



**January 5**

**I am Secure**

**Kindergarten - 5th grade**

**Leader Notes**

**Bible Passage:** Joshua and the Battle of Jericho- Joshua 1-2; 6

**Bottom Line:** God is Strong When I am Weak

**Leader Context:** This January we are teaching kids the Simple Truth, "I Am Secure." Kids will learn that, in times of trouble, they can have hope. They have an unchanging God who will hold them fast. This week, we are teaching kids the story of Joshua and the Battle of Jericho. Joshua turned to God and trusted Him—and God delivered! (Read Joshua 1:9.) Kids can be secure in knowing that God is strong, even when they are weak, and He can do all things.

**THE WIN FOR SUNDAY GROUPS:** Give kids a first look at The Bible, Jesus, and our need for a Savior by embracing their physical needs or engaging their interests. Use The Code when necessary to help redirect kids and build relationships.

**Social**

**Games and Music (10 minutes)**

**What You Need:** Instruction Page, Game Sets, Roku Game Instruction Page, Blindfold (several), Various obstacle course items (hula hoops, buckets, plastic cups, pool noodles, chairs, and so forth; several)

**What You Do:**

- Play worship songs and other songs available on Roku during the Social Game or while kids are playing.
- Using the supplies and game instruction page, choose one game to play with the kids today.
- As you are playing, use this as a time to call each kid by name and learn their names well.

**Say:** That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let's sit and listen to our story today."

**Bible Story Video (10 minutes)**

**Bible Story Recap- Say This**

What an incredible story! Joshua, the Israelites, and Rahab faced a tough choice. Can you show me your scared face? (*Put your hands on your face, and make a scared face with the kids.*) It would not have been easy to take over a whole city. But they turned to God and trusted that He would help them. When things in our life are hard, we can turn to God too. We can remember that He is strong when we are weak. Say, "God is strong when I am weak!" (*God is strong when I am weak!*)

I love talking about how God is our strength when we are weak. Say, "God is my strength when I am weak!" (*God is my strength when I am weak!*) And what about this incredible story of the battle of Jericho? If God can work and provide for Joshua and his army when they were facing a huge battle, we can know we are secure in God, and that He is the strongest of all! Put your hands on your heart, and say, "I am secure." (*I am secure.*) What an incredible truth we can trust! Let's pray and thank God for that truth, and ask Him to help us remember it. Pray with me in 3-2-1.

*God, thank You so much for this incredible truth that comes from Your Word. Thank You for being our strength when we are weak. Help us remember this truth. Help us to be secure in the promises You have given us. Thank You for loving us! Amen.*

**Videos**

**Gospel Connection- Say This**

Using the 4 Circles Gospel Art in your group space talk about how the story today relates to the circles.

(Circle two) While Joshua's problems might look different than the hard times we face today, we all have problems because of sin. Sin is choosing to do what we think is best rather than following what God says is best. Our sin has messed up or broken the world around us. Sin also separates us from God, and that means we will face some hard times in our life. No matter how hard we try, or how good and strong we try to be, we can't change things on our own. But there is good news!

(Circle one) In the beginning, God created everything. He provided everything people could ever need and everything people needed for a relationship with Him. God loved the first people, and He loves all people so much! Everything was perfect until sin ruined God's creation and His people.

(Circle three) That can be a scary thought, but remember when I said God loves us so much? Can everyone look to your neighbor, and say, "God loves you so much!" (God loves you so much!) God had a plan from the very beginning to rescue us from sin and brokenness. He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from brokenness and sin! Jesus lived a perfect life on earth, experiencing all the hard things we do, because He was a real person. But Jesus never sinned because He is perfect. Everyone, say, "Jesus is perfect." (Jesus is perfect.) Jesus died on a cross, taking the punishment we deserved for our sin. Three days later He came back to life, showing He is more powerful than sin and death! When we confess our sin and ask Jesus to forgive us, He does!

(circle four) And then we can have a life with God both now and forever! God is our strength when we are weak. We can go to Him, ask Him for help, and He freely gives it to us. Say, **"God is strong when I am weak!" (God is strong when I am weak!)** If you want to know more about trusting and following Jesus, talk with me or your Campus Leader.

