

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Leads Us

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 5–6

WORD OF WONDER: From 1 Chronicles 16:15

When life gets crazy, sometimes I just want to be told what to do. I long for someone to enlighten me on the “right” way to proceed. But when I ask for a friend’s advice, I don’t always take it. Why? Because deep down, I believe my own ways of solving life’s problems are better.

After God faithfully led the Israelites across the Jordan River on dry ground and gave them assurance that they would defeat Jericho, He gave Joshua an unusual battle plan: Walk around the city, blow trumpets, and shout. Although God’s ways are mysterious, the Israelites were learning that His leadership can always be trusted.

Read [Joshua 6:1–7, 20–21](#). Joshua had the Lord’s assurance of success if he followed each instruction. The people followed Joshua’s lead, and the result was a crumbling wall and an overwhelming victory.

- When have you followed God’s lead? What happened?
- When have you failed to follow God’s lead? What happened?
- What is an area in your life you can yield to the Lord’s leadership today?

In good times and bad, we can trust God to lead us. He is a good shepherd with a perfect plan. God led the Israelites, and God leads us too! Thank Him for providing divine guidance in every situation.

—**Suzanne Gosselin**

Children’s Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

This story revolves around God and how He delivered Jericho into Israel's hands. Jericho was famous as a walled city, but God showed that He is stronger than the thickest walls.

WHAT?

[Joshua 5–6](#) shows how God led the Israelites to defeat the army of Jericho. God laid out a plan and the Israelites followed it, marching around the city for seven days. On the seventh day, God brought the walls of Jericho crashing down.

WHERE?

The story takes place at Jericho, which is one of the oldest cities in the world. The city was located on particularly fertile land in Canaan, which made it strategically valuable to the Israelites.

WHEN?

This story takes place immediately after God piled up the water of the Jordan River so that the Israelites could cross on foot ([Joshua 3–4](#)).

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

This story shows the central role that God played in defeating Israel's enemies. The Israelites didn't have to tear down the walls themselves. Instead, God brought the walls down for them. Likewise, salvation isn't something we can earn through what we do: It's a gift from God through Jesus!

Activity: Falling Walls

SUPPLIES: boxes (lots!)

Welcome! I'm so glad you're here today. We're learning about how God leads us. Our story will help us learn about how God knocked down some walls so His people could get through a city. Let's knock down pretend walls and get curious about the story!

Have kids work together to build a wall with the blocks or boxes. Continue to rebuild the wall until all the kids have had a turn to knock it down.

Activity: Listen to the Leader

Now we're going to do another activity to practice following instructions! I'll say an action for you to do together. So, if I say, "Stand up," what do you do? You stand up!

Give kids very simple instructions to follow and encourage them to do what you say:

- Stand up
- Spin around
- Sit down
- Clap
- Touch your head
- Touch your toes

Did you know God is our leader? We'll learn today about how God led His people and did something amazing to help them!

Our Wonder Truth today is: GOD LEADS US.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

- **GOD**—*Point up.*
- **LEADS**—*March in place.*
- **US**—*Point to self.*

God's Big Story Script

SUPPLIES: Bible, boxes (several), [Bible Story Picture](#)

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a person named Joshua. Can you say, "Joshua"? Allow the kids to respond. We'll learn how Joshua and God's people trusted God and how God led them. Let's find out from the Bible how God helped Joshua and the Israelites.

Read the Bible Story in the script provided below. You can show the [Bible Story Picture](#) to give kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

BIBLE STORY: Joshua led God's people toward a city called Jericho. God wanted them to take over Jericho, but there was a problem. There were tall walls all around the city, and all the gates were closed shut. Stack boxes on top of each other.

But God had a plan. God told Joshua what the Israelites should do. The plan probably seemed strange, but Joshua and the Israelites followed God's instructions. On the first day, Joshua and his army marched around the city. On the second day, they marched around the city again. They did this for six days. March around the room while you tell the story and encourage the kids to march with you.

On the seventh day, Joshua and his army marched around the city seven times. Then some of them blew their trumpets and others began shouting. The mighty walls of Jericho fell down. God led His people and helped them win the battle! Let the kids help you knock down the tower of boxes.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, Problems and Promises Word of Wonder [Slide](#)

WORD OF WONDER

God keeps His promises forever.

—from 1 Chronicles 16:15

Display the Word of Wonder [Slide](#). **Our Word of Wonder for the Problems and Promises series is from 1 Chronicles 16:15: “God keeps His promises forever.”**

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **GOD**—*Point up.*
- **KEEPS**—*Spread your right hand out before you from left to right.*
- **HIS PROMISES**—*Place an index finger on your lips. Move your hand downward and open your palm.*
- **FOREVER.**—*Draw large circles in the air with your index finger.*
- **FROM 1 CHRONICLES 16:15**—*Open your hands in front of you, like opening a book.*

Prayer and Blessing

Let's pray and talk to God and thank Him for how He guides us and how He keeps His promises.

God, thank You for Your promise to always be with us and to make a way for us, even when we go through hard times. Help us follow Your Holy Spirit closely. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you go today knowing that God leads you and gives you courage. God keeps His promises, and He promises to always be with you, no matter what you face.