

Joshua

Joshua 1,6

Aim: to see how God helps people



SpT1D



After their escape from Egypt the Israelites travelled around for many years before God helped them to cross the Jordan River and enter the promised land. Joshua was now their leader and relied on God in much the same way as Moses had. The first obstacle was the city of Jericho, a typically fortified settlement ruled over by a petty king. Rather than a frontal attack God instructed Joshua to march around the city walls once a day in silence. After six days they were told to process around seven times, then, on command, to shout. Hardly a terribly practical way of getting into a walled city, except for the fact that as the people shouted the walls crumbled. God at work again. Slowly the entire land was divided up and the various families, now tribes in their own right, took possession of the country. The land of Canaan where Abraham had settled all those centuries earlier was now theirs.



Ask everyone to help you make a tower/wall with a variety of boxes. It should be at least as tall as the children and hopefully as tall as yourself.

If it is a steady tower talk about how strong it looks, if it isn't talk about how weak it looks but how much stronger it would be if it was made of stone!

In today's story we are going to hear how God helped the Israelites cross a massive river and knock down a big wall made of stone



Lay a piece of blue cloth across the room and read 'Over the river' p48. At the appropriate place in the story encourage everyone to 'cross the river' with you.

Phew, God helped us to cross the big river, but oh no look at that big walled city (point to the wall)

Read 'The walls of Jericho' (p50)

'Walk round the city' six times at the appropriate point in the story. Before you read about the seventh day give out some play trumpets for the children to blow just like the priests



- *I wonder how the people felt crossing the river*
- *I wonder what the people in the city thought watching the Israelites walking round their city in silence*
- *I wonder what God wants to help me with*



Have a tower building competition between teams using toy bricks, paper cups or cardboard boxes

Talk about the 'big walls' that people might be facing and ask for God's help

Encourage everyone to find out more about God's special box 'the ark of the covenant' and what it contained



- Play some marching music and practice marching around the room
- Provide lots of toy bricks for everyone to make walls that come tumbling down

- Make paper trumpets by rolling a piece of thin card from one corner and taping the edges. Provide lots of stickers to decorate them with and accept that it is going to be noisy!



If you have made trumpets you can use these as part of your prayers.

Thank you God that you are with me all the time.

Thank you God that you care about me and help me.

Thank you God that you are with me when I am noisy (blow your trumpets) and when I am quiet (put your fingers on your lips)

Thank you God that you are with me when I am moving around (march on the spot) and when I am still (stand still like a statue)

Help me to remember that you care when I am noisy (blow trumpet) and when I am quiet (finger on lips), moving around (march) and still (statue)



- Bigger than big
- My God is so big

Joshua and the walls of Jericho video <https://youtu.be/MdQy2l8BegA>



Give each family a copy of the prayer to take home

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Thank you God that you are with me when I am noisy (blow your trumpets) and when I am quiet (put your fingers on your lips)

Thank you God that you are with me when I am moving around (march on the spot) and when I am still (stand still like a statue)

Help me to remember that you care when I am noisy (blow trumpet) and when I am quiet (finger on lips), moving around (march) and still (statue)

Amen

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Amen