When we trust and follow Jesus, we can know we are secure with God. We are locked in! Say, "Locked in!" (Locked in!) And do you know what? God continues to be our strength whenever we are weak. What can we do when we are weak? We can turn to God by going to Him in prayer, reading the Bible, asking for His help, and by trusting that He really loves us and is going to help us in our weakness. Joshua hadn't seen the victory he and his army were going to face, but he turned to God, trusted God, and believed God was going to provide the victory no matter what.

**Bible Verse Vault (20 minutes)**

Kids will create a fun way to hide the Theme verse in a paper while reminding them of the walls of Jericho.

**Leader Prep:** Use the Theme Verse Poster, *“I always let the LORD guide me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.” (Psalm 16:8)* Set out supplies. Make an example ahead of time.

1. Fold the construction paper long ways, into three equal parts, with the two outer folds folding inward (meeting in the middle), like doors.
2. Cut the outer folds into six slips.
3. Write the Theme verse in six phrases in the center section.

**Supplies:** Construction paper (1 per child), Markers or crayons (several), Child-safe scissors (1 per child), “Bible Verse Vault Example” printable (1 per group; optional), Theme Verse Poster (1 per group)

**What To Do:** Let’s make something that will help us remember our Theme verse. A *vault* is something that keeps valuable things safe and secure. Our Theme verse is valuable, so let’s make a vault!

First, fold your paper so the long sides meet in the middle. Then, cut six slits on the “door” flaps of your paper, stopping when you reach the outer creases. Try to make the cuts line up. *(Allow kids to complete this step.)*

Now, write the Theme verse in the middle section. Break it into six parts *I always let / the LORD guide / me. Because He is / at my right hand, / I will not be shaken. / Psalm 16:8.* Then, when you open the doors, you can see different parts of the Theme verse. You can use this to practice saying the Theme verse while parts of it are covered up. Decorate your “vault” when you are done.

**Loud And Clear:** I love seeing your vaults. This activity reminds me of the walls of Jericho, and how difficult the challenge of taking over the city must have been! But Joshua trusted God, and he knew God would be his strength.

**Discussion Questions:**

- What are some things that kids your age do that take a lot of courage and strength? What are some things adults like to do that take lots of courage and strength? *(Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.)*
- The Bible tells us that we are secure in God and He is our strength when we are weak. Let’s open our Bibles to **Joshua 1:9** and read about it together. *(Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the verse aloud, or invite a kid who volunteers to read the verse aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the verse so everyone can follow along together.)* Now, this verse mentions being strong and courageous, but we aren’t talking about physical strength. What do you think it means to be strong and courageous the way this Bible verse says? *(Answers will vary, but could include trusting God and following what He says, relying on God for strength, and so forth.)*

### Discussion Questions- cont:

- Being *strong and courageous* means being confident in God and trusting Him. When Joshua faced hard times and something he couldn't do on his own, he turned to God, and we can too. God loved us so much that He sent Jesus to be strong when we were weak and stuck because of sin. Jesus took the punishment we deserved. When we trust Jesus, we can have a relationship with Him now and forever. This means, when things in our lives are hard, we can turn to God, ask that He will give us His strength, and trust that He will help and lead us. How is the strength of God different from the strength of people? *(Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.)*
- What does our Bible story teach us about how we can respond when we're faced with hard situations that seem impossible? *(Answers will vary, but could include turn to God, trust God, ask God for help, remember we are secure in God, and so forth.)*
- The Bible tells us that God is our strength when we are weak, and that we are secure in Him. When we are locked in with God, trusting He is with us, we can face the hard things in our lives knowing He is our strength. What is something encouraging you will remember from today? Is there anything you have questions about? *(Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.)* Let's talk to God and pray. *(Lead the group in prayer. Consider using the following prayer prompt.)*

*God, thank You for the truth that we can be locked in and secure in You. Thank You for being our strength when we are weak. Help us to trust and follow You. Amen.*

Sometimes it can be hard to remember that we are secure, and that God is our strength when we feel weak or feel like giving up. But when we trust and follow Jesus, we can know we're secure in Him because we can trust Him. He is strong when we are weak.

## Going Home

Pass out the coloring pages for kids to take home. Greet families as they arrive and tell them something about their child you saw today. Say goodbye and call everyone by name.