they are stronger than we”

But Caleb disagreed and said, “Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it” Joshua supported Caleb’s position as well

## **Spying in Jericho** Joshua 2:1-24

The book of Joshua records Israel’s movement into the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua. The Israelites were camped on the east side of the Jordan River across from the city of Jericho.

Joshua sent two spies to scout the land. In Jericho, they lodged in the home of Rahab. The king of Jericho learned of this and sent men to arrest them.

The people of Jericho had heard what God had done for the Israelites in delivering them from Egypt, and they were afraid. As Rahab put it, “The LORD your God is God in heaven above and on earth below.” She believed that God would help Israel capture her people’s land.

Rahab hid the spies on her roof under stalks of straw. When the king’s men came, she told them that two men had been there, but they had left the city at dark. She encouraged the men of the city to pursue them, saying that they should be able to overtake them.

After the king's men left, she asked the spies to spare her and her family when the Israelites invaded. The men promised to protect anyone in her house. Rahab's house was built into the city wall; the two men escaped out a window. Before leaving, they gave Rahab a scarlet cord to tie to the window so they could identify the house and spare her and her family. The spies returned to Joshua, bringing a good report and stating their confidence that God had given the land into Israelite hands.

## **Crossing the Jordan**

Joshua 3:7-17;4:15-18

The people of Israel were preparing to cross the Jordan River to enter the Promised Land. Joshua commanded the people TO LISTEN TO THE WORDS OF THE LORD because the next morning God was going to do wonders among them.

God told Joshua that when God helped the people to cross the river, Joshua would be exalted in the nation's sight; the people would know that God was with Joshua just as he had been with Moses.

God instructed Joshua that the ark of the covenant, carried by the priests, was to lead the people into the river. When the feet of the priests touched the water, the river parted. This provided dry ground for the Israelites to cross on. The priests stood in the midst of the Jordan until all of the nation had passed over. When they came out of the riverbed, the water began flowing again as before.

## **The Conquest of Jericho**

Joshua 6:1-26

To move into the Promised Land, the people of Israel first had to conquer the gateway city of Jericho. God told Joshua to have all the men of war march around the city once a day for six days. Priests were to carry the ark of the covenant, and seven priests, bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns, were to go before the ark, blowing the trumpets continually.

For the six days, the men were to make no sound. On the seventh, the men were to March around the city seven times. After the seventh circuit, the priests were to make one long blast on the trumpets after which all the people were to shout loudly. The people did as instructed. As soon as the people heard the trumpets, they raised a great shout, and the wall fell down flat. The people charged into Jericho and captured it.

True to the promise of the two spies, Rahab and all within her home were spared.