

Unit 8: Into the Land

Unit Description: Joshua and the Israelites saw God do what the previous generation had doubted: God went before them into the land and conquered their enemies through His wondrous works. At the end of his days, Joshua challenged the people to remember who God is and what He had done and worship only Him forevermore.

Big Picture Question: What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.



SESSION 1: God Defeated Jericho

Joshua 2; 6



SESSION 2: God Gave the People the Land

Joshua 7–11



SESSION 3: Joshua Challenged the People

Joshua 23–24



UNIT 8 | SESSION 1

GOD DEFEATED JERICHO

JOSHUA 2; 6

KEY PASSAGE:

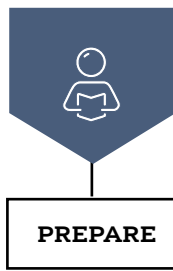
**You are the God who performs miracles;
you display your power among the peoples.
Psalm 77:14 NIV**

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

By faith, Rahab believed God would win the battle. When the Israelites attacked Jericho, Rahab and her family received mercy and became part of God's people. Jesus has won against sin and death. Everyone who trusts in Jesus receives mercy and becomes part of God's family forever.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

In our Bible story today, we see not just mercy, but courageous mercy. Rahab by faith, courageously trusted God and hid the Hebrew spies. Mercy is not courageous until being merciful costs us something. Rahab's mercy was pushed to the testing point. She had compassion and, in doing so, risked her life. She showed mercy; as a result, she received mercy.

Mercy is compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone when it is within one's power to punish or harm that person. Mercy was a key mark of Jesus' ministry. He modeled mercy for us on earth, showing numerous times compassion and forgiveness to those who didn't deserve it.

Mercy often involves courage because you have the power—and often the right—to punish rather than forgive. In our world today, the act of forgiveness is often seen as a weakness. It's risky. Mercy that lacks courage will be sporadic in its application. We, like Pilate, will forgive until it costs us something. We will have compassion, but only from a distance. This is the beauty of Christ that we see in stories like Rahab.

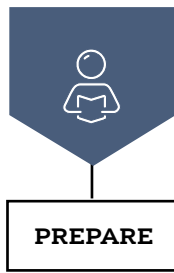
The God we serve is lavish in His mercy and rich in His kindness. What Rahab experienced is a glimpse of God's mercy we see in Christ. Jesus is the full expression

of the mercy and kindness of God. Jesus isn't concerned from a distance; He took on human flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus didn't just act mercifully when it was convenient. He laid down his life so that we could be forgiven.

Rahab modeled for us what Jesus preached in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:7: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." Let us today be extenders of mercy to others because of the tender mercy of God in Christ we have received because of the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ.

PLACES TO KNOW

Jericho: One of the oldest cities in the world and known as the "city of palms." It had rich soil, abundant water, and constant sunshine.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ “Make Some Noise” activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ small building blocks or straws and tape
- ☐ small objects of various weight from around the room



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ “God Defeated Jericho” video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- ☐ “Unit 8, Session 1” questions from kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ “Meet the Worthy Family” missions video
- ☐ world map

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ “The God Who Works Wonders (Psalm 77:14)” song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)



LOVE

Review & Bible skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set
- ☐ world map



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ “Build Your Own Slice” printable

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Journal and Prayer

- ☐ Journal Page
- ☐ “Secret Message Decode” activity page



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “ Think about a time when God did something special in your life. What happened? What did you learn about God from this experience? ”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Make Some Noise” on the activity page.

SAY “ If you were going to fight an enemy in Bible times, what weapons do you think you would use? Instead of weapons, God told His people to use trumpets and their own shouts to defeat Jericho. This might seem unusual, but God gave these instructions to show something true about Himself. Today we’ll find out what it was. ”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: BUILD IT UP

Provide building supplies (small building supplies or straws and tape), and direct kids to work together to create a city. Allow each kid to contribute one or two buildings. As kids work, encourage them to think about different ways to protect a city, such as walls, towers, moats, and so on.

