



OLD TESTAMENT: JOSHUA

Lesson 19

BIG IDEA

God directs Joshua on how to conquer Jericho and several other Canaanite cities. They obey and God gives them victory.

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 8

KEY VERSES

Joshua 5-6

• PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

BIBLE SKIT

- Bible
- *Experience Mission will provide a baseball cap and bear ears.*

GAME - STACK AND UNSTACK

- 10 – 20 disposable plates (strong)
- 10 – 20 disposable cups
- 2 tennis balls
- Note: bring extra balls, cups and plates if you anticipate a group of over 30 children

CRAFT - WALLS OF JERICHO

- White construction paper 12 x 18 inches, one per child
- Brown or grey paper rectangles precut 1 x 2 inches, about 30 per child
- Crayons or markers
- Glue
- Red yarn or ribbon, 6 inches per child
- Example of completed craft.
- Optional: Extra scraps of construction paper

WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)



Psalm 8

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



(extend hands to sides)

You have set your glory in the heavens.



(extend hands high)

Through the praise of children and infants you have



("stop" hand)

established a stronghold against your enemies,

To silence the foe and the avenger.



(index finger over lips)

(wiggle fingers both hands)

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,



The moon and the stars which you have set in place,



(point to moon and stars)

What is mankind that you are mindful of them,



(shrug shoulders)

Human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels



(flat hand at waist)

And crowned them with glory and honor.



(make crown with hands)

You have made them rulers over the works of your

hands;



(open hands)

You put everything under their feet:



(stomp feet)

All flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,



(hands like claws)

The birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim

the paths of the seas.



(hands together wiggle like fish)

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



(arms up as if cheering)



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BIBLE LESSON • SKIT

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CAST

TL wearing baseball cap

Bear wearing bear ears

SCRIPT

TL and Bear enter stage

TL Hi Bear. I'm glad to see you today. I want to finish the story about how God led the Israelites to the Promised Land.

Bear You mean they actually get there? They don't goof it up again by complaining?

TL That's right.

Bear They actually listen to God this time?

TL They do. And before I finish the story, I want to play a game with you and the kids. It's a simple game that you may have played before called Simon Says.

Bear That's a fun game! If you say "Simon Says jump" then I have to jump. But if you don't say "Simon Says, and you only say "jump" then I don't jump. Right?

TL That's right. And if you do something that Simon doesn't say then you're out. Let's play it for a few minutes with the kids! (Play Simon Says several rounds beginning with simple commands like clap, shake head, wiggle fingers, jump, wink, etc. Mix in commands that come from the bible story: Simon Says eat manna. Simon Says march in place. Simon Says blow trumpet. Simon Says shout.)

TL That was fun! Now, listen carefully to the story, there may be a moment when Simon speaks again! Now, the Israelite's punishment is all finished, they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, and the next generation is ready to follow Joshua's lead.

Bear Oh yah. Joshua is the new leader now after Moses died. Moses was sure amazing. It will be hard for Joshua to follow in his footsteps.

TL You're right, Bear. After Moses died, God spoke directly to Joseph to prepare him for the role he would play. He said, "I will give you every place you walk on. No one will be able to stand up against you as long as you live. I will be with you. I will never leave you. So, be strong and brave, do not lose heart. I am the Lord your God."

Bear That's a pretty neat promise that no one would be able to stand against Joseph for his while entire life! Wow!



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TL Yah, it's a good reminder that it's only by God's strength that his people can do anything at all. He only asks that his people obey. Last time our story ended with the two spies who went to Jericho and found that the people there were already terrified of the Israelites and their God.

Bear And that lady who lived high on the city wall helped them hide and then escape.

TL That's right. Rahab helped them, and in today's story, they will help her. The very next morning, after the two spies gave their report, Joshua had the people of Israel move up to the Jordan River. The leaders went through the camp telling the people to follow the priests and the Covenant box.

Bear Uh, TL. I'm sorry to interrupt, but what is a Covenant Box?

