

Josh and the Big Wall



What is the STORY about?

After forty years of wandering in the desert, the children of Israel finally get to go to the Promised Land! Only one little thing they've overlooked... Jericho! Surrounded by large walls and bristling with annoying peas, Jericho is the only way to get to the Promised Land! But how? Joshua has God's directions, but they sound kind of... well, weird. To make matters worse, some of the Veggies are cooking up a plan of their own! In the end, they have to decide whether it's better to do things their way, or God's way!

- A Lesson in Obedience
- Key Passage: Joshua 5-6
- Running time: 22 minutes



What do you THINK?

- Why were the Israelites wandering in the desert for forty years? (They didn't always obey God)
- When Moses died, who became the new leader of the Israelites? (Joshua)
- Who gave Joshua the directions about bringing down the walls of Jericho? (A messenger from God)
- How did some of the Israelites want to knock down the walls? (They wanted to use their homemade rocket)
- What were the Israelites supposed to do to make the walls come down? (March around the walls once a day for six days and on the seventh day, march seven times, blow trumpets and shout after the seventh time)



What does the BIBLE say?

The story of Joshua and the city of Jericho can be found in Joshua 5 and 6. Read the story in a translation that is easy to understand OR tell it in this condensed version.

With Moses as their leader, God's people, the Israelites, wandered in the desert for forty years after fleeing from Egypt. When Moses died, Joshua became the new leader to take them to the Promised Land. A "Commander of the Lord's Army" appeared to Joshua when they were near the city of Jericho... a city that God had promised to his people. He told Joshua to march with his army and the ark (a special wooden chest that the Israelites had carried with them for the last forty years) around the city of Jericho one time every day for six days. On the seventh day, they were to march around the city seven times and instruct the priests to blow their trumpets as they march. When they heard the long blast, all the people were instructed to shout. Then the walls of Jericho would crumble, and the city would be theirs.

So the Israelites walked around the city of Jericho with the ark each day, blowing their trumpets as they marched, but not saying a word as Joshua commanded them. On Day 1 they circled the city and again on Day 2 Day 3, Day 4, Day 5, and Day 6. Then on Day 7, the Israelites got up at dawn and marched around Jericho just as they had before. But on this day, they marched around the city seven times. On the seventh time around, Joshua gave the command for the priests to blow their trumpets and the people to SHOUT! And when the trumpets sounded and the people shouted, the walls of Jericho fell. Joshua obeyed the Lord's instructions, and he gave the Israelites the city of Jericho... just as he promised.

The Story of Joshua



ACTIVITY

After reading the story of Joshua to the children, help them build a tall city of blocks in the middle of a large area. Instruct the children to sit in a circle around the city as you retell the story, and then have them participate as you read the part about the Israelites marching around Jericho. Supply each child with a kazoo, party horn, or other inexpensive noisemaker OR instruct the children to clap loudly and make a lot of noise for the last march around the city as they knock down the walls.



What can we DO?

God wants us to be obedient to him, to our parents, to our teachers, and to those in authority over us. Initiate conversation about obedience with the following questions:

- *Can you think of a time when your friends wanted you to do something that you knew your parents would not want you to do?*
- *Have you ever convinced someone else to do something that you knew was wrong?*
- *How do you feel when you are punished for not doing something your parents or teacher asked you to do or for doing something you were not supposed to do?*

Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **LUKE 11:28** "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."
- **JOHN 14:23a** "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching."
- **EPHESIANS 6:1** "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."

3 Things to remember about Joshua

1. Joshua was **OBEDIENT** to God's instructions
2. His army **MARCHED 7 TIMES** around Jericho as God directed
3. The **WALLS OF JERICO** **CRUMBLLED**

KEY VERSE

(2 Samuel 22:31) "As for God, his way is perfect."

KEY NUGGET

Following God's direction and obeying him is always the best way.





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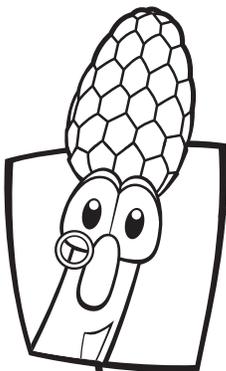
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DIRECTIONS:

Unscramble the words below using the hints given. Then answer the following question by placing the letters in their correct place!

Where were the children of Israel going?

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|--|
| ○ _ _ _ _ _ | SMSIROEP | (God always keeps these) |
| ○ _ _ _ _ | RYMA | (A group of people who marched) |
| ○ _ _ _ | NSHOR | (Loud instruments) |
| ○ _ _ | HRCAM | (Something an army might do. Also the name of a month!) |
| ○ _ _ _ _ _ | EISSTLIAER | (God's people) |
| ○ _ _ _ _ | HOSJUA | (The leader of God's people) |
| ○ _ _ _ | YOEB | (What God told Joshua to do) |
| ○ _ _ _ _ | DSTEER | (Where God's people wandered for 40 years) |
| ○ _ _ _ | WLLA | (This came crumbling down!) |
| ○ _ _ | EAPS | (In the video, these were the guards) |
| ○ _ | EESNV | (Number of times the Israelites marched around the wall) |
| ○ _ | OGD | (He's always in control) |



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MEMORY VERSE

"As for God, his way is perfect."

- 2 Samuel 22:31

Answers
promises, army, horns, march, Israelites,
obey, desert, wall, peas, seven, God
MAIN Answer: Promised Land