Guide kids to test the strength of some of their structures by placing small objects of various weights on them. If any of the structures collapse, ask kids to fortify them, or make them stronger.

SAY “ The city of Jericho was protected by a large wall. When the people of Jericho saw the Israelites coming, they fortified the city so no one could enter; however, nothing can stop God. We’ll find out more about how God defeated Jericho. ”

☐ OPTION 2: KEEP IT QUIET, HOLD IT OUT



Ask kids to stand, find a partner, and face one another. Explain that this activity has two parts. First, kids should remain completely silent. Partners will take turns making silly faces, trying to make the other person laugh. When someone breaks the silence, that person is out. The winner should find a new partner and continue.

After a few moments, begin part two. Both partners will draw a breath at the same time and then sustain a vocal tone for as long as they can. The first player to run out of breath must sit down. Continue the activity until only one player remains.

SAY “ Was it difficult to hold back laughter when your partner made a silly face? Sometimes it can be hard to stay silent. In today’s story, the Israelites marched quietly for six days before they broke the silence with a shout! I can’t wait for you to hear more. ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Hello, everyone. My name is [your name.] My favorite instrument is a [provide answer]. On the count of three, tell me your favorite musical instrument. One, two, three! [Allow responses.] I mentioned instruments because our Bible story today includes trumpets. Raise your hand if you said your favorite instrument is a trumpet.

If you brought a Bible, get it out and open it to the Book of Joshua. [Distribute additional Bibles as needed.] The Book of Joshua is in the Old Testament, right after the five books of Law: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy ... and then Joshua. Let's get our hearts ready to hear what God wants to teach us from the Bible today. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY “Over the last few weeks, we spent time focusing on the Bible. Who remembers the answer to our big picture question, **What is the Bible?** [Allow responses.] Great job! **The Bible is God's Word that tells us what is true about God and ourselves.**

This week, we will begin learning the answer to a new big picture question: **What is a miracle?** That's a great question. What do you know already about miracles? [Allow responses.] Today and over the next few weeks, we will learn and remember this answer to our big picture question: **A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.** Let's say that answer in three parts to help you remember. I'll say a part, and then you repeat it: **A miracle is something God does** [pause for kids to repeat] **that usually cannot be done** [pause] **so that we can know He is all-powerful** [pause]. That's great! I'm excited to learn more about some of the amazing things God has done. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “We have learned some amazing truths together from God's Word. Not too long ago we learned about Moses and how God delivered the Israelites out of Egypt. Then only a few weeks ago, we began learning about Joshua, the new leader for God's people. Today and for the next few weeks as we focus on miracles, we will continue to learn more of the Israelites' story while Joshua was their leader. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Joshua 2; 6. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Defeated Jericho.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

GOD DEFEATED JERICHO

“**The Israelites finally arrived at the promised land** of Canaan (KAY nuhn), but there was one problem: **other people were living there. God’s people** couldn’t just walk in and set up their tents; They **had to go to battle against their enemies**, and they had to win.

Joshua sent two spies into the city of **Jericho** to see what it was like. **The spies stayed at the house of a woman named Rahab** (RAY hab). **Rahab had heard about God and believed in Him.** She wanted to help His people. **When the king of Jericho was looking for the spies, she hid the men on her roof.**

When it was safe for the spies to leave, **Rahab said, “Please be kind to my family since I have been kind to you. When you attack Jericho, please don’t kill us.” So the spies promised to keep Rahab and her family safe.** Rahab tied a bright red rope in her window so the Israelites would know where she lived.

When the Israelites arrived, **the people of Jericho hid behind the city’s strong walls. God told Joshua how to conquer the city. Joshua would lead the people to march around the city one time every day for six days. On the seventh day, they would march around the city seven times, and the priests would blow their trumpets. All the people would shout, and the walls of Jericho would fall down.** Then the Israelites could go into the city and take over.

So Joshua commanded the people to march around the city one time. The priests blew the trumpets, but not one of the Israelites spoke or made a sound. Then they returned to their camp. They did this every day for six days.

