



3rd & 4th

Unit 6 - Promised Land

Story 15.B - Jericho (Joshua 2-6)

INTRODUCTIONS - Introduce yourself and consider having students do the same if you have children new to the group. Fill out the top of the Roster and take attendance.

BIBLE TIME - Have kids open their bookmarked Bibles (**Joshua 3**).

(Summary of missing text: Before the Israelites could go to Canaan, they would need to cross the Jordan river during a season where it was flowing very high. God had another miracle in hand to help them.)

Read Joshua 14-17

Who went ahead of the people? (The priests who were carrying the Ark of the Covenant.)

When their feet touched the water, what happened to it? (It stopped flowing further up the river so that the land was dry.)

Where did the priests stand while the people crossed over? (They stood in the middle of the riverbed while the people walked by to keep the river dry. *God had told them that the river would stay dry as long as the Ark of the Covenant was on the riverbed.)

What other time did God do something similar for his people? (When they were escaping from Pharaoh through the Red Sea.*Note: That time they were escaping from an army that had conquered them. This time they were the conquering force.)

Read Joshua 4:8-13

What did the 12 men pick up from the river? (They each took a stone as they were commanded.*God had told Joshua to bring the 12 stones from the river so they could stack them up to make a memorial that would help them remember what God had done for them.)

Who went ahead when they crossed the river? (The men who were prepared for battle went first.)

Why do you think the 40,000 men who were ready for battle went first? (Most likely because they were entering enemy territory. The Canaanites were not their friends and might be waiting for them on the other side of the river.)

(Summary of missing text: Once the priests came out of the water, the river began to flow again and filled the riverbanks again. The people camped on the eastern border of Jericho and stacked up their 12 stones to remember this miracle by.)

Read Joshua 5:13-15

Who did Joshua see near Jericho? (He saw the 'commander of the Lord's army'.)

What did Joshua do when he realized that the man was a messenger from the Lord? (He fell down with his face to the ground.)

What did the man command Joshua do and why? (He told him to take off his sandals because the place he was standing on was holy ground.)

Read Joshua 6:1-5

What was happening in Jericho? (The gates were shut tight because they knew the Israelites were coming. No one could go in or out.)

How did God tell them to win the war? (He told them to march around the city one time each day for six days. On the seventh day they were to march around seven times while the priests blew their horns. When the whole army gives a shout, the walls will fall down.)

What do you think was surprising to the Israelites about this plan? (Usually a battle is won by fighting, not by marching in circles.)

God helped his people win many many battles throughout the time of the old testament, but this first one was by far the strangest one. **How do you think it helped the Israelites to win this first battle in such an amazing way?** (It likely showed the people of Israel and the Canaanites that God was with them. People would have seen or heard of this event and known that God was fighting for them. *Throughout time, trumpets have been used to announce the entrance of a very important person, such as a king. This time the trumpets announced that God was going to show up in a big way.)

Discussion Extension: Read Joshua 6:23 & Matthew 1:1-5

Matthew begins his book with a genealogy of Jesus. Are most of the names listed men or women? (mostly men, with a few women mentioned)

Why is it remarkable that Rahab is mentioned directly? (She was a Canaanite who lived a life that was not in keeping with God's commands. Until the fall of Jericho, she lived her life in sin, but when the time came to choose, she chose God.)

Rahab is an early example in the Bible that God's plan was to create a people for himself, and that the blessing given to Abraham would be open to people who were born outside of his family. How is the way that we become adopted into God's family similar to how Rahab did it? (Rahab became a part of God's family because she believed in the one true God, just like we believe in Jesus!)

Preview Next Week: This week we learned about how God fought for his people when he made the walls of Jericho fall down. Next week we'll see another example of how God continued to be with his people and fight for them.

CRAFT: JERICHO POP UP- Hand each kid a pop up sheet. Show them how to glue the sheet in order to make the pop out. Have the kids glue the red string to one of the walls and write "And again, "I will put my TRUST in him. ~Hebrews 2:13" on the ground in front of the trumpeters.

MEMORY VERSE - Practice the verse together using one of the activities on the Memory Game List.

Unit 6 Memory Verse: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. ~ Psalm 23:1-2

PRAYER

Ask the group if they have any prayer requests before leading the kids in prayer.

COMMUNITY & SNACK TIME

Hand out snacks, and water. This is an intentional time to create a sense of community within the group. Sit at the table with the kids and encourage conversation as they eat. If you have extra time, consider playing one of the community building games from the list.