

# 21. Jericho



## BIBLE STORY / REFERENCE

**Joshua 6**  
(summarise earlier chapters of Joshua)

Joshua leads the Israelites into the Promised Land and they conquer the city of Jericho



## AIMS

To encourage the children that God is bigger than the challenges or difficulties they face, and that they can pray to him and ask for help

**The Israelites were only able to conquer Jericho by trusting in God. It seemed like an impossible task, but by following his instructions they were able to succeed.**



## PREP FOR LEADERS

Read through the Bible passages for this session and reflect:

- How do you think Joshua and the Israelites felt when God gave them the instructions about marching round the city?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- How can it encourage us when we face difficult situations?

Take some time to pray for your group.



## GAMES / INTRO ACTIVITIES

Choose one of the following activities to introduce today's theme:

### ▶ Jenga

*You will need: a set of Jenga for every five or six children*

Let the children play a game of Jenga (either in one group or in a few small groups depending on your numbers). They have to take it in turns to remove a brick from the middle of the tower and place it on top, aiming not to make the tower fall.

### ▶ Knock Down The Wall Game

*You will need: paper cups, newspaper*

Stack the cups with four on the bottom, followed by layers of three, two and one. Get the children to stand at a distance and try to knock the cups down by throwing balls of rolled up newspaper at them. See who can be the quickest to knock the whole wall down. Depending on your numbers, the children could all play together with one set of cups, or you could divide them into groups.

### ▶ Multiple-Choice Recap Quiz

*You will need: signs labelled A, B, C and D, blu tack or similar*

Recap the story of Moses by

*(continued overleaf)*

doing a multiple-choice quiz. Stick the signs labelled A, B, C and D up at the four corners of the room. For each question the children have to run to the letter which they think represents the correct answer. (The correct answers are marked in bold.)

Where were the Israelites slaves? A- Canaan, **B- Egypt**, C- England, D- China

How did God speak to Moses when he called him to rescue the Israelites? A- in a dream, B- a voice from the clouds, C- sent him a letter, **D- a burning bush**

How many plagues did God send on the Egyptians because of Pharaoh's stubbornness? A- 6, B-9, **C-10**, D-12

What did the Israelites have to do to be saved during the final plague? **A- kill a lamb and paint its blood around the door frame**, B- hide in a cave, C- fight the Egyptians, D- sing to God

Which area of water did God part to make a path for the Israelites to escape from the Egyptians? A- the Blue Ocean, **B- the Red Sea**, C- the Green River, D- the Lilac Lake

Which of these is NOT one of the commandments God gave Moses and the Israelites? **A- pray to God three times a day**, B- don't worship idols, C- don't steal, D- don't want what other people have

When the Israelites disobeyed God, what did they make to worship? A- a bronze horse, B- a silver snake, **C- a gold calf**, D- a copper elephant

How long did the Israelites have to wander in the desert for because they didn't trust God? A- 40 days, B- 3 years, C- 7 years, **D- 40 years**

What were the names of the two spies who trusted God? A- Joshua and Aaron, **B- Joshua and Caleb**, C- Aaron and Caleb, D- Aaron and Joseph



## EXPLORING THE BIBLE

### ► Recap

If you decided not to use the recap quiz intro activity, briefly recap the story of Moses.

**The Israelites were slaves in Egypt, then God spoke to Moses from the burning bush and asked Moses to lead the Israelite people out of Egypt. Moses had to go to Pharaoh and ask if the people could go free. Pharaoh kept refusing so God sent plagues on the Egyptians. Finally, after the last plague, the Israelites were able to go. Moses led them through the Red Sea towards the land God was leading them to - the land which he had promised to Abraham long before. Along the way God provided food and drink for the Israelites and he gave them his rules for how they should live as his people. When the people finally reached the edge of the Promised Land some spies went in to check out the land but most of them were put off by the people in the land who were big and scary. They thought they would be defeated. Only two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, trusted God enough to believe that he would help them, so God decided they would all have to wander in the wilderness for 40 years before they would be allowed into the land.**

### ► Joshua's Story

*You will need: rams' horns (you can use party horns or you could roll sheets of cardboard diagonally into a horn-like shape and let the children make the noise themselves)*