On the seventh day, the Israelites got up early and marched around the city seven times. On the seventh time when the priests blew their trumpets, Joshua said, “Shout, for the LORD has given you the city!” So the people shouted, and **the wall fell down flat. The Israelites went into the city and captured it. They kept Rahab and her family safe because she had helped the spies.** Rahab and her family lived with the Israelites from then on. God was with Joshua, and everyone in the land knew of Joshua and what he had done.

Christ Connection: By faith, Rahab believed God would win the battle. When the Israelites attacked Jericho, Rahab and her family received mercy and became part of God’s people. Jesus has won against sin and death. Everyone who trusts in Jesus receives mercy and becomes part of God’s family forever. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Focus on the big ideas:

The writer of Joshua clearly highlights two main points in these chapters: God’s victory at Jericho, and God’s salvation of Rahab. Be sure to emphasize both main parts of the story. Use repetition to drive home the big ideas.

Use a prop: Display a bright red rope or cord and point to it when you tell of Rahab tying rope in her window.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ If you were preparing for battle, you might gather soldiers and weapons, and you would develop plans for protection and attack; however, God often does things differently than us.

What was God’s battle plan? Look at Joshua 6:3-5. **[Choose a volunteer to read Josh. 6:3-5.]** God’s battle plan of marching, blowing trumpets, and shouting seems strange. That is not how people usually fight battles. God gave these instructions, though, in order to show His power. It was not the power of people that gave the Israelites victory. It was the power of God! God’s victory at Jericho was a miracle. **What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.**

When the Israelites invaded Jericho, Joshua and his soldiers spared Rahab. How did Rahab mark her house as a safe place? Look at Joshua 2:17-21. **[Choose a volunteer to read aloud Josh. 2:17-21.]** Rahab hung a red rope from her window. This was a signal that the Israelites should not harm her family. This rope reminds us of the blood the Israelites used to mark their doors during the Passover in Egypt. The red rope also points forward to Jesus’ blood that He shed on the cross. God saved Rahab from death, and Jesus’ blood covers the sin of everyone who trusts in Him. In Jesus, God spares sinners from death and separation from Him forever. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ By faith, Rahab believed God would win the battle. When the Israelites attacked Jericho, Rahab and her family received mercy and became part of God’s people. Jesus has won against sin and death. Everyone who trusts in Jesus receives mercy and becomes part of God’s family forever. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 8, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Will God always give us what we ask Him for? Why?
2. Why can we trust God even if He doesn’t answer our prayers how we want Him to?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY “ What challenges do you think the Israelites faced as they moved into the promised land? Do you think they were able to find the foods they were used to eating in Egypt when they got to Jericho? Missionaries go to all kinds of places and sometimes encounter new foods. Sometimes they find familiar foods. ”

Point out Italy on a world map.

SAY “ What kind of food do you think people eat in Italy? (pizza, pasta, pastries, bread, and so



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

forth) In Italy, the Worthys eat some of the best pizza and pasta in the world. People in Italy need Jesus just like people in other countries. ”

Play the missions video.

SAY “ Shannon Worthy talked about an important thing that her family does in Italy: they make friends! Why do you think that being friends with people might make it easier to tell them about Jesus? Because friends understand you care about them, and they may listen more closely than a stranger would to the good news you share. ”

Ask a volunteer to pray for the Worthy family.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Before the session, write the words of the key passage on separate index cards. Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Psalm 77:14 together.

Place prepared key passage cards in the center of the room. Invite kids to each pick up one card from the pile. If you have fewer kids than cards, let kids take additional cards so they are all in use. Kids should hold their cards facing outward and line up in the correct order. Any kid with more than one card must quickly alternate his place in line.

