

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

Sunday, September 20

FOR LEADERS

JOSHUA AND JERICO

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!



Curiosity

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

Play Stations (break them into groups for this or save for the end of class to fill time!)

SUPPLIES: blocks or boxes (several), coloring utensils, [Joshua and Jericho Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?

1. Play Station: Falling Walls

Set up: Set out blocks (or boxes) and a large ball.

Play: Invite the kids to work together to build a wall with the blocks or boxes. Let the kids continue rebuilding and knocking it down.

2. Play Station: Joshua and Jericho Coloring Sheet

Set up: Ahead of time, print one copy per kid of the [coloring sheet](#) and set out coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of a big wall.

Curiosity Activity: Marching

SUPPLIES: chair

Set out a chair in the middle of the room and have the kids form a circle around it. If the kids need help staying in the circle. Show the kids where the perimeter of the circle is. (You could also do this in the chapel room if needed.)

We're going to do an activity where I'll be your leader, and I'll tell you some silly ways to march around the circle. You'll have to listen closely to directions as I call them out.

Call out instructions and encourage the kids to do the different movements as they're walking around the circle.

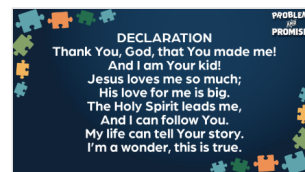
- March like a soldier
- March and cheer loudly
- March and be as quiet as you can
- Skip
- Walk in slow motion
- March as fast as you can
- Crawl
- Tiptoe
- Walk sideways facing the middle of the circle
- Take really big steps
- Do a hopscotch pattern
- Walk upside down (The kids might not understand this one ... Have fun with it!)

That last instruction was hard to understand, wasn't it?! Is it always easy to understand instructions from leaders? Allow the kids to respond. **In our story today, we're going to hear about people who were given instructions from God that didn't seem to make sense at first! The story had to do with people marching around and around. We're going to hear how God led His people and how God leads us too! We can always trust God as our leader.**

Declaring God's Wonder

SUPPLIES: Early Childhood Declaration [Slide](#) (optional)

Show the Early Childhood Declaration [Slide](#) and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.



Thank You, God, that You made me! *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story, *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").



Belief

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for leading us. Help us hear from You today. Help us follow You and trust You to lead us every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

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

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week with the kids before the Bible story, to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? *Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*

God's big story, waiting for me! *Point to yourself.*

Let's start by reading part of God's big story from the Bible. We're going to read from the Old Testament.

Read the God's Big Story Script provided or read [Joshua 6:1–20](#) from the Bible. You can also show the [Bible Story Picture](#) to give kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: boxes (lots!), pretend ark of the covenant, pretend microphones

Ahead of time, set up a stack of boxes to make a wall in the middle of the room. Keep one box set aside to be the ark of the covenant. Set it out the pretend trumpets.

You're going to get to help tell the story today. Don't mess with the boxes that are stacked here until I tell you it's time. Gather the kids around the boxes that are stacked as a wall and remind them not to touch the stacked boxes yet.

A long time ago, God promised His people—the Israelites—that they would one day live in a special place called Canaan. The book of Joshua tells how God took care of them, helped them, and brought them all the way to a big river called the Jordan River. God made the water stop, so they could walk across on dry ground!

But once they crossed the river, the Israelites saw another problem. There was a city called Jericho, and it had huge walls—too tall to climb and too strong to break. Point to the wall of boxes and invite the kids to point to it too. **The Israelites needed God's help.**

So God sent an angel to Joshua, the leader of the people. The angel told Joshua that God had a special plan. It wasn't a plan about fighting or climbing walls. It was a very different kind of plan.

God said to have the priests carry the ark of the covenant—the beautiful gold box that showed God was with them—and march around the whole city. The army was supposed to follow the priests, but they had to stay quiet while the priests blew trumpets made from rams' horns.

