Preschool–Grade 6

# The Walls of Jericho

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

**Main point:** We obey God, and God takes care of us.
**Bible passage:** Joshua 6. Read all of Joshua 6 (and Joshua 2 for Rahab) yourself before class.
**Memory verse:** "Be strong and of a good courage" *Joshua 1:9 (KJV)*. The old words **of a good courage** mean brave.
**You need:** a Bible, blocks or empty boxes (optional), a sheet of paper rolled up like a horn, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
**Before class:** put a bookmark in your Bible at Joshua 6. If you have blocks or boxes, build a low wall in the middle of the room. (A row of chairs works too.)

## 1. Opening game: Tiptoe Walk (5 minutes)

Kids walk behind you on tiptoe, quiet as mice. When you lift the paper horn and say "toot, toot," everyone says "Hooray!" and sits down. Play three or four times. Say: "Today we will hear a true story about God's people. They walked very quietly, and then they gave a great big shout!"

## 2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Joshua 6. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.
There was a city called Jericho, with a big wall all around it (Joshua 6:1). *(Hold your arms up high and wide.)*
A woman named Rahab lived in Jericho. She believed in God, and she hid two of God's people to keep them safe (2:4, 2:6, 2:11). *(Cover your eyes, then peek.)*
God told Joshua to go around the city (6:3). *(Walk in place.)*
Seven priests blew trumpets made of rams' horns (6:4). *(Pretend to blow a horn: "toot, toot!")*
The people did not say a word (6:10). *(Finger on your lips: "Shh!")*
They walked around one time each day, for six days (6:14). *(Hold up six fingers.)*
On day seven, they walked around seven times (6:15). *(Walk in place, then hold up seven fingers.)*
The priests blew the trumpets, and the people gave a great shout (6:20). **Say it with me: "Shout!"**
And the wall fell down flat! (6:20) *(Hands up high, then fall down to the floor.)*
God kept Rahab and all her family safe (6:25). *(Hug yourself.)*
**Say it with me: "We obey God!"**


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## 3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What did the priests blow? *(Trumpets, rams' horns, Joshua 6:4)*
2. How many times did they walk around on day seven? *(Seven times, 6:15)*
3. What happened when the people shouted? *(The wall fell down flat, 6:20)*

## 4. Act it out (5 minutes)

If you built a wall of blocks or boxes, kids walk around it with you, quietly, counting on their fingers: once around for each of six days, then seven times for day seven (or fewer, if they get tired). On the last time, lift the paper horn, everyone shouts, and you gently push the wall down flat. Say: "God's people obeyed, and God made the wall fall down!"

## 5. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "God told Joshua, 'Be strong and of a good courage.' That means, be brave! God is with you." Teach the motion: make strong arms like a muscle on "Be strong," then stand tall with your hands on your hips on "of a good courage." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Joshua 1:9" and clap three times.


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## 6. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
*Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.*

## 7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for making the wall fall down.
Help me obey You. Help me be brave. In Jesus' name, amen."

**Activity:** give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw the wall, then draw it again falling down flat. While they color, ask: "How many times did they walk around on day seven? Who made the wall fall?"

**Tips for little ones:** let every child help push the wall down. If they get wiggly, march around the wall again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

**What this lesson leaves out:** the preschool story ends with the wall falling down and Rahab's family kept safe. It does not tell what happened to the people of Jericho (Joshua 6:21) or why the Bible calls Rahab "the harlot" (6:25). If a child asks about the city, say simply: "The people of Jericho did not obey God, but God kept Rahab safe because she believed." If a child is worried, remind them that God loves them and takes care of them.


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