SAY “ What does the word wonders mean in this verse? [Allow responses.] It means “miracles.” People can do many wonderful things, but only God can work miracles. God is all-powerful. ”

Lead kids to sing “The God Who Works Wonders (Psalm 77:14).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

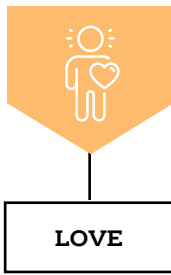
7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ God, we praise You because You are all-powerful. You can do anything. You are the God of miracles! Thank You for the greatest miracle of saving us from our sin. Please help us to honor You as we follow You. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Joshua 2. Explain that Jericho (H6) was located just north of the Dead Sea (I6). It was also very close to the Jordan River (F6), so it would have been one of the first places the Israelites encountered after they crossed the river (from the east) into the promised land.

Consider comparing the map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Israel.)

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Joshua 2:1.

SAY “Joshua sent spies into the promised land to scout the land. They crossed the Jordan River and arrived at Jericho. It must have been frightening and maybe a little disheartening to find such a strong, fortified city in their path. God had promised to give the Israelites the land, but the very first place the spies encountered was filled with their enemies. God had a plan, though, and He always keeps His promises. God used Rahab to help the spies escape, and then God showed His power and gave His people victory over Jericho. God works miracles! **What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.**”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “Why do you think the people of Jericho were so afraid of the Israelites?”

Lead kids to discuss that even though the people of Jericho lived in a strong, fortified city, they were terrified. They had heard about all the miracles that God had done in Egypt. They heard how God had defeated all of the Israelites’ enemies. They realized that God is all-powerful and knew that if God was fighting for the Israelites, He would definitely win.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 24:10.)

SAY “What is a miracle God has worked in your life?”

Give time for kids to share. Point out that if someone is already a follower of Jesus, the greatest miracle is that God has saved that person from sin and death. God continues to work all around us and through us to help build His kingdom.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 20:31.)

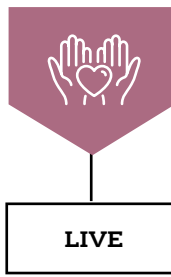
SAY “Since God is all-powerful, how do you think we should respond or act toward Him?”

Discuss how we can show God honor and reverence. The Bible says we should fear God, meaning we show Him respect. Because of who God is and all He has done, we can worship and praise Him. He deserves all the glory.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Prov. 9:10.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ **OPTION 1: THE PERFECT PIZZA**



Provide each kid with a copy of the “Build Your Own Slice” printable and access to crayons, scissors, and glue or tape. Lead them to color the pizza slices and cut out the toppings to glue to their pizza slices. Ask the kids to think about some of the places where they make friends.

SAY “ Rahab trusted God and helped the Israelites. She was welcomed into the nation of Israel. The Worthys talked about how important it is to welcome people into your life—to build relationships and share Jesus with others. What are some ways that the Worthys make friends? [Allow responses.] It all sounds like a lot of fun! ”

Challenge kids to tell their friends about Jesus this week.

☐ **OPTION 2: MAKE ME BELIEVE IT**



Direct kids to form groups of two or three. Prompt kids to imagine they are speaking to a friend who does not believe in miracles. Encourage kids to recall different parts of the story in order to convince their friend of the truth. Ask kids to take turns sharing evidence from the Bible story that might help make their friend believe.

After kids have a few moments to discuss in groups, gather everyone’s attention and ask each group to share their best answer to this question: Based on our Bible story today, how do you know the battle at Jericho was a miracle? Be sure to emphasize that we can believe by faith.

SAY “ God often does things differently than people expect. Sometimes God does what seems impossible. Defeating a fortified city by marching, blowing trumpets, and shouting is definitely a miracle! God is all-powerful, and only He can perform miracles. ”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray for the kids who are not yet followers of Jesus. Ask God to help them experience the miracle of salvation. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Secret Message Decode” on the activity page.



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 8 • Session 1

GOD DEFEATED JERICO

Joshua 2; 6

WHAT IS A MIRACLE? A MIRACLE IS SOMETHING GOD DOES THAT USUALLY CANNOT BE DONE SO THAT WE CAN KNOW HE IS ALL-POWERFUL.

The Israelites finally arrived at the promised land, but other people were living there. God's people had to go to battle against their enemies.

