

Jericho Falls

Sunday Plan

SCRIPTURE

Joshua 6

MEMORY VERSE

Joshua 6:20

OPTIONAL VIDEO

The Walls of Jericho

<https://southside.cc/163-201>

When God says walk, you walk.

For the Teacher

Read this before you teach. Last week the kids met Joshua at the edge of the Jordan, terrified, and heard God promise to go with him. Today they get the first thing on the other side of the river — a fortified city named Jericho — and the strangest battle plan in the Bible. No siege engines. No assault. Just walking. Once a day for six days. Seven times on the seventh. Then a shout. Then the walls come down.

KEY TRUTH

When God says walk, you walk.

The plan makes no military sense, on purpose. Jericho is a real walled city — the kids should picture it, not as cartoon walls, but as a stone city the Israelites have no equipment to break. God's instructions in Joshua 6:2–5 are not a strategy. They're a test. Marching, silence, trumpets, waiting — none of it knocks down walls. Obedience does. The whole point of the unusual command is that when the walls fall, no one can claim it was the army that did it.

Victory comes after obedience, not before. Don't miss the order in 6:20. The people obey first. They walk for seven days. They blow the trumpets. They shout. *Then* the wall falls down flat. God doesn't prove the plan first and ask them to obey after. He asks them to obey, and the proof comes on the seventh day. That's the whole shape of the Christian life in one chapter.

Where this connects. Last week the bottom line was *God goes with you, so be brave* (Q3L1). This week the kids learn what bravery looks like in practice — *doing what God says even when it sounds ridiculous*. Joshua had to be brave to lead. The whole army had to be brave (and patient, and quiet) to obey. Same God going with them; same kind of trust required.

What we're skipping and why. Chapter 6 also covers Rahab and her family being spared (6:22–25), and the curse on whoever rebuilds Jericho (6:26). Both are good material but they're follow-up details — the chapter's spine is the seven-day march and the wall coming down on obedience. Stay there. Rahab's story stands on its own and doesn't need to be wedged in.

Repeat the bottom line all morning. Say it at least six times. Have the kids say it back. Write it on the board. End with it.

MATERIALS

- Bibles for every student
- Whiteboard or large paper, markers
- Pencils, crayons or colored pencils
- Index cards
- Activity sheets (printed in advance from this week's activities — pick what you'll use)

1. Gather

Welcome the kids and have them sit together. Tell them last week Joshua was scared at the edge of a river — this week he's leading two million people right up to the wall of an enemy city.

ASK

Has anyone ever been told to do something that sounded weird, but it turned out the person knew what they were doing?

Let two or three kids answer. Don't push. Then tell them: today's story is about God giving Joshua the strangest battle plan ever — and what happened when the people did it anyway. Write the bottom line on the board:

SAY

When God says walk, you walk.

2. The Story

Setting the Stage

Before opening the Bible, the kids need to picture where they are. Tell them, in your own words:

SAY

Last week Joshua was on the other side of the Jordan River, scared. Since then, God parted the river — same way he parted the Red Sea for Moses — and the whole nation walked across on dry ground. Now they're in the promised land. And the very first thing they see is a problem. A city named Jericho. Big stone walls all the way around. Soldiers on top. Gates locked tight. Israel doesn't have catapults. They don't have battering rams. They don't have any way to get through that wall.

Reading the Text

Have everyone open to Joshua 6:1. Pick a confident reader.

Joshua 6:1–5

After the reading, work through these questions together:

DISCUSSION

1. In verse 2, what does God say to Joshua before any fighting happens?

→ *"I have given Jericho into your hand." Past tense. The battle isn't won yet, but God talks like it already is. The victory is his to give.*

2. Look at verses 3 and 4. What does God tell the people to do?

→ *March around the city once a day for six days. On the seventh day, march around it seven times. The priests carry trumpets. That's it. No fighting yet.*

3. Does this sound like a battle plan to you? What's missing?

→ *No swords swinging. No ladders. No surprise attack. It sounds like a parade, not a battle. The point is that this isn't going to be Israel's victory — it's God's.*

What Happened

Tell the class to keep their Bibles open. Have them turn to Joshua 6:15.