TL That's a great question, Bear. Back when God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him Ten important Commandments, many other special rules for the Israelites, and some specific instructions on how to build a special tent to worship God. Inside that tent God had them put the Ten Commandments in a special box, it's sometimes called the Ark of the Covenant or the Covenant Box. It was a beautiful box, covered with pure gold and it had two angel wings on the lid. Only the priests were allowed to move the Covenant Box.

Imagine now that all the people have packed up all their belongings, including tents, clothes, livestock, and everything else, and they are waiting behind the priests at the edge of the Jordan River. It was harvest time and the river was very high. But, when the priests stepped into the water it stopped flowing and made a big pile upstream. The priests stood in the middle of the dry riverbed with the Covenant Box and all the people crossed to the other side. Simon Says march in place! (Allow time for kids to march then sit down). When they were safely across, Joshua chose twelve men and said to them, Then the priests came out of the river and it returned to normal.

Bear Why did they take 12 rocks?

TL Joshua took those 12 big stones that had been in the Jordan river and he set them up in a pile in a place called Gilgal. He said, "When your children ask you what these stones mean, tell them what happened here. Tell them that the Lord your God dried up the Jordan for you, just as he dried up the Red Sea. Then everyone will know that the Lord is a mighty God, and you will honor the Lord forever." The people knew that God was with them and that Joshua, was a good man and they honored him. The next day they were able to eat food from the fields of Canaan for the first time. The manna stopped falling and they never had any more.

Bear Gee, that must have been really nice. Didn't they eat manna for 40 whole years?

TL That's right. Many of the Israelites were born during those 40 years and manna was



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about the only food they had ever eaten! I'm sure they were thrilled to eat other things, they may have had grapes and grain and olives from the fields. Now remember, the people inside the city of Jericho were very worried. They closed up the gates of the city from the moment the spies had escaped. They thought their big city walls would save them, but God had other plans. He told Joshua, "I have delivered Jericho into your hands." He told Joshua to have seven priests with trumpets march ahead of the priests carrying the Covenant Box and the rest of the soldiers were to march behind quietly.

So Joshua and the people obeyed. They marched around the city one time then returned to their camp for the night. Simon Says march! Simon Says sit. Each day for six days Joshua and his men marched around the city of Jericho one time making no sound except for the trumpets. Simon Says march! Simon Says blow your trumpets! Simon Says sleep! Simon Says march! Simon Says blow your trumpets! Simon Says sleep! (repeat 6 times total quickly) But on the seventh day they got up at sunrise and marched around the city seven times. On the seventh time Joshua said, "Shout! The Lord has given you the city! So the priests blew one long trumpet blast and all the soldiers gave a huge shout and the walls of Jericho fell down! Simon Says march, blow trumpets and shout!! (Let the kids make noise then have them sit down)

Bear Wowsers! I didn't see that coming. I was starting to wonder if the soldiers would be too tired to fight after all that marching.

TL It was another of God's acts of power. That day the Israelites conquered Jericho and captured the city. Only Rahab and her family were rescued when the two spies went to the house with the red cord tied to the window. They kept their promise to her.

After the city was captured Joshua warned the soldiers, "Don't take anything from the city. Everything metal must be set apart for the Lord. But if anyone takes something for himself he will bring trouble on all of Israel. Joshua put the silver and gold and things made from bronze and iron into the treasury of the Lord's house. The Lord and Joshua became famous through the whole land of Canaan. Jericho was just one city in a very large area. The Lord helped them conquer many other cities.

There was one city called Gibeon, they tried to make a peace agreement with the Israelites. This caused a king named Adonizedek to make agreements with five other cities and fight against Gibeon. So the people of Gibeon begged Joshua to help, so Joshua and his army marched all night and made a surprise attack. God helped them defeat the enemy by sending large hail stones and by causing the sun to stand still.

Bear Causing the sun to stand still? How would that help? Did the enemies get sunburned or something?