God said to march around the whole city one time every day for six days. When the Israelite army followed the priests carrying the ark, they trusted in God instead of trying to defeat Jericho on their own. Then on the seventh day, they were to walk around seven times. After the seventh time, the priests would blow their trumpets, and all the people would shout. Then God would make the walls fall down!

The Israelites did exactly what God said. Let's all get up and march around the walls together. Invite the kids to follow you as you lead them marching around the stack of boxes.

On day one, they marched around the city one time. On day two, they marched again. Let's keep marching! If you have enough time (and it's keeping their attention!), continue to march around and around the boxes as you tell the rest of the story. You can do all seven days if the kids are interested. **On days three, four, five, and six ... They marched around the city one time, just like God told them.**

Then it was day seven. The people got up very early and marched around the city seven times. Invite the kids to march around the boxes with you again. **On the last lap, the priests blew their trumpets. Do you want to blow pretend trumpets? Let's do it!** Invite the kids to blow pretend trumpets (or use toy trumpets or kazoos, if you have them). **Joshua shouted, "Shout! The Lord has given you the city!" (Joshua 6:16). The people shouted as loud as they could—and right then, the strong walls of Jericho fell down!** If you have a large group, invite a few kids to knock down the boxes. If your group is smaller, let all the kids knock the boxes down. **God helped the Israelites win, just like He promised.**

When the Israelites saw the walls of Jericho, they didn't give up hope for the land God promised. They did not try to do it with their own strength. Instead, they trusted God to lead them. He gave them a plan, and they followed it—around and around they marched. And God kept His promise, bringing the walls of the city tumbling down. God showed the Israelites that His way is always the best way. This story reminds us that God leads us too, and He can help us do things that seem big or hard! God led the Israelites in His way, and God leads us too!

Watch God's Big Story

Watch the [Joshua and Jericho God's Big Story](#)! Plus, worship songs will be available on the computer.



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 say the verse with you. Today we learned how God led the Israelites to the land He promised them long ago. Our Word of Wonder reminds us that 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.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you three more times, each time doing a different movement along with it.

- The first time, they should march in a large circle while saying the verse.
- The second time, they should hop in place while reciting the verse.
- The third time, they should pretend to blow trumpets while saying the verse.

You did a good job following instructions! The Israelites followed God, and He helped them defeat Jericho so they could get to the promised land. God kept His promise and led His people. God keeps His promises to us too.

Gather the kids to discuss these questions:

- **What promises did God make to His people?** (Possible answers: to lead them to the promised land; to be with them; to take care of them.)
- **How do you know that God keeps His promises?** (Possible answers: The Bible says God keeps His promises; God is trustworthy; God is faithful.)



Faith

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

Circle Time: Questions

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What problem did Israel have after they crossed the Jordan River?** *(The city of Jericho was in their way; Jericho had a big wall around it.)*
- **What was around the city of Jericho?** *(a big wall)*
- **What did God's messenger tell Joshua to do?** *(March around the wall each day for seven days; blow trumpets and shout on the seventh day.)*
- **What happened when the Israelites blew their trumpets and shouted?** *(The walls of Jericho fell down.)*
- **What did God promise to the Israelites in today's story?** *(to help them take over Jericho; that they would get to the promised land)*
- **How do you know God keeps His promises?**
- **How does God still lead us today?**
- **What is one way God had led you this past week?**

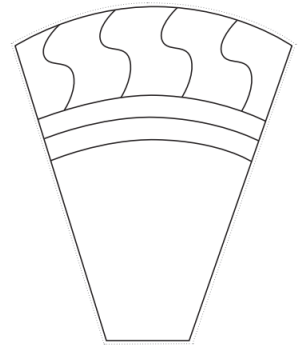
God led the Israelites all those years ago, and He will lead you too. It can be hard to follow God's instructions sometimes, but He will help us follow His way! God knows what's best for us, and He loves us so much. Let's talk to God now in prayer!

