

LESSON 3

JOSHUA AND JERICO

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Leads Us

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 5–6

GOD'S BIG STORY: God provides the Israelites with an unusual battle plan and leads them to victory over the city of Jericho, the last major obstacle standing in the way of the Israelites and their new homeland.

WORD OF WONDER: He will keep his covenant forever. He will keep his promise for all time to come.

—1 Chronicles 16:15

- PRESERVICE
 - OPTION 1 Interactive Game: Follow the Leaders
 - OPTION 2 Interactive Game: Let's Make a Sandwich
- Welcome Question: What's your favorite game? Explain how to play it.
- SMALL GROUP
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Psalm 8, Over & Over
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder
- Responding in Worship: King of My Heart
- Blessing Your Kids



SCAN FOR THIS
WEEK'S VIDEO!

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Leads Us

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 5–6

WORD OF WONDER: 1 Chronicles 16:15

When life gets crazy, sometimes I just want to be told what to do. I long for someone to enlighten me on the “right” way to proceed. But when I ask for a friend’s advice, I don’t always take it. Why? Because deep down, I believe my own ways of solving life’s problems are better.

After God faithfully led the Israelites across the Jordan River on dry ground and gave them assurance that they would defeat Jericho, He gave Joshua an unusual battle plan: Walk around the city, blow trumpets, and shout. Although God’s ways are mysterious, the Israelites were learning that His leadership can always be trusted.

Read Joshua 6:1–7, 20–21. Joshua had the Lord’s assurance of success if he followed each instruction. The people followed Joshua’s lead, and the result was a crumbling wall and an overwhelming victory.

- When have you followed God’s lead? What happened?
- When have you failed to follow God’s lead? What happened?
- What is an area in your life you can yield to the Lord’s leadership today?

In good times and bad, we can trust God to lead us. He is a good shepherd with a perfect plan. God led the Israelites, and God leads us too! Thank Him for providing divine guidance in every situation.

—**Suzanne Gosselin**

Children’s Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

This story revolves around God and how He delivered Jericho into Israel's hands. Jericho was famous as a walled city, but God showed that He is stronger than the thickest walls.

WHAT?

Joshua 5–6 shows how God led the Israelites to defeat the army of Jericho. God laid out a plan and the Israelites followed it, marching around the city for seven days. On the seventh day, God brought the walls of Jericho crashing down.

WHERE?

The story takes place at Jericho, which is one of the oldest cities in the world. The city was located on particularly fertile land in Canaan, which made it strategically valuable to the Israelites.

WHEN?

This story takes place immediately after God piled up the water of the Jordan River so that the Israelites could cross on foot (Joshua 3–4).

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

This story shows the central role that God played in defeating Israel's enemies. The Israelites didn't have to tear down the walls themselves. Instead, God brought the walls down for them. Likewise, salvation isn't something we can earn through what we do: It's a gift from God through Jesus!

LESSON 3 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Large Group

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Leads Us

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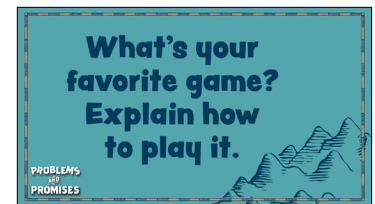
Series Bumper and Countdown Videos

Choose between the [Problems and Promises Bumper Video](#) and [Countdown Videos](#) to introduce the kids to the series.

Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

Before kids arrive, display the [Jericho Welcome Question Slide](#) or write the following question on a whiteboard: “What’s your favorite game? Explain how to play it.” Set out paper and coloring utensils.



As kids arrive ...

Welcome each kid by name. Remember to introduce kids to each other and encourage everyone to introduce themselves when new kids arrive. Point out the Welcome Question and read it to younger kids. Move throughout the room, talking with kids about their favorite board games, outside games, or sports. Encourage kids who enjoy drawing to draw their answers too.

At your start time ...

Greet all the kids excitedly and welcome them to church! Invite 2–3 kids to answer the Welcome Question aloud: **What’s your favorite game? Explain how to play it.**

Directions are pretty important to playing a game, aren’t they? Sometimes, we might want to jump right into the game—before making sure we know what we’re doing. Today, we’re going to learn about some unusual directions God gave His people when they finally arrived in the promised land.