Joshua sent two spies into Jericho. The spies stayed at the house of a woman named Rahab. Rahab had heard about God and believed in Him. When the king of Jericho was looking for the spies, she hid the men on her roof.

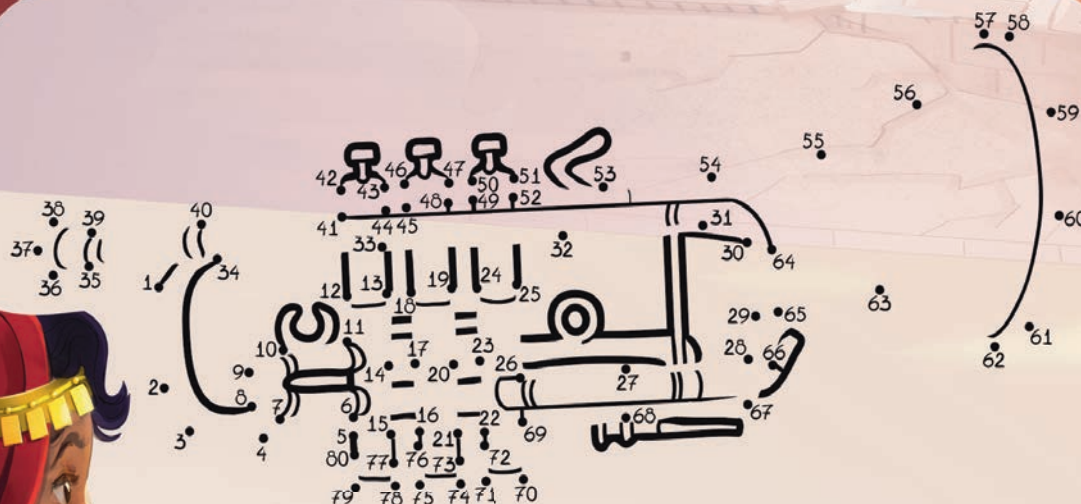
Rahab said, "Please be kind to my family since I have been kind to you. When you attack Jericho, please don't kill us." So the spies promised to keep Rahab and her family safe.

The people of Jericho hid behind the city's strong walls. God told Joshua how to conquer the city. Joshua would lead the people to march around the city one time every day for six days. On the seventh day, they would march around the city seven times, and the priests would blow their trumpets. All the people would shout, and the walls of Jericho would fall down.

The wall fell down flat. The Israelites went into the city and captured it. They kept Rahab and her family safe because she had helped the spies.

Christ Connection: By faith, Rahab believed God would win the battle. When the Israelites attacked Jericho, Rahab and her family received mercy and became part of God's people. Jesus has won against sin and death. Everyone who trusts in Jesus receives mercy and becomes part of God's family forever.

Make Some Noise | Connect the dots to discover a surprising tool the Israelites used to defeat Jericho.



Secret Message Decode

Joshua sent spies into Jericho to see what it was like. Use your spy skills to decode the message below.

A1 D3 B4 E1 B1 B5 A4 B4

B2 B1 D4 B1 C2 B1 E4 B4

B4 A4 A2 A4 B1 C5 A4 B4 B3 A4 B2 D2 A5 D4 D3

	A	B	C	D	E
1	G	A	W	P	S
2	F	R	B	I	Y
3	M	J	Q	O	L
4	E	D	K	H	N
5	C	V	T	U	Z

NAME: _____



the **GOSPEL** PROJECT

God Defeated Jericho

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Joshua sent spies into Jericho, and Rahab hid them from the king of Jericho.
- God told the Israelites to march around the city once a day for six days.
- On the seventh day, they marched around seven times and then shouted.
- Jericho's walls fell down, but God protected Rahab, making her part of His chosen people.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

By faith, Rahab believed God would win the battle. When the Israelites attacked Jericho, Rahab and her family received mercy and became part of God's people. Jesus has won against sin and death. Everyone who trusts in Jesus receives mercy and becomes part of God's family forever.

KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 77:14

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.

