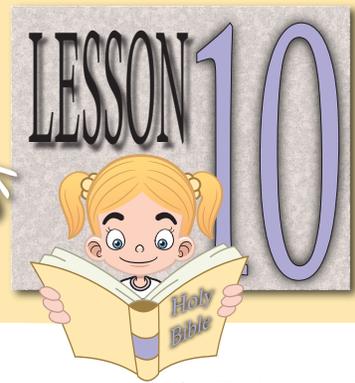


The Battle of Jericho and Rahab

Joshua 1-4



Old Testament 4
Part 2: Joshua Leads God's People

SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 4 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Joshua 1-4; 6; Hebrews 11:30-31; James 2:25

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "...[D]o not be afraid...for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["Rahab and the Spies"](#)
- ["Israel Crosses Jordan into Canaan"](#)
- ["Fall of Jericho"](#)
- ["Walls of Jericho"](#)
- ["Jericho's Falling"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
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- "Summary of the Bible" from ["Kids Prep"](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Joshua A Beka Flash-A-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*)
- [Map of the Conquest of Canaan](#) (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

If I believe that God is with me and will help me, I can deal with my problems and not be afraid.

LESSON STARTS HERE

TEACHING ALERTS:



- Nowhere in Scripture is lying described as an acceptable practice, regardless of the situation. Contrary to what some have asserted about Rahab, the Bible does not indicate that her lie was acceptable to God. For more information on the subject, see the first “Recommended Reading for Teachers” box.

INTRODUCTION (YOUNGER CHILDREN):

In our Bible lesson last week, we learned that Joshua became the new leader of the Israelites after Moses died. Today, we will learn what a mighty and strong leader Joshua was and how God kept His promise to Joshua to help him in everything he did.

INTRODUCTION (OLDER CHILDREN):

Review last week’s lesson.

The Israelites had moved from place to place in the desert for 40 long years. Now it was finally time to move into the land of Canaan, the land God had promised them. They knew they would have to fight many battles against the idol worshippers in Canaan, but God promised that He would help them and that they would beat all their enemies. The first city they came to was Jericho, and God chose a very interesting way for the Israelites to conquer it. He wanted to make sure they knew He was in control, and they could not conquer the new land without His help.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. During the 40 years that the Israelites moved from place to place in the wilderness, Joshua had been Moses’ chief helper. After Moses’ death, Joshua became the leader of the Israelites, taking Moses’ place. God promised to be with Joshua and to help him in everything he did, just as He had been with Moses. God told Joshua never to be afraid of troubles that would come his way, but to be strong and courageous, trusting Him completely.
2. The Israelites camped on the east side of the Jordan River (near Shittim) [shuh-TEEM]. Joshua chose two men to sneak into Jericho, a city on the other side of the Jordan, and look over the city before they attacked it. While the two spies were in Jericho, a woman named Rahab gave them a place to rest and to protect them from the people in her city.



NOTES: Rahab was indeed a harlot, or prostitute. (Children 4th grade and older may be more familiar with the word “hooker.” Use your discretion about these details with your particular age group.) The Hebrew word unmistakably tells us she was one who made her living through immorality. Her life changed drastically after the destruction of Jericho; she was taken in by the Israelites and eventually is mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus Himself, as well as in the books of Hebrews and James as an example of great faith.

Jericho was a very important city in Canaan. Important trade routes probably went through it. It was five or six miles from the north end of the Dead Sea and 15 miles northeast of Jerusalem, in the Jordan River valley, at the foot of the mountains of western Canaan. The city was near the main pass into those mountains, and so it was essential that this city be captured first.

3. The king of Jericho found out that there were two strangers in his city, and he heard that they were at Rahab’s house. The king had heard about the great multitude of people called Israelites who were fighting against many of the neighboring nations, and he was afraid of what the Israelites would do to his city. He sent soldiers to Rahab’s house to find the two spies, but she had hidden them on her roof, under stalks of **flax**.



Flax is a plant used to make linen cloth.

4. When the king’s soldiers couldn’t find the two spies, they left and began searching the countryside. Rahab protected the spies because she believed in God and what He would do through the Israelites. Because of her faith, the spies promised her that she and her family would not be harmed when the Israelites attacked Jericho. She helped them escape by a red rope hung from her window. When the Israelite army came back, Rahab put that same red cord in her window, as a sign that she and her household were not to be harmed.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[Did God Approve of Rahab’s Lie?](#)” by Eric Lyons and “[Situation Ethics](#)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to the idea that God condones sinful behavior in certain situations.