**The 40 years passed in the wilderness. Eventually the time was up and the Israelites were finally allowed to go into the Promised Land. Moses was a very old man by this point.**

**At the edge of the land he climbed a mountain and from up there he could see across the whole land. God had told him that he would get to see the land but he wouldn't be the one to lead the Israelites into the land, and Moses died up there on the mountain. Joshua, one of the spies who trusted God, was appointed as the new leader of the Israelites and he was able to lead the people into the land.**

**But there was a bit of a problem. The people in the land had heard that the Israelites were coming and they had heard that God was giving the Israelites this land. To get into the land the Israelites needed to get into Jericho which was the main city, but the gates of the city were tightly shut, no one was being allowed in or out of the city, and Joshua didn't know what to do.**

**God spoke to him and gave him some instructions. They seemed very strange and Joshua couldn't see how it would work but he decided to trust God and get the people together ready to follow God's instructions.**

**We're going to act out what happened.**

Get a few children to be the walls of the city by standing in a tight circle with their arms raised. Organise the others to march around them. One could be Joshua, some can pretend to be priests with rams' horns, and any remaining children can be the rest of the Israelite people.

**God told the Israelites to get together and march around the city. That was all they had to do, march round one time and come back to their camp. The priests with the rams' horns could blow on them but no one else was to make a sound. The Israelites did this.**

Get the children to act it out.

**The next day Joshua told them to do the same thing again so**

once again they marched around the city. They did the same thing on the third day and the fourth day and the fifth day and the sixth day. On the seventh day, Joshua said they were going to march around the city seven times. Then he said, "I'll give the signal and the priests with the rams' horns have to give one long blast on their horns. Then everybody has to shout."

**The Bible doesn't say what words they used but we're going to use the words "Jericho for the Lord."**

Get children marching round, blowing horns. You can just let them march round once and get them to imagine they have done it seven times. Then get the priests with the horns to make the sound of a long blast and get the children to shout, "Jericho for the Lord!" As they do, encourage the children representing the walls to fall to the ground.

**As soon as the Israelites shouted, the walls fell to the ground and the Israelites were able to go in and claim the city.**

**God had kept his promise and helped the Israelites get into the land they had been travelling towards for so long!**



## REFLECT & RESPOND

### ► Reflection

**It seems a strange way for God to ask the Israelites to conquer the city. Why do you think that is what God asked them to do?**

**Maybe it was to teach them that they could trust him, and to follow his instructions even if they couldn't see how it was going to work out.**

**Maybe so that the Israelites would know that they didn't**

**conquer Jericho because they had a really strong army but because God was with them, helping them.**

**If we're going to follow God today, sometimes it means we have to trust him when he asks us to do something hard and we have no idea how it will work out. But it also means God is with us and he will help us with all the situations we face, even with things that seem impossible.**

### ► Prayer Activity

*You will need: paper cups, pens*

Get the children to think about a situation that is difficult in their life at the moment, and to think about how it makes them feel. They might feel sad, scared, angry etc. Give them a paper cup and ask them to write or draw that feeling on the cup. Then get them to bring the cups to the front and build them into a wall.

**Sometimes the situations we face can seem impossible, just like the task of getting into Jericho seemed for Joshua and the Israelites, but Christians believe that God is bigger than those situations.**

**Sometimes he transforms situations, like he did for Joshua. Sometimes the situation doesn't change but he helps us to deal with it.**

Get the children to kick the cups over and stamp on them as a reminder that God is bigger than the challenges we face.

Lead them in prayer, asking for his help in the situations they are facing and with the emotions they are experiencing.



## ADDITIONAL IDEAS

► Song – Only A Prayer Away or Our God Is A Great Big God

*You will need: equipment to play music*

These songs tie in well with the theme of today's session. Especially if you have used them before with the group, this may be a good chance to sing them again. You can find them on YouTube at the links below.

Only A Prayer Away:  
[youtu.be/fq\\_BSFkxHys](https://youtu.be/fq_BSFkxHys)

Our God Is A Great Big God:  
[youtu.be/eSTfM8M2Md8](https://youtu.be/eSTfM8M2Md8)