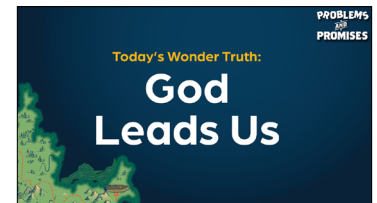
OPTION 1 Interactive Game: Follow the Leaders

Ahead of time, recruit a youth or adult volunteer to be Leader B in this activity. Explain to her that she will lead kids throughout the room in a game of Follow the Leader, except the motions/actions she does will be erratic and difficult for kids to follow. For example, she might do complicated dance moves with jerky, unpredictable motions as she walks/skips/gallops around the room.

Display the [Follow the Leaders Slide](#) and gather the kids. **Let's start today with a game of Follow the Leaders! For this game, we'll have two teams and two leaders.** Help kids divide into two equal teams: Team A and Team B. Explain that you're Leader A and will lead Team A; then introduce Leader B (who you prepped ahead of time), who will lead Team B. Invite kids to line up behind their team's leader. **You'll do your best to follow your team's leader around the room, doing the same motions and actions as she does. Let's get started!** Lead Team A throughout the room, doing simple, clear motions that are easy for kids to follow. At the same time, Leader B will lead her team, doing erratic motions that are difficult for kids to follow. Do not point out the difference in leadership styles—allow kids to notice it themselves.

After about two minutes, swap leaders so that both teams get to experience both types of leadership. Then gather the kids.

What did you notice about Leader A and Leader B? Invite kids to respond freely. **When we follow human leaders, sometimes it goes well. They lead well, and we can follow them well, like with Leader A. But sometimes human leaders don't lead well, like Leader B. God is not like human leaders. God always leads well, and we can always trust Him and His instructions.** Display the [Jericho Wonder Truth Slide](#). Today in God's big story, we'll hear about a time when God gave Joshua and His people good, but unusual, instructions as He led them. Our Wonder Truth for today is **GOD LEADS US**.



Make It Inclusive: If any of your kids have limited mobility, do this activity with kids on Team A sitting in a circle with their leader in the center, doing simple motions that everyone can follow.

OPTION 2 Interactive Game: Let's Make a Sandwich

SUPPLIES: loaf of bread, butter knife, mustard, mayonnaise, sliced cheese, lunch meat, plate, table (optional)

Allergy Caution: This activity includes possible food allergens!

Ahead of time, prepare your sandwich-making area. Using a table or other flat surface, place your ingredients in plain view so everyone in the room can see what you have.

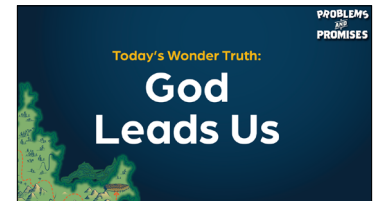
Display the **Let's Make a Sandwich Slide** and gather the kids. **How many of you know how to make a sandwich?** Invite responses. **So, if I asked you to tell me the step-by-step instructions for how to make a sandwich with these ingredients** (point to the sandwich-making ingredients), **you would be able to do that?** Invite responses. **Let's put that to the test! I think we first need some practice. Everyone, find a partner.** Allow time for kids to find partners—groups of three work too. **Practice telling your partner the step-by-step directions for making a sandwich, using the supplies here.** Allow time for kids to practice with one another. After a couple of minutes, choose one kid to come up to the front and give you directions.



OK! I'm ready to listen to your directions. Where do I start? As the directions are spoken, listen to exactly what is being said. For example, if the kid says, "Put the mayo on the bread," set the jar of mayo on the bag of bread. This can get messy and silly very quickly. However, what the kids will realize is that the order of instructions, detail of instructions, and listening carefully are key parts to making this work.

Choose a stopping point for the activity, based on how it's going.

Did you all expect for it to go like that? Pause for responses. **When you gave instructions and I listened, our outcome wasn't always what either of us expected. But when God is the one leading us, we can trust that He is leading us in the best way.** Display the **Jericho Wonder Truth Slide**. Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD LEADS US**.



Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

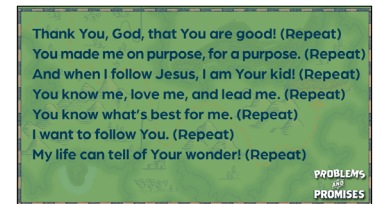
VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is _____ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"

Declaring God's Wonder

Display the [Jericho Declaration Slide](#). Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)
You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)
And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)
You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)
You know what's best for me. (Kids repeat.)
I want to follow You. (Kids repeat.)
My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, thank You for always being with us. Help us to understand that You know what's best for us! And help us desire to follow You all the days of our lives. Please give us ears to hear from You today! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

God knows us, loves us, and leads us! He sees the big picture and invites us to trust Him and follow His good ways. Let's worship Him now through music.

Play [Psalm 8, Over & Over](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

Display the [Jericho Title Slide](#). Share that today's words come straight from the book of Joshua in the Bible. God has led the Israelites through the wilderness for 40 years, and they're finally ready to enter the land God promised them. Invite kids to open their Bibles to Joshua 6. Encourage volunteers to assist the kids.



Let's start by watching part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we'll experience more of the story!

[Watch the God's Big Story Video.](#)

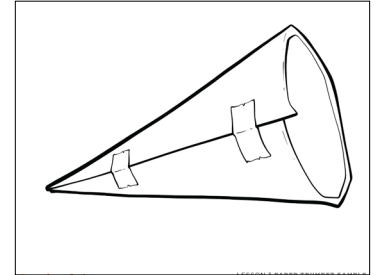
LESSON 3 JOSHUA AND JERICO

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: ark of the covenant from Lesson 2, paper (1 sheet per kid plus 1 extra, coloring utensils, tape, pool noodles (2, optional), shoebox (optional), gold paint (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Ark of the Covenant Sample (optional - from lesson 2)

If you have the [homemade ark of the covenant from the Crossing the Jordan Experience It! Script \(Lesson 2\)](#), have it out and ready to use again. Otherwise, create a homemade ark of the covenant ahead of time, using two pool noodles, a shoe box painted gold, and tape. Consider printing the Ark of the Covenant Sample to see an example.



Ahead of time, prep volunteers to hand out paper and coloring utensils

during the Experience It! Script. Create a sample trumpet by rolling a sheet of paper so that one end is a small, mouth-sized hole and the other end to a large opening. Secure the paper in place with tape.

Hello, everybody! Welcome to another week where we learn about God's promises.

Long ago, God promised that one day He would give the land of Canaan to Abraham's family.

Over many years, this family grew into a whole nation—the Israelites. God rescued them from slavery in Egypt, led them through the wilderness, and finally brought them to the Jordan River. There, God stopped the rushing water so they could cross on dry ground into the land He had promised. The book of Joshua tells us all about it!

After the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, another problem stood in their way. The city of Jericho was surrounded by walls too tall to climb and too strong to easily break down. To capture the city, the Israelites would need God to lead the way!

God sent an angel—the commander of the Lord's army—to tell Joshua how God would lead them to victory. God didn't want the Israelites to break into Jericho or climb its walls. He wanted them to follow a different battle plan.

It's time for us to prepare for the rest of the story! The miracle God was going to do was ... well ... noisy, and it involved a very big wall! So, let's make some noisemakers and draw some walls!

Hand each kid a sheet of paper and coloring utensils. Explain that most of the kids (early and middle elementary) will create trumpets out of their papers and that preteens will decorate their papers to look like sections of a stone or brick wall. (Kids making trumpets will decorate their entire paper before later rolling it into a horn-like cylinder.) Invite kids to decorate their trumpets or walls as you continue the story:

God told Joshua that the priests of Israel, men chosen to serve in God's holy place, should take the ark of the covenant and march around Jericho. God said to do this one time every day for six days with the Israelite army following them. The ark was the gold-covered box that represented God's very presence on earth, so when the Israelite army followed the priests carrying the ark, they were

trusting in God and following Him rather than trying to charge into Jericho on their own. Show kids the homemade ark

Ask kids to put their coloring utensils down. Show them the sample trumpet you made ahead of time. Explain how to make their trumpets by rolling and taping their papers. Have tape ready for them to secure their trumpets. Preteens who have finished decorating their papers to look like brick or stone walls can help younger kids tape their trumpets. Direct kids to hold their trumpets in their laps until your cue.

