Lesson Theme: We are to obey God’s word, the Bible.

Learning Objective: The learner will retell the story of how Joshua obeyed God and followed His directions to win the Battle of Jericho. The learner will understand that when we obey God it pleases him and we are happy.

EARLY ARRIVAL OR STARTING ACTIVITY: BUILD A WALL 15 min

Activity requires: blocks (Jenga) or dominoes

The object is to have the children build a wall out of blocks. Chose a child to put one block on the table/floor/ground and walk around it. Ask: Does it fall down? Then another child comes and places another block on top of the first and walks around it. Keep doing this until you have used all the blocks or it has fallen down. If time allows, build another wall. This time build a sturdier wall by using three blocks at the base. Stack on top of them. Tell the children that in today’s story we will learn about a strong wall that was built to stand for many, many years.

Leave the wall to use as a prop while you tell the story.

INTRODUCTION 5 min

Leader: Do you have rules in your home that your parents expect you to follow? What happens when you disobey? How about at school? (Have the children raise their hands to answer questions.) Today’s Bible story is about a special plan for Joshua.

BIBLE STORY: WILL THE WALLS FALL? 15 min

- Explain that you will tell them a true story out of the Bible, God’s word.
- Familiarize yourself with the story as it is written below. With great enthusiasm tell the story (try not to read it), then tell it again using puppets, skits, props, or costumes. This is a great story for the children to act out. Have all the children march around the wall built in the Starting Activity as you tell the story.

Scripture: Taken from Joshua 6:1-20
(The Bible - New International Version Zonderkidz)
Joshua and God’s people were camped near the city of Jericho. The city of Jericho had strong high walls. The gates were shut tight and locked so no one could get into it. How are they going to get into the city? God had a plan. God speaks to Joshua and tells him the plan. God told Joshua to have his entire army march around the city of Jericho one time a day for six days. On the seventh day, they are to march seven times around the city. Then they are to shout. So Joshua called together the priests and said, “Take up the Ark of the Covenant and assign seven priests to walk in front of it each carrying a ram’s horn.”

Then Joshua gave orders to the people to march around the city. Just as God said, they obeyed. First, some guards began to march. Next, came the seven priests blowing the rams’ horns and then, came the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant. More guards marched behind the priests. After obeying God’s instructions, the people returned to camp and spent the night.

Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests carried the Ark of the Covenant again and everyone marched around the city again one time: the soldiers, the seven priests blowing the horns, the priests carrying the Ark, and more soldiers.

Each day they did exactly the same thing. They followed God’s instructions exactly for six days in a row. On the seventh day they marched seven times around the city. During the seventh time around, the priests sounded the long blast on their horns. Then Joshua commanded the people to shout loudly.

An amazing thing happened. The walls of Jericho, which were built strong to last many years, collapsed.

Leader: (ask questions)
♦ What is the name of the walled city? (Jericho)
♦ On the first day how many times were they told to march around the city? (One)
♦ On day two, three, four, five and six, how many times were they told to march around the city? (One time)
♦ On the seventh day, how many times did they march around the city? (7)
♦ Who carried the Ark of the Covenant? (The priests)
♦ What did the priests use to make noise? (The rams’ horns)
♦ What happened to the wall? (It fell)

CONNECTION  20 min

Instructions:
Tell the children that they will play a game called Freeze. Explain that as soon as you say, go, you will ask them to wiggle, jump, hop, turn, raise and lower arms, or dance until you say, “Freeze!” Then everyone stops immediately and stays in their last position. While they hold their last position, ask the group to say Joshua 24:24 together. Then say, go and ask them to move again. Stop and repeat the verse together several times with this game. Ask a team member to watch for any actions that could be unsafe.

We will serve the Lord our God and obey him. Joshua 24:24
CRAFTS: PAPER TRUMPETS

Materials Required:
- Trumpet pattern copied on card stock, one per child
- Scissors
- Staplers (4 or 5) and staples
- Joshua 24:24 written in native language, one per child
- Glue
- Crayons

Instructions:
Cut the trumpet out. Decorate the trumpet with crayons. Staple the sides together. Make certain to overlay one end under the handle. Glue Bible verse on the trumpet.

Simplified Trumpet:
- Use a 24 oz. foam cup and cut out the bottom.
- The children can decorate with paper stickers or fun foam stickers.
- Glue on the Bible verse.

GAMES: CIRCLE BALL

Activity requires: two identical balls of any size.

Directions:
Divide the players into two equal teams and appoint a captain for each team. Each team forms a circle and the distance between players should be determined by the throwing and catching skills of the players. When a starting signal is given, the captain passes the ball to the player on his right as quickly as possible who passes it on, etc. The captain calls out one, to signify that the ball has been passed successfully around the circle once. The captain counts out each round as it is completed. Upon completion of the fifth round, the captain raises the ball high over his head and shouts five! to indicate that the team has finished. The first team to finish 5 rounds wins the game.

Variations:
- For younger children it is simpler to roll the ball, hand the ball, or bounce the ball to the next person.
- For more skilled players, the methods of passing can be varied with added motions. The first round could be a normal pass, the second between legs, and the third a bounce then pass, etc. Standing on one foot or keeping eyes closed while passing could also be added. If a player makes a mistake in the order of motions, the ball must be returned to the start and that round begins again.

ILLUSTRATION BY PAOLA BERTOLINI GRUDINA FROM WHEN DID THE WALLS FALL DOWN? BY SALLY ANN WRIGHT
COPYRIGHT © 2009 BY LIVING WATER INTERNATIONAL
PO BOX 35496, HOUSTON, TX 77235-5496
WWW.WATER.CC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.