

Waters Part and Walls Fall

Entering the Promised Land

Numbers 13-14; Joshua 2-3; 5-6

Character Trait: Courage

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that God told Joshua what to do in Jericho.
- Children will identify their own fears and specific ways they can depend on God for help.

Supplies:

- *Waters Part and Walls Fall* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Empty, paper towel rolls or stiff paper and tape *(one for each child)*
- Coloring supplies
- Stickers *(optional)*
- Small pieces of paper *(optional, one for each child)*
- Pens and/or pencils *(optional)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Ask the children to raise their hand if they have ever felt afraid. *(Raise your hand also.)*

SAY: Being afraid can do a lot of things, including making us feel like we cannot do anything. Fear can make us cry. It can make us worry. It can make everything seem impossible. Today, we will learn about two men who showed courage and trusted God more than their fear.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **What happened to Pharaoh and his army when they tried to follow the Israelites through the sea?** *(God told Moses to stretch out his hand. Then the sea rolled back again, and Pharaoh and his army drowned.)*
- **In what other ways did God care for His people?** *(He led the Israelites through the wilderness, fed them, and gave them water. He also gave them the Ten Commandments.)*
- **What did the Ten Commandments teach God's people to do?** *(They taught the Israelites how to obey God.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *Waters Part and Walls Fall* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Moses sent twelve spies into the Promised Land.
- Ten of them said, "We will never defeat the people there."
- But Joshua and Caleb said, "With God's help, we can do it!"
- Frightened, the people believed the ten spies.
- God said, "Only your children, with Joshua and Caleb, will enter the Promised Land."
- So, after forty years in the desert, it was time!
- Joshua sent two spies into Jericho.
- They met a woman called Rahab, who hid them and helped them escape down the wall.
- They promised to spare her and her family.
- The Israelites crossed the Jordan River. The priests went first, carrying the Ark of the Covenant.
- When their feet touched the river, it stopped flowing!
- Everyone crossed on dry land.
- Jericho was next.
- The Lord told Joshua, "For six days, march once around Jericho. Then, on day seven, march around seven times. Blow trumpets! Shout! The walls will fall down."
- Joshua trusted God. He did what the Lord said, and the walls fell down!
- They took the city.
- Rahab was spared.
- God's people began to take the Promised Land.

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **Who did Moses send into the Promised Land?** *(Twelve spies)*
- **Ten of the spies thought it would not work. What were the names of the two spies who said they could do it with God's help?** *(Joshua and Caleb)*
- **How many years did the Israelites wait in the desert until the time was right?** *(Forty years)*
- **Who helped the two spies by hiding them and helping them escape down the wall?** *(Rahab)*
- **What happened when the priests' feet touched the Jordan river?** *(The river stopped flowing, and everyone was able to cross on dry land.)*
- **Who told Joshua what to do in Jericho?** *(God, the Lord)*

SAY: Originally, Moses sent twelve spies, but ten of them gave up even before they started. Only Joshua and Caleb believed they could do it with God's help. But waiting for the right timing, God's timing, took time—40 years! Claiming the Promised Land was not easy. In fact, it seemed impossible. But with God, nothing is impossible (Luke 1:37).

God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Joshua led God's people into the Promised Land even when it seemed impossible. Our sin makes new life and a relationship with God seem impossible. But Jesus, God's Son, made a way to have a brand, new life with God for those who choose to follow Him.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

Suddenly, the walls *(hold arms out, bent at elbows)*
of Jericho collapsed *(let arms fall outward)*,
and the Israelites charged *(stretch arm forward with fist)*
straight into the town and captured it *(bring arms towards you)*.

Joshua 6:20b (NLT)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Divide the children into two teams, split the playing area into two areas, and determine a location for "prison." Give each team a small flag *(or other object)* to hide somewhere in their team's area. The object of the game is to run into the other team's area, capture their flag, and make it safely back. Players can tag opposing teammates in their territory, causing them to be "out" and go to the prison location. Players in prison can only be freed by a teammate who tags and escorts them back to their playing area without getting tagged themselves. The first team to capture the flag and bring it safely back to their area wins. After the game, explain that every one of the children who played showed courage.

SAY: If you were too afraid of being taken by the other team, then you never would have played at all. That is what happened to ten of the spies that Moses originally sent to the Promised Land; they accepted defeat before they even began.

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

SAY: Before the walls of Jericho fell down, Joshua trusted God by obeying Him and having the Israelites do as He said: The Israelites marched around seven times, blew trumpets, and shouted.

Pass out an empty, paper towel roll *(or a stiff piece of paper rolled and taped into a tube)*. Encourage the children to decorate the tube with coloring supplies and stickers *(optional)* to create a trumpet of their own.

For younger children...
Extend the activity for younger children by leading them around the room seven times in a march of their own.

For older children...
Extend the activity for older children by asking them to silently think about a specific fear of their own. Next, encourage the children to write about *(or draw a picture of)* their fear on a small piece of paper. Then, demonstrate how to carefully roll the paper up and place it inside their "trumpets."

SAY: When God's love fills our whole heart and mind, there is no more room for fear (1 John 4:18).

Character Trait: Courage

(10 minutes)

SAY: Courage means having strength even when we are afraid. Joshua and Caleb had courage when the other ten spies were afraid and doubtful.

Encourage the children to think more about courage by asking the following:

- **How can God help us to be courageous instead of afraid?** *(We can trust God. We can focus on and think more about God than on fear and worry.)*

How does choosing not to be afraid show we are trusting God? *(It shows that we believe what God says and have faith that God really is in control.)*

What are some things you can do when you feel afraid? *(Talk to God through prayer, talk to a trusted adult or friend, read God's Word)*



Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: One way we can share God with others is by showing how our personal relationship with Him gives us strength and courage.

What is one way that you can show your God-given courage to others? *(Ask the children to turn and share with someone next to them. Then, allow a few volunteers to share aloud.)*

What does your God-given courage tell others about God? *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but should include that God cares about us, helps us, and enables us to do things we could not do on our own.)*



Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: It is completely natural to feel afraid sometimes. Everyone has fears.

SAY: Think silently to yourself about a fear that you have. *(Provide a few moments of quiet think time.)*

Now, think of one specific way you can lean on God for His help. God does not want us to carry our fears and worries alone. He wants us to go to Him for help (Psalm 55:22, 1 Peter 5:7). *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but may include talking to God through prayer, reading His Word, the Bible, for direction and encouragement, and seeking wise advice from trustworthy people whom God has placed in their lives.)*



Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
How great and powerful You are! Nothing is impossible with You. Fill our hearts and minds with Your love. Help us to lean on Your strength, power, and love when we are afraid.
Amen.

Notes