Make It Inclusive: A loud environment can be difficult for kids with sensory challenges. Consider having kids make noise with their trumpets in smaller groups for the next section. Or consider having them play their trumpets silently but with exaggerated motions.

Your trumpets look great! Let's see what God wanted the Israelites to do. The priests were to blow trumpets made of rams' horns while they circled the city, but the men of the army were to stay silent. They would march around Jericho once a day for six days, and on the seventh day, they would circle it seven times. On the seventh and final lap, the priests would blow their trumpets, the army would shout, and the walls of Jericho would collapse.

To tell the next part of this story, we need the walls of Jericho! Invite preteens to stand shoulder-to-shoulder in the center of the room and to hold up their papers to represent the walls of Jericho.

The Israelites followed God's plan. On the first day, they circled the city once and went back to their camp. On the second day, they got up early and marched around the city again. They did this for six days. Choose several kids to hold the homemade ark and to march around the "wall" of preteens six times, with everyone else marching quietly behind them. After six laps, they can return to their seats. (The "wall" can remain standing.)

Then on the seventh day, the Israelites woke up at dawn and circled the city seven times. As they marched that seventh and final time, the priest blew their trumpets, and Joshua commanded the army, "Shout! The LORD has given you the city!" (Joshua 6:16). Invite kids to march around the "wall" of preteens one more time, following the ark of the covenant.

As they marched that seventh and final time, the priests blew their trumpets! Can you blow your trumpets like the priests did? Allow the kids to blow their trumpets and make some noise.

Aaaaand ... Stop. Allow the room to get quiet.

Joshua commanded the army to shout with all their might! Can you shout and make some noise? Allow the kids to get loud and make noise.

Aaaaand ... Stop. Allow the room to get quiet.

As the sound of the trumpets and shouting people rose together, the mighty walls of Jericho crumbled and fell. Encourage the preteens, who are the "wall," to fall to the ground. Then invite everyone to return to their seats.

The Israelite army entered and easily captured the city. God had led them to victory!

When the Israelites saw the walls of Jericho, they could have given up hope for the land God had promised. They could have tried to rely on their own strength and cleverness to try to capture the city. Instead, they trusted God to lead them. He gave them a plan, and they followed it—around and around they marched. And God kept His promise, bringing the walls of the city tumbling down. God led the Israelites in His way, and God leads us too!

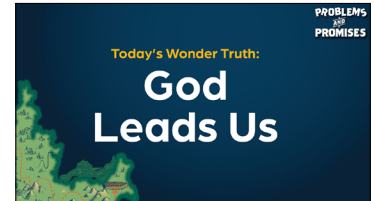
Leader Tip: You'll use the homemade ark of the covenant again during the Kings and Prophets series, so be sure to keep it intact!

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Display the Jericho Wonder Truth Slide.

Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD LEADS US**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

Even though God worked through the Israelites to bring about His plans, it was God—not the strength of Israel's army—who defeated Israel's enemies. The Israelites didn't have to tear down the walls themselves. Instead, God brought the walls down for them. Our sins, or the wrong things we do, build a wall between us and God. But God doesn't expect us to tear down the wall by ourselves! He tears down the wall for us! God sent Jesus to live, die, and rise again so we can be with Him forever—no more walls!



In Awe of God's Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God's story.

What a story! How do you think Joshua felt after he heard God's instructions for how to conquer Jericho? Allow time for kids to really think about Joshua's position.

Based on what God did in this story, how would you fill in the blank? God is _____.

Invite kids to share their ideas with a partner before reporting to the larger group.

Responding in Worship

SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

***Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.

WORSHIP VIDEO: King of My Heart



Blessing Your Kids

Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

Blessing: May God continue to lead you each day. May you recognize God's presence with you and understand His directions for you. May you have the courage to follow God's leading and know how very loved you are!