The Walls Came Crumbling Down

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Text

Joshua 9 and 10

Key Quest Verse

“As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24:15b

Bible Background

News of Joshua spread fast and the kings of Canaan were scared. They began to make alliances
with other kings and territories so they would not be conquered like Jericho and Ai. One territory
decided to use deception and make a treaty with the Israelites. God told the Israelites not to
make any peace treaties with the people from Canaan. The Israelites made a hasty decision with-
out consulting with God. Joshua had been deceived but he made the treaty so they would keep
their promise. Even though they made a mistake, God used the opportunity for the Israelites to
conquer several territories in one battle. The story of the sun standing still is somewhat of a mys-
tery, if you take it for what it is called. The sun always stands still; it is the earth that rotates
around the sun. No matter how we look at the event, it was a miracle from God. The day was
prolonged so that Joshua and the Israelites would celebrate in victory.
Get Ready!

Lesson Quest

What I want my students to:

Know: God is always with us.

Feel: Forgiven when we make a mistake.

Do: Tell others about God.

Leader’s Devotion

How many times have you made a mistake and thought … How stupid of me? Hasty decisions are usually just that … not thought out and with no consideration of the consequences. All of us do things we regret. God forgave Joshua when he made a hasty decision and God forgives us. If we never try anything we will make few mistakes. Serving God is no mistake! We must study to show ourselves approved unto God, a workman that doesn’t need to be ashamed! Spend time talking with God in preparation for sharing with your students. Let your students know that God has a plan for them.
Get Set!

Option A

Materials: Two balloons - one with helium inside and string and, the other with regular air and a string.

Show the balloons so they look the same. The one with NO helium should be a little bigger. I’ve got two balloons and we’re going to have a race to see which one gets to the ceiling first. Whoever thinks balloon #1 will reach the ceiling first, sit on this side of the room. If you think balloon #2 will reach the ceiling first, then sit over there. Let’s count to ten together and then I’ll let them go. Be sure and cheer your balloon on.

Ready, One ... Two ... Three ... Four ... Five ... Six ... Seven ... Eight ... Nine ... Ten, (Release both balloons). Did that surprise you? In our story today, we’re going to learn about something that went up and stayed up all day long ... plus almost an extra day. How do we know when it’s daytime? In our Bible story we’re going to learn that the sun stayed in the same place for almost two days. God was with Joshua and his people and caused the sun to not go down. Do you want to hear what happened?

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Materials: Whole peanuts

I have something in my hand that no one here has ever seen before. In fact, I have never seen it myself. Let me tell you something more about it. I got this from a man who never saw it. He got it from a man who never saw it. Although, I put it in my pocket, I have never seen it. What I have is funny shaped and makes noise. Once you see it, you will never see it again. Can you guess what’s in my hand? Would you like me to show you what I have in my hand? (Dramatically reveal the peanut) It’s a peanut. I got it from the man at the grocery store who never saw inside this shell. He got it from a farmer, who grew it underground and he never saw what was inside this shell. Even though I put it in my pocket I never saw inside either. (open it, show it to the students and eat it) I told you once you saw it you wouldn’t ever see it again! In our story today, something like this happens. No one had ever seen it before and no one has seen it happen since. Do you know what I’m talking about? Let’s go to the story and see what God did for Joshua that has never been seen since.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY
Joshua and the Israelites were doing exactly as God told them. They were to go into the land of Canaan, also known as the Promised Land and get rid of all the bad people who were worshipping idols. God was helping them defeat their enemies. The news of Joshua spread fast and some of the kings of the countries around there got together to make some plans. They were afraid. One group of people from Gibeon decided it might be better to make a peace treaty with the Israelites. They didn’t want the Israelites to know that they lived close by. They let their bread sit out and get real moldy. Next they put on some old dirty, worn out clothes and shoes and dressed up. They were ready to tell their story. They came walking up to Joshua and the Israelites looking all worn out and ready to drop. (Dress in rags and make your voice sound soft and weak) “This must be Joshua’s camp. I came from a far away country. Look, when I left home I had fresh hot bread right from the oven and look what has happened to it now. (Show moldy bread or monkey bread) I’ve traveled so long and far, my shoes and clothes are worn out. We heard how famous you and your God were and we have come in the name of the Lord your God.” Do you think these men had trouble not laughing when they were talking to Joshua? They kept on talking, “we want to make peace with you!” Joshua agreed to make a peace treaty with them and if they were in trouble, the Israelites would help them out. Now God specifically told Joshua not to make peace with any of these heathen people. It didn’t take long for Joshua to find out he had been lied to. Since they had lied, Joshua would keep the peace treaty but the men from Gibeon would have to cut their wood and carry their water for the Israelites. Before long, the people of Gibeon called for Joshua to come help. Five kings from the area thought the Gibeonites were traitors and were going to fight them. They needed Joshua’s help.

