Preschool–Grade 6

The Walls of Jericho

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: God's people obeyed God, and God did what He said.
Bible passage: Joshua 6. Read it before class (and Joshua 2 for Rahab).
Memory verse: "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." *Joshua 1:9 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible, a sheet of paper rolled up like a horn, 7 sheets of paper, a marker, tape, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 7 sheets of paper (see part 4). Put bookmarks in your Bible at Joshua 6:20 and Joshua 1:9.

1. Opening game: Not a Sound (5 minutes)

Kids line up behind you and follow you around the room without making a sound: no talking, no giggling. Hold the rolled-up paper like a horn. When you lift the horn and make a long "toot," everyone shouts "Shout!" and sits down. If someone talks too early, just smile and start the walk again. Play three or four times, sometimes walking a long time before you toot. Ask: *Was it hard to stay quiet and wait?* Say: "Today we will hear about a time when God's people had to walk quietly and wait for the right time to shout."

2. Bible story: The Wall Fell Down Flat (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Joshua 6, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

After Moses died, God chose **Joshua** to lead His people, the children of Israel, into the land God had promised them. God told Joshua, "Be strong and of a good courage" (Joshua 1:9). Right in front of them was a city called **Jericho**, with a wall around it. Jericho was shut up tight. Nobody went out, and nobody came in (6:1).

Before this, Joshua had sent two men, **spies**, to look at the city. A woman named **Rahab** lived there, in a house on the town wall (2:15). Rahab believed in the LORD. She said the LORD "is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath" (2:11). She hid the two spies on her roof so they would be safe (2:6). The spies told her to tie a **scarlet line**, a red cord, in her window, and everyone in her house would be kept safe (2:18). And she did it (2:21).

God said to Joshua, "See, I have given into thine hand Jericho" (6:2). That means, "I am giving you the city." Then God gave Joshua a plan. It was a strange plan! The men of war were to go around the city once a day for six days (6:3). Seven **priests**, men who served God, would carry seven **trumpets** made of **rams' horns**, the curved horns of a male sheep. They would walk in front of the **ark**, the special gold box that showed God was with His people (6:4, 6:6).

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The story continues: So God's people did it. The armed men went first, then the seven priests blowing the trumpets, then the ark, and more people came after the ark (6:9). Joshua told the people, "Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice" until the day he told them to shout (6:10). Not a word! Around the city they went, once, and back to camp (6:11). They did the same thing the next day, and the next, for six days (6:14).

On the seventh day they got up early, at the dawning of the day, and went around the city seven times (6:15). The seventh time, the priests blew the trumpets, and Joshua said, "Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city" (6:16). **Read Joshua 6:20 from your Bible:** "...the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat..." Say: "God's people didn't push the wall. They obeyed God, and God made it fall!"

Then the two spies went into Rahab's house and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers and all her family (6:22–23). Joshua saved Rahab and her family, just as the spies had promised (6:25). The LORD was with Joshua (6:27).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. How many days did they go around the city once? *(Six days, Joshua 6:3, 6:14)*
2. How many times did they go around on the seventh day? *(Seven times, 6:15)*
3. What did the seven priests blow? *(Trumpets of rams' horns, 6:4)*
4. What happened when the people shouted? *(The wall fell down flat, 6:20)*
5. Who hid the spies, and what did she tie in her window? *(Rahab, a scarlet line, a red cord, 2:4, 2:21)*

4. Memory verse: March Around the Wall (5 minutes)

Write the verse on the 7 sheets: *Have not I commanded thee? / Be strong and of a good courage; / be not afraid, / neither be thou dismayed: / for the LORD thy God is with thee / whithersoever thou goest. / Joshua 1:9.* Tape them in a big circle on the floor, like a wall. Explain the old words: **commanded thee** means told you to do it, **of a good courage** means brave, **dismayed** means so worried you want to give up, and **whithersoever thou goest** means wherever you go. Kids march around the circle saying each part as they pass it. Then turn one sheet over and march again. Keep turning sheets over until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves. On the last time around, everyone shouts the reference: "Joshua 1:9!"

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "God's people obeyed God exactly, even when His plan seemed strange, and God made the wall fall. Rahab believed in the LORD, and God saved her and all her family. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). He died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.
This week: obey God and your parents the first time, even when you don't know why. When you feel scared, say, "The LORD my God is with me!"

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **walls of Jericho word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/jericho-word-search), the **walls of Jericho maze** (vbshq.com/puzzles/jericho-maze), or the **walls of Jericho craft**, a paper wall that stands up and falls down flat, with Rahab's window and a red yarn scarlet line (vbshq.com/crafts/jericho-craft).

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for making the walls of Jericho fall down flat. Thank You for saving Rahab and her family. Help us obey You, and help us be strong and brave, because You are with us wherever we go. In Jesus' name, amen."

About the end of the story: this lesson stops where the wall fell and God's people took the city (Joshua 6:20), then tells how Rahab's family was saved (6:22–25). It does not tell what happened to the rest of the city (6:21, 6:24). If a child asks, answer simply: the people of Jericho had heard what God did (2:10–11), but they shut their city tight against God's people (6:1), and God judged the city, as He had said (6:17). God is always good and fair, and He saved Rahab, who believed. If a child is worried, remind them that God loves them and takes care of them.

About Rahab: the Bible calls her "Rahab the harlot" (Joshua 6:25). This lesson just calls her Rahab. If a child asks, say simply that she had lived a sinful life before, but she believed in the LORD, and God saved her (Hebrews 11:31). Don't explain the word further.

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