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises.

Craft: Trumpets

SUPPLIES: coloring utensils, kid-safe scissors, tape, [Trumpet Template](#) (1 per kid, printed on cardstock) - I'll also provide a stapler if that's easier to put the trumpets together faster.

Leader Tip: For younger kids or larger groups, you may want to cut out the trumpets ahead of time, so all kids need to do is color and tape them. Having a completed trumpet to show the kids could be helpful as well.



Wonder Ink

LESSON 3 TRUMPET TEMPLATE
EARLY CHILDHOOD

In our story today, the Israelites shouted and blew trumpets, and God made the walls around the city fall down. God led them and helped His people. God helps us and leads us too, even when things seem hard or impossible. God is with us, and He can do anything. Let's make our very own trumpets! You can make your trumpet to take home as a reminder that God leads us. Set out the copies of the [Trumpet Templates](#), coloring utensils, kid-safe scissors, and tape.

Invite kids to color and decorate their trumpets. Then help them cut out the trumpet shape and tape the edges together to create a trumpet. As the kids are working, you can talk to them about how their trumpets can remind them that God leads us.

Leader Tip: Have kids keep their trumpets to use during the game.



Game: Call It Out

SUPPLIES: trumpets from the Craft (1 per kid)

What instructions did God give the Israelites when they came to the city of Jericho? Allow answers. **God told them to march around the city every day for seven days. Then on the last day, they marched around the city seven times. Then they blew their trumpets and shouted really loud. And God made the walls of Jericho come down! They listened to God, and He led them. We can play a game where we'll listen to instructions.**

Invite the kids to line up. Then use a trumpet from the Craft as a megaphone to call out actions for the kids to do. Use the following actions (or add your own):

- Hop on one foot
- Bark like a dog
- Give someone a high five
- Spin in a circle
- Touch your knees
- Run and touch the wall (point to a wall)
- March around the room
- Do five jumping jacks
- Do "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes" while walking around the room

Once the kids have done a few actions, allow kids to take turns using their trumpets as megaphones to call out actions for the group to do. If you have kazoos, let the kids march around while blowing their kazoos.

Instructions don't always make sense! In the story today, God gave instructions to the Israelites that didn't seem to make sense at first, but God was in control and had a plan to lead His people. He showed He keeps His promises, and He is a faithful leader. We can trust God to lead us too.



Identity

Create space for God to remind kids that they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

Responding in Worship: Brick by Brick

SUPPLIES: construction paper (1 sheet per 2 kids, I'll cut them in half), butcher paper, tape, coloring utensils

Ahead of time, cut a sheet of construction paper in half for every two kids, symbolizing a brick. Tape a large piece of butcher paper to a wall in the room.

Set out coloring utensils and give a paper brick to each kid. Gather the kids together.

Today we heard how God led the Israelites to win their battle over the city of Jericho. God is a good leader! He's the best leader there is, and we can trust Him to lead us too.

Each of you has a sheet of paper shaped like a brick—kind of like the bricks that built the wall of Jericho. You can write your name on your brick (or draw a picture of yourself) with coloring utensils as a way to tell God you trust Him to lead you too. You can also draw a picture of something you need God to help you with. The walls around Jericho seemed big and impossible to get through. But God can do the impossible! He can help us with anything we face. Sometimes we need help getting along with our brother or sister. Or we can also ask God for help when we're scared. God will always be with us!

After you write your name or draw a picture, you can add your brick to the wall with tape. Show the kids the butcher paper and tape.

Help the kids tape their bricks to the butcher paper when they're done coloring. **We can thank God for leading us and helping us.**

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them to thank God for leading us and for always going ahead of us and keeping His promises.

God, thank You for Your faithfulness to us. You are always with us and lead us through hard times. Thank You for leading us with Your Holy Spirit. Thank You for Your plan and promise to save us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out 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.