5. The spies went back to Joshua, giving him a good report of what they had seen, and telling him about Rahab’s help. Early the next morning, all the Israelites moved to the edge of the Jordan River and spent the day praying and preparing for the great battle that was to come. The following day, priests picked up the Ark of the Covenant (by poles on each side of the chest, as prescribed by God’s directions) and walked to the edge of the Jordan. As soon as their feet touched the water, the River stopped flowing and bunched up into a heap further upstream so that once again the Israelite army could cross over on dry ground. [The families and livestock remained east of the Jordan (Joshua 1:14).] The priests stood in the middle of the riverbed, holding the Ark of the Covenant, until all the people had crossed. Twelve of the leaders of the tribes (“chief men”) each picked up a large stone from the riverbed and stacked them on the riverside, as a memorial to future generations of the miraculous crossing of the Jordan. When the Israelite men had crossed to the other side, the priests

also crossed over. As soon as the priests stepped out of the riverbed, the waters began flowing once again.

6. The Israelites went on to Gilgal, near Jericho, to prepare for battle and to observe the Passover. While they were camped there, God stopped sending them the manna they had been eating for almost 40 years in the wilderness (Joshua 5:12).
7. When the Israelites were by Jericho, the **Commander of the Lord's Army** appeared to Joshua with His sword drawn (ready for battle) and gave him instructions on how to conquer Jericho.



NOTES: The **Commander of the Lord's Army** in this passage is clearly deity in some human-like (physical) form. The Commander accepted worship (Joshua 5:14)—an act reserved solely for God (Acts 10:25-26; Revelation 19:10; Matthew 4:10). Joshua 5:15 is also similar to Exodus 3:5, where God speaks to Moses from the burning bush, telling him to remove his sandals since he was standing on holy ground.

8. Joshua gave the people their instructions exactly as God gave them to him: seven priests with rams' horns were to march ahead of the Ark of the Covenant, the fighting men of Israel went before the priests, and a rear guard followed the Ark. (This arrangement would have been protection for the priests and the Ark at all times, from the front and the rear.) This group was to circle Jericho one time a day for six days, making no noise at all (no shouting or talking), with only the sound of the trumpets being heard.
9. Beginning early on the seventh day, this same massive group of Israelites marched around Jericho, not one time, but seven times. At the end of the seventh time, Joshua gave the order for all the people to shout as loud as they could. When the trumpets were sounded and the people shouted, the walls of the city of Jericho fell down flat (apparently, except for the wall where Rahab's house was).
10. With the protective walls gone, the Israelite army went into the city and completely destroyed it. Whatever was left after the walls fell down was completely burned. The silver, gold, bronze, and iron articles in the city were taken and put into the treasury of the Lord's Tabernacle, but everything else was supposed to be destroyed.



NOTES: Joshua said that anyone who chose to rebuild the city after the Israelites' victory would do so at the cost of his youngest and oldest sons. Hiel of Bethel rebuilt the city and suffered the effects of that curse (1 Kings 16:34, ASV; ESV; NIV).



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article "[The Principle of Authority at Jericho](#)" on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion on the importance of divine authority and its application to the Jericho incident.

11. Joshua led the Israelites in the battle for Jericho, and many more battles, because he had a strong belief that God would help them overcome their enemies. Joshua was not afraid because he believed there was no problem so big that he and the Israelites could not handle with God's help. He and the people that followed him into battle did what might have seemed impossible to others. If we have that same kind of faith and courage, we too can overcome our problems without fear.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[God’s Just Destruction of the Canaanites](#)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion of why it was just for God to have the Israelites destroy the Canaanites. See the following articles in response to the allegation that the biblical date of the conquest of Canaan contradicts the archaeological evidence:

- “[How Long Was the Israelites’ Egyptian Bondage?](#)”
- “[The Conquest of Canaan: How and When?](#)”
- “[The ‘Period of the Judges’ and a Young Earth](#)”

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[The Battle of Jericho Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Let the children stack large blocks (purchased or shoeboxes) to make the wall of Jericho. Give each child an empty toilet roll tube to use as a trumpet as they walk around the wall.

1st-2nd Graders:

- “[The Capture of Jericho Game](#)”: Write statements from the story on paper trumpets you have cut out. Put the trumpet cutouts on a table or the floor, and have students put them in the correct order. (Students who can read may look up Joshua 6:1-27 if they need help.) ([Click here](#) for black and white version)
- “Walls of Jericho Memory Game”: Cut cardstock into 4 x 6 inch cards. Write review questions and their answers on the cards. Mix up the question cards, then turn them face down in rows. Mix up the answer cards, and turn them face down in separate rows. Let the students take turns turning over pairs of cards to match questions with correct answers.
- “Joshua’s March” game: On a poster board, glue strips of red brick bulletin board border; each strip should be 3-4 inches apart. At intervals on the border, write questions about the Israelites’ march around Jericho. Write the answers to the questions on trumpet cutouts. (Hook-and-loop tape or magnetic tape can be used to connect the answers to the questions.) ([trumpet cutouts](#) provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- “[The Jericho Matching Activity](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[The Capture of Jericho Game](#)”: Write statements from the story on paper trumpets you have cut out. Put the trumpet cutouts on a table or the floor, and have students put them in the correct order. (Students who can read may look up Joshua 6:1-27 if they need help.) ([Click here](#) for black and white version)
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march around Jericho. Write the answers to the questions on trumpet cutouts. (Hook-and-loop tape or magnetic tape can be used to connect the answers to the questions.) ([trumpet cutouts](#) provided in activity sheets)

