

LESSON 3

JOSHUA AND JERICO

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Leads Us

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 5–6

GOD'S BIG STORY: God leads the Israelites 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: God keeps His promises forever. —from 1 Chronicles 16:15

Activity: Falling Walls

Activity: Listen to the Leader

Worship

God's Big Story

Snack

Word of Wonder

Prayer and Blessing Activity:

March Around

Activity: Falling Walls

SUPPLIES: blocks or boxes (lots!), ball

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! I'm so glad you're here today. We're learning about how God leads us. Our story will help us learn about how God knocked down some walls so His people could get through a city. Let's knock down pretend walls and get curious about the story!

Have kids work together to build a wall with the blocks or boxes. Then allow the kids to take turns rolling the ball to knock the wall down. Continue to rebuild the wall until all the kids have had a turn to knock it down.

Activity: Listen to the Leader

Now we're going to do another activity to practice following instructions! I'll say an action for you to do together. So, if I say, "Stand up," what do you do? You stand up!

Give kids very simple instructions to follow and encourage them to do what you say:

- Stand up
- Spin around
- Sit down
- Clap
- Touch your head
- Touch your toes

Did you know God is our leader? We'll learn today about how God led His people and did something amazing to help them!

Our Wonder Truth today is: GOD LEADS US.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

- **GOD**—Point up.
- **LEADS**—March in place.
- **US**—Point to self.

Worship

Today we'll learn about how God led His people long ago. God leads us too. Let's sing and thank Him for leading us.

Play songs from the Little Learners Playlist and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, boxes (several)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a person named Joshua. Can you say, "Joshua"? Allow the kids to respond. We'll learn how Joshua and God's people trusted God and how God led them. Let's find out from the Bible how God helped Joshua and the Israelites.

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video, read the story from the Bible, or use the script provided. You can show the Bible Story Picture to give kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

Joshua led God's people toward a city called Jericho. God wanted them to take over Jericho, but there was a problem. There were tall walls all around the city, and all the gates were closed shut. Stack boxes on top of each other.

But God had a plan. God told Joshua what the Israelites should do. The plan probably seemed strange, but Joshua and the Israelites followed God's instructions. On the first day, Joshua and his army marched around the city. On the second day, they marched around the city again. They did this for six days. March around the room while you tell the story and encourage the kids to march with you.

On the seventh day, Joshua and his army marched around the city seven times. Then some of them blew their trumpets and others began shouting. The mighty walls of Jericho fell down. God led His people and helped them win the battle! Let the kids help you knock down the tower of boxes.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

WORD OF WONDER

God keeps His promises forever.

—from 1 Chronicles 16:15

Our Word of Wonder for the Problems and Promises series is from 1 Chronicles 16:15: "God keeps His promises forever."

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **GOD**—Point up.
- **KEEPS**—Spread your right hand out before you from left to right.
- **HIS PROMISES**—Place an index finger on your lips. Move your hand downward and open your palm.
- **FOREVER**—Draw large circles in the air with your index finger.
- **FROM 1 CHRONICLES 16:15**—Open your hands in front of you, like opening a book.

Prayer and Blessing

Let's pray and talk to God and thank Him for how He guides us and how He keeps His promises. God, thank You for Your promise to always be with us and to make a way for us, even when we go through hard times. Help us follow Your Holy Spirit closely. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you go today knowing that God leads you and gives you courage. God keeps His promises, and He promises to always be with you, no matter what you face.

Activity: March Around

SUPPLIES: cone or chair, boxes (optional)

In today's story, we learned that the God told the Israelites to march around the city of Jericho every day for six days. Then the last day, or day seven, they marched around the city seven times. What did God do then? Allow the kids to respond. God made the walls come down! God helped His people. He led them to the land He promised them. God is a great and mighty leader! We can follow and trust Him too. Let's march around in a circle. Follow me and do what I do.

March around the cone or chair and lead the kids to march behind you and follow your lead. You can do silly things, like march in slow motion, or pat your legs as you walk. Invite the kids to mimic your motions. If you have a stack of boxes, after marching around the stack seven times, invite the kids to knock down the stack.