Joshua talked to God and God sent them to fight the five kings. During the fight, God sent a storm of hail that hit the enemy and got rid of a lot of them. The battle went on and it started to get dark. Joshua was afraid some of the bad people were going to escape, so he asked God to not let it get dark until the battle was done. God listened and answered Joshua’s plea. The sun stood still over Gibeon and it did not get dark until victory was with the Israelites. There was no day like that before and there has never been one since. When the battle was over, Joshua divided the land up with all the Israelite families. They were finally living in the Promised Land. As long as Israel followed God and worshipped Him, they were protected.
OBJECT LESSON

Materials: Paper and scissors

Procedure: Give each student a piece of paper and scissors. Practice this in advance. It is an easy trick but you want to demonstrate it with confidence. Fold and cut as directed and the results will be a cross.

We learned that Joshua made a decision without thinking about it. Sometimes we do the same thing and make mistakes. Do you think God forgave Joshua for making a treaty with some of the bad people? Does God forgive us when we do something wrong? Let’s see if we can take a paper and make a few folds, cut and see how God forgives us. First, fold down one corner of your paper to touch the edge and make a crease. Now fold down the second side to have a house. Remember that everyone in my house serves God. Next fold the house in half and cut two strips off the shortest edge. Unfold and see how we can be forgiven.

We know that God gave us His son to die on the cross so that we could be forgiven of our sins. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!
Sing: “March around Jericho, March around Jericho, up hills,  
(Ring around the roses, Pocket full of Poses, ashes,)  
**down hills, the walls, fall down.**”  
(Ashes we all fall down)

**Procedure:** Have children form a circle and join hands. Walk around in a circle holding hands as if playing Ring around the Roses, but instead repeating the saying above. Fall down just as you would in Ring around the Roses.

_The Israelites obeyed God and the walls of Jericho fell. We must obey God and He will help us overcome our problems and fears._
Go!

What Did They See?

ART/CRAFT

Materials: Epsom salts, water, paint brushes, resource page of Walls of Jericho

Procedure: Mix Epsom salts with water and use a paintbrush to create crystal like appearances on the walls of Jericho.

Quest Connection

The city of Jericho was impressive with some of its walls being about three stories tall or 25 feet high and 20 feet thick. That’s bigger (or about the same size) than this room. The Canaanites thought they were safe inside the walls of Jericho. God gave Joshua complicated instructions for the battle. And the walls came tumbling down. Today we’re going to paint Jericho’s massive walls and see what the Israelites saw when they entered the Promised Land.

When you look at your picture it looks as though there are crumbs or crystals on the walls. When God got through with Jericho, all their walls had crumbled down. Trust in God and He will always be with you!
Go!

Jericho’s Walls

SCIENCE

Material: Rock salt, liquid starch, glue with food coloring, spoons, bowls, cardboard

Procedure: Mix 2 cups of rock salt with ½ cup liquid starch and ½ cup glue plus food coloring or tempera. Let the children pile this gooey rock mixture on cardboard to create the fallen walls of Jericho. Let it dry until next week and have the children re-tell the story of how the walls came tumbling down.

God told Joshua that Jericho would be delivered into his hands. What happened when the Israelites obeyed God?

God is always with you! When you are afraid, God is with you! When you fell lonely, God is with you! Trust in God, He is always with you!
Crumbling Cookies

FOOD

Materials: 20 gingersnap cookies, 3 Tablespoons dark corn syrup, 2 T. peanut butter, 1/3 cup powdered sugar, rolling pin, waxed paper, bowl, zip-lock bags.

God told Joshua that Jericho was already defeated. God gave specific directions that the Priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant were to lead the men, not soldiers with swords. God would defeat their enemy if they trusted and obeyed Him. It took patience, seven days, and trusting in God for the walls to come tumbling down. The cookies we’re making could be similar to the walls that were crushed and came tumbling down.

Procedure: Place cookies in a plastic zip-lock bag and crush finely with a rolling pin, combine corn syrup and peanut butter in a bowl. Add crushed gingersnaps and mix well. Have students roll mixture into 24 balls and coat with powdered sugar.

God helped the Israelites defeat their enemy when they trusted Him and depended on Him. God can help us with any problems.
Go!

Watch Them Fall

GAME

Materials: Builder blocks or wooden blocks

Quest Connection

In our story today, we learned about the tall walls of Jericho and how the people inside thought they were indestructible. Let’s use the blocks and build some tall walls. Some of the walls of Jericho were about three stories high. Why do you think the people thought their city walls could not be destroyed? What happened to their walls?

Procedure: Give children the opportunity to build towering walls and shake the table to try and knock them down.

Close

What seemed impossible was possible with God. God is always there for us!
Joshua was a great hero and leader because he trusted in God.  
Draw a picture of a hero in your life that trusts in God.
“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.” Hebrews 13:6

Mix Epsom salts with water and use a paintbrush
to create crystal like appearances on the walls of Jericho.
Climb the walls in trust.

Joshua trusted God to take care of him and the Israelites. Joshua knew God would provide for all their needs. Trust the openings in the boxes to lead you through the wall and to the memory verse. As you follow the openings in the wall, write the letters in the correct order on the lines to help memorize your verse.
The commander of the Lord’s army told Joshua that the Israelites would win the battle with Jericho. God told them exactly how to go into battle. Joshua and the Israelites obeyed God’s instructions and the walls came tumbling down. Trust in God and He will be with you!

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.” Hebrews 13:6