LESSON 4

JERICHO'S WALLS FALL DOWN



Aim: **To show the children that obedience to God's commands is better than making our own plans.**

Scripture Reading: **Joshua 6:1–21**

Memory Verse: **Hebrews 11:30**
By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

This lesson gives the children the opportunity to perform the actions as the teacher tells the story, but this requires some preparation beforehand.

PRACTICAL PREPARATIONS

1. **In the middle of the place where the class meets, mark out a circle or use a table to represent Jericho. The children will walk around this "city". If this is not possible the whole building can be Jericho and the class can walk around it.**
2. **Tie a box onto two poles so that the children can carry it on their shoulders. This must represent the ark of the covenant. Four children acting as the priests will carry it.**
3. **Bring along to class seven pieces of paper about the size of an exercise book. Roll them up to make the priests' trumpets.**

Introduction

Explain to the class that today they are going to be the people of Israel who obeyed God's commands and captured the strong city of Jericho. Show them where you have arranged Jericho to be, then choose your actors:

* four children to carry the ark of the covenant
* seven children to be the priests who carried the trumpets
* several children to be the soldiers who walked behind the ark of the Lord.

You must play the part of Joshua.

MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. **Recount in your role as Joshua how God instructed you to take the city of Jericho.** It was a well defended city with strong walls around it. But if we obeyed God's plan I knew we could overcome any obstacle (6:12).

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2. **Describe the instructions.** Once a day for six days the people of Israel had to walk around the city in a procession in the following order:

* the seven priests blowing their trumpets
* the four priests carrying the ark of the covenant
* the Israelite soldiers, who had to keep completely quiet.

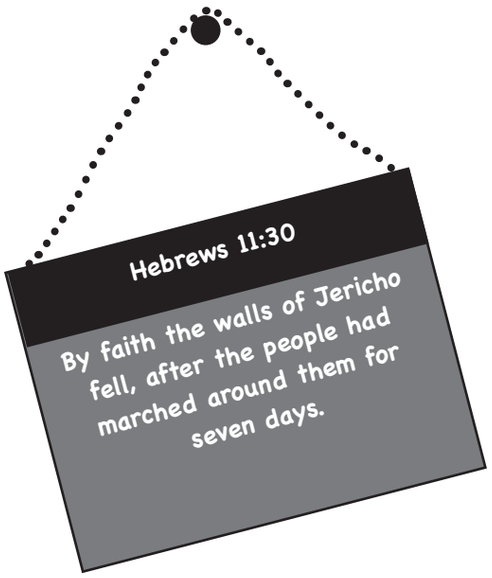
Act this out with the actors you have chosen (6:6-14).

3. **Explain the action on the seventh day.** The priests and soldiers walked around Jericho six times as the Lord had instructed them. On the seventh day, when the trumpets sounded a long note, Joshua gave the order, everyone shouted and the walls fell down.
   Act this out with the class. They can clap their hands to make the noise of the walls falling down. Sing a song of praise as they return to their seats (6:15-16, 20).
4. **Show Picture 4. Point out the priests, the ark of the covenant, the Israelite soldiers, the walls of Jericho.** To the Israelites the ark of the covenant was the sign that God was with them and that the battle and its outcome belonged to him.
5. The Israelites were not to take anything from Jericho for themselves. All of it belonged to God. Of all the inhabitants only Rahab and her family had to be saved. Rahab had welcomed and protected the spies Joshua had sent to Jericho. **Show Rahab's house, marked by the red rope in the picture (6:17-19; 2:15-18).**

Our Response to the Story

The battle of Jericho was not won in the usual way. God wanted Israel to prove that they would live in obedience to him in the Promised Land. Obeying God often means behaving different from what people might expect. Sometimes following God's instructions looks like foolishness to others!

Discuss practical examples of this kind of different behaviour: being honest, not cheating in exams, not keeping money that we saw someone else drop, etc.



Instil the Memory Verse

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