TL No, not sunburn, silly Bear. The sun standing still is another way of saying that God gave the Israelites more time to fight. He kept the sun in the sky to give them plenty



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of day light to finish the battle. They were victorious in every battle, because the Lord was fighting for them. The Lord used Joshua to lead the Israelites and they were able to conquer the land of Canaan, the land God had promised.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who was the next leader after Moses died?
- What character quality did God tell Joshua to have?
- How was Joshua able to be strong and courageous?
- When have you had to be strong?
- When have you had to be courageous?
- Can you be strong and courageous on your own?
- How were the Israelites soldiers able to make a giant, stone wall fall down without even touching it?



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CRAFT

Lesson 19

• CRAFT •

OBJECTIVE: WALLS OF JERICHO

Kids will make the walls of Jericho.

DIRECTIONS

Have the kids experiment with the best way to create a wall using the small rectangles on the white paper. Leaders may want to give some tips on how to stagger the rectangles and cutting some in half to use on the ends of some rows (think of how bricks are laid).

Have the kids leave a window near the top of their wall.

Glue rectangles down to white paper.

Tie the red yarn or ribbon into a bow and glue to the window of the wall.

Color green grass at the base of the wall and blue sky behind and above.

Optional: Draw, cut and glue priests with trumpets or soldiers marching around the wall.

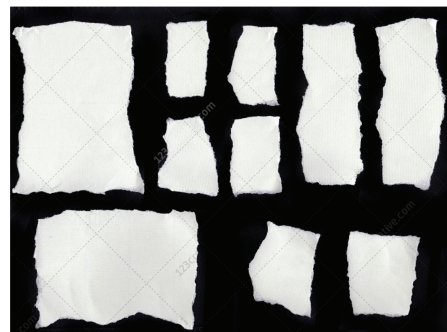
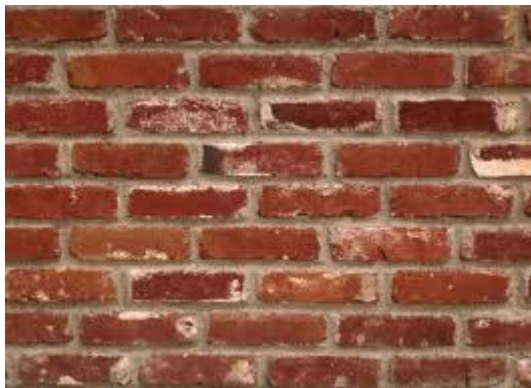
MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Scissors, staplers, rulers, hole punches

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- White construction paper 12 x 18 inches, one per child
- Brown or grey paper rectangles cut or torn 1 x 2 inches, about 30 per child
- Crayons or markers
- Glue
- Red yarn or ribbon, 6 inches per child
- Example of completed craft.
- Optional: Extra scraps of construction paper

EXAMPLE





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GAME

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• GAME •

OBJECTIVE: STACK AND UNSTACK

Kids will stack and unstack cups and plates to be the first team complete.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- 10 – 20 disposable plates (strong)
- 10 – 20 disposable cups
- 2 tennis balls
- Note: bring extra balls, cups and plates if you anticipate a group of over 30 children

DIRECTIONS FOR BALLOON HOT POTATO

Set up two even teams of players in lines facing one another with about 20 feet between. In the place two piles of cups and plates to stack up.

Each team will be given one ball.

The first player from each team will run down to the middle where their equipment is, and stack the plates and cups alternating them, having the cups face down, and then run back and tag the next person.

The next person will run down and unstack them and run back to tag the third person.

The first team to get through all the players wins.

THE BALL: Anyone from another team has the option of using their ball to try to knock down the other team's stacked pile to set them

behind. This is done only by the next

person in line, on their turn, they cannot go do their task until the person behind them has

retrieved the thrown ball and brought it back to the group. If a team's cups

are knocked down, the person that stacked them has to return and do it

again. So the strategy becomes do you knock down someone else's

stack or focus only on your team's progress and play it

safe.

Game Options

Play Stack and Unstack without the ball the first round. Introduce the ball on the second round.

This game can be played with more than two teams if your group is large. Consider making 3 or 4 even teams. (You will need more cups, plates and balls).

Remind kids to throw the ball gently.