Pick a confident reader.

Joshua 6:15–16, 20

ASK

What did the people do? And then what happened?

You're looking for: *they marched seven times, the priests blew the trumpets, the people shouted — and the wall fell down flat.*

Write on the board:

March. Trumpets. Shout. Walls down.

Then ask:

DISCUSSION

1. Look at verse 20 carefully. Did the wall fall down before the people shouted, or after?

→ *After. The people obeyed first. They marched all seven days. They shouted. Then the wall fell. The order matters — God didn't prove the plan up front. He asked for obedience, and the proof came at the end.*

2. Why do you think God made the plan so strange? Why not just have them attack normally?

→ *Because if Israel had won by fighting, they'd say "we did it." But you can't say "we did it" when all you did was walk in a circle and yell. Everybody knew — God brought the wall down. Not the army.*

TRANSITION

This is the most important thing in the lesson. The order is always the same: God says walk, the people walk, then God brings the victory. The walking comes first.

What Obedience Actually Is

Stand up and walk to the board. Tell the kids:

SAY

A lot of people think obeying God means doing the parts that make sense to you. The Israelites couldn't do that. None of it made sense. Marching in circles doesn't break down walls. Trumpets don't break down walls. Shouting definitely doesn't break down walls. The only way Joshua's people got Jericho was to do every weird thing God said — all the way, all seven days. Halfway wouldn't have done it.

Write it on the board next to the bottom line:

Halfway obedience is still disobedience.

3. The Point

Say the bottom line again, with the kids:

SAY

When God says walk, you walk.

The Memory Verse

Have everyone turn to Joshua 6:20. Have a student read it aloud:

SCRIPTURE

Joshua 6:20

So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted a great shout, and the wall fell down flat.

Read it three ways together: all together normally, all together quietly (like the silent march), and all together loud (like the seventh-day shout).

SAY

The wall fell as soon as they shouted. Not before. Not the day before. Not on day three when they were tired. On the seventh day, after they'd done every part. That's how God's victories come — at the end of obedience.

The Index Cards

Hand out index cards. Tell each student to write or draw one thing they know God wants them to do — but they've been waiting until it makes sense, or until it's easy, or until they feel like it. Tell them no one else will read it. They'll keep it or take it home.

NOTE

While they write, walk around quietly. If a kid is stuck, ask them: "What's something a parent or a teacher told you to do that you've been putting off?" Help them name it.

When they're done, have everyone hold their card. Pray over the cards:

PRAY

God, you brought the walls of Jericho down when your people obeyed you. We don't always understand what you ask us to do. Help us obey anyway. Help us walk when you say walk, even when the plan doesn't make sense. Bring down the walls in our lives that we can't bring down ourselves. Amen.

4. The Work

Pick one or more activities from this week's menu. Print enough copies for each kid in advance. The kids don't have to do all of them — pick what fits the group's energy and what time you have left.

The menu for this week:

- **The Walls Come Down** — coloring page reinforcing the seventh-day scene and the bottom line.
- **Around Jericho** — word search with the names, places, and key words from Joshua 6.
- **What God Asks Me to Do** — drawing prompt connecting the lesson to the kid's own life.
- **Remember the March** — fill-in-the-blanks recall using the kids' Bibles (Joshua 6).

The full production specs for each activity are in this week's activities file.

NOTE

While the kids work, sit with them. Ask one or two what they're working on. Reinforce the bottom line one more time before class ends. If you finish early, have a few kids share what they made. If you run long, send the activity sheets home.

What Comes Next Week

Joshua and his army are gone. So is the next generation, and the next. The land that God gave them is full of trouble. The kids will meet the judges — Israel's emergency leaders — and start to see the sad pattern that runs through this whole stretch of the Bible: *the people forget, God rescues, the people forget again.*