



## K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson

### Review

- Refer to Lesson 64 Flip Chart. Remember how Joshua sent two spies into Jericho? Who helped the spies hide from the king's men? *Rahab.*

Refer to Lesson 65 Flip Chart. After that, the Israelites had to cross the Jordan River while it was flooded!

- What did God do so they could cross the river? *He stopped the water.*

As soon as the priests stepped into the water, it stopped flowing, and the ground dried up. All the people walked to the other side on dry ground.

- What did Joshua do to help the people remember this miracle? What memorial did he set up? *12 stones.*

Before we begin today's lesson, we're going to play an obedience game. I need a volunteer. Choose a volunteer to stand beside you. I'm going to give you some instructions. You have to decide if you are going to obey and do it or not. Give the volunteer a simple command that doesn't make much sense, such as open and close the door three times, put a book on the floor and jump over it, draw a smiley face on the board then erase it, spin around three times, etc. If the volunteer obeys, give a candy or other prize. Repeat with other volunteers if there's time.

Some of the things I said to do were a little strange, weren't they? You probably didn't understand why I told you to do those things. But we were just playing a game to help us get ready for our lesson. Today, we'll see how God gave the Israelites some strange instructions, too. Would they obey even if they didn't understand? Let's find out.

### God's Strange Instructions

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. With the Jordan River behind them now, Joshua looked ahead to the city of Jericho with high walls all around. It would be hard for anyone to attack this city. So how would Joshua and his men ever capture Jericho? Hmm. This would take some real planning.

But God didn't leave it up to Joshua to come up with a plan on his own. God already knew what he would do. The commander of the Lord's army appeared to Joshua—it was Jesus holding a sword. Joshua fell down and worshipped him. Jesus told Joshua how he should attack Jericho. But these instructions were different; they weren't normal battle plans!

- What were some normal ways armies attacked a walled city back in Bible times? Does anyone have a guess? *Allow discussion.*

When an army attacked a city like Jericho, there were a few ways they usually did it. They could surround the city and keep the people trapped inside until they gave up, or the army could dig under part of the wall until it fell down—but that plan was very dangerous for the people who had to do the digging. Some armies would pile dirt next to the walls to make a ramp and try to go up and over, or they would use giant catapults to throw rocks at the walls and break them down. The problem with these ideas is that they all took a long time, and they didn't always work right. The army could still lose the battle even after all their hard work!

God didn't want the Israelites to depend on their own ideas and come up with their own plan. He wanted them to trust him and obey. Let's read what he told Joshua to do.

### Joshua 6:3

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's look in Joshua, chapter 6. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Joshua 6:3.

- What did Jesus tell Joshua and the people to do for six days? *March around the city.*

Joshua and his army were told to march around the city while the priests carried something.

- Refer to the Flip Chart. What do you think they carried? *The ark of the covenant.*

The priests were commanded to carry the ark of the covenant to remind the people that God was with them. They also had to blow seven trumpets, or horns, as they and the army marched around the city once every day for six days.

### Joshua 6:4-5

What were the instructions for the seventh day? Listen to this. Read Joshua 6:4-5.

- How many times were they supposed to march around the city on the seventh day? *Seven times.*
- Then the priests would blow their trumpets long and loud, and the army would shout. What would God do to the city walls so the army could run in and take the city? *God would make the walls fall flat.*
- That would be amazing to see! But were these instructions like the normal battle plans we talked about? *No.*

### Joshua's Obedience

Refer to the Flip Chart. These plans probably seemed strange to Joshua and his army. But Joshua had faith in God, and he and the people obeyed. They rose early every morning and marched once around the city of Jericho while the priests carried the ark and blew the trumpets. Then they returned to their camp.

- How many days did they march once around the city? *Six.*

Everyone stand up and march right where you are. Let's count as we do the motion for each day. Raise your arm up and down like the sun rising and setting. Cross arms in front of you with the right arm on top of the left arm. Point right index finger and raise the right lower arm at the elbow at a 90° angle then lower it to rest on top of the left arm. Count together "first day, second day, etc." while marching in place and making the hand motion for six "days" then sit back down.

### Joshua 6:16, 6:20

Now let's find out what happened on the seventh day. Read Joshua 6:16 and 6:20.

The people who lived in Jericho were probably nervous and wondered what those crazy Israelites were doing just walking around the

city blowing noisy trumpets instead of trying to dig under the walls or climb over them like other armies would.

When the seventh day came, the Israelites marched around the city seven times just as they were told to do. Let's count together. Point to the numbers on the Flip Chart as you count to seven together.

The priests blew the trumpets long and loud and Joshua's army shouted.

- What did God do when the army shouted? *He made the walls fall down flat so the army could capture the city.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. The city was on a hill, so climbing the hill and going over the walls would be hard to do. But God flattened the walls and made them crumble into pieces so Israel's army could run straight up and into the city. Isn't that amazing? God's plan worked perfectly!

### Rahab's Rescue

- What about Rahab? What do you think happened to her? *Allow guesses.*

### Joshua 6:25

Let's find out what happened. Read Joshua 6:25.

Joshua remembered the promise the spies had given to Rahab to keep her and her family safe in the battle.

- What did Rahab hang from her window so the Israelites would know where she was? *A scarlet (red) cord.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. Yes, she tied a scarlet cord in the window of her house. This bright red cord would be easy to see. Joshua sent the two spies to get her and her family and bring them out to the Israelites' camp.

Wow! God's mighty power brought down the huge walls of Jericho. God's plan may have seemed like a strange way to attack a city, but God showed the Israelites that he was fighting for them. He helped them win in a way that only he could do. They just had to trust him and obey his instructions no matter how strange they seemed. And God was faithful to do what he promised—to help the Israelites win the battle and conquer the city of Jericho.





Joshua **OBEYED**  
God's plan.