- Advanced Bible Reader: Have the children read Joshua 1-5. [This could be assigned Sunday, to be completed by Wednesday.] Print out copies of the Joshua 1-5 quiz from AP's [Advanced Bible Reader](#) (ABR) site. Have each of the children take the quiz if they have yet to do so. If you have not already, outside of class, make ABR accounts for each of the children and put their answers into the ABR quiz for each child. Show them their scores in the next Bible class, and explain what ABR is.
- Also have the children read the following:
 - Joshua chapter six
 - *Discovery* article: [May, 2009](#) (“Was Rahab Rewarded for Lying about the Spies?”)
 - *Joshua and the Battle of Jericho*, Kate Davies, Little Simon
 - *Joshua at Jericho*, Connie Wade and Diane Stortz, Rhyme Time Bible Stories, Standard Publishing
 - *The Story of Joshua* book, by Patricia Pingry (DISCLAIMER: Note that the Israelites marched around the city because God commanded it.)
 - *Jericho's Tumbling Walls*, Arch books, Curren
 - *Joshua Crosses the Jordan*, Zonderkidz I Can Read! Series, Bowman
 - *The Fall of Jericho*, Arch books, Gloria A. Truitt
 - *Toot! Toot! The Fall of Jericho*, Hear Me Read Series, Concordia Publishing House, Mary Simon
 - *The Battle of Jericho*, Penny Frank, Lion Publishing (DISCLAIMER: p. 17—Note that soldiers went before the priests and after the Ark.)
 - *Rahab's Red Thread*, Arch books, Eric Rottmann
 - *Joshua the Brave Leader*, by Carine Mackenzie, A Bibletime Book, Christian Focus Publications
 - *Bible Heroes: Joshua*, by Jason Parish, Watertown Press

SONGS:

“RAHAB AND THE SPIES”

Author: Jewel Kendrick

(Words: See *Sing a Story: Volume I*, by Jewel Kendrick)

“ISRAEL CROSSES JORDAN INTO CANAAN”

Author: Jewel Kendrick

(Words: See *Sing a Story: Volume I*, by Jewel Kendrick)

“FALL OF JERICHO”

Author: Jewel Kendrick

(Words: See *Sing a Story: Volume I*, by Jewel Kendrick)

“WALLS OF JERICHO”

Author: Jewel Kendrick

(Words: See *Sing a Story: Volume I*, by Jewel Kendrick)

“JERICHO’S FALLING” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “London Bridge is Falling Down”)

Jericho’s walls did all fall down,
All fall down, all fall down.
Jericho’s walls did all fall down,
When Israel walked around and ‘round.

Once a day for six whole days,
Six whole days, six whole days.
Once a day for six whole days,
With seven priests and the Ark always.

Seventh day, then seven times,
Seven times, seven times.
Seventh day, then seven times,
The priests their trumpets blew each time.

Then the people shouted loud,
Souted loud, shouted loud.
Then the people shouted loud,
And the walls came tumbling down.

Victory over Jericho,
Jericho, Jericho!
Victory over Jericho,
Obey God, and He’ll bless you so!

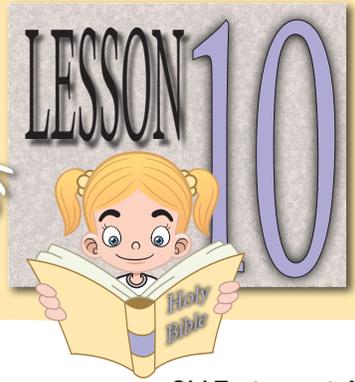
*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE
“SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE
CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



The Battle of Jericho and Rahab

Joshua 1-4



Old Testament 4
Part 2: Joshua Leads God's People

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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OLDER CHILDREN: "Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

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- [Map of the Conquest of Canaan](#) (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

If I believe that God is with me and will help me, I can deal with my problems and not be afraid.

INTRODUCTION:

Review [O.T. 4 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under “O.T. 4 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson (see [O.T. 4 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
2. Continue the discussion about things the children are afraid of, and the need for courage and faith to overcome them. Reassure them that the Lord is with them all the time, always ready to help each child with every problem.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday morning’s lesson
- Let children act out the story

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