"The Wall Walking War"

Lesson Passage:
Joshua 6:1-21

Lesson Focus: The children will learn that when we must trust, have faith in, the (unsinkable) plan of God even if it does not make sense to us.

Other Study Passages: Joshua 2:2, 2:6-11, 2:23-24

Lesson Intro: Start with a game. Pick between Simon says, short and tall, or red light green light. If you are brave and can manage time maybe do a couple of rounds of each. (Short and tall is a game where you have the kids sit when you say short and stand when you say tall if they move or flinch in the wrong way to sit or stand then they are out.) After having some fun with these games sit and settle everyone. What does it take to win at these games? Each game is designed to listen and do what you are told. You cannot win at the game doing what you want. That is how the games work and that is how you get it right. This does not only work in a game we will see in our story today that this works if we follow the plan that God gives as well.

Story Outline

I. The Worried People of the Wall. Joshua 2:2, 6-11, 23-24; 6:1


IV. The Wonderous Fall of the Wall. Joshua 6:20-21

Story Overview

Jericho was aware that Israel was near and what their God could do. They attempted to stand strong behind their walls. But God gave Joshua an unusual battle plan that brought the walls down and ultimately brought the defeat of Jericho.

Start with the story of The Walls of Jericho

I. The Worried People of the Wall. Joshua 2:2-3, 6-11, 23-24; 6:1

The story of Israel and Jericho in the book of Joshua begins in chapter two. Joshua had sent out two spies and the king of Jericho was informed about it. Rahab was the woman who had decided she would help the Israelite spies. She hid them in her house. The people of Jericho had taken extra measures and locked up their city. Then Rahab confessed to the two spies what all of Jericho knew.

She started by letting the two spies know that she knew what God had promised them. Jericho knew that God had promised to give the land to the Israelites. This promise from their God had made all of Jericho fearful and discouraged. She proceeded to let them know why Jericho was so afraid and discouraged. Although forty years had passed, they had heard of how the God of Israel had opened the Red Sea and allowed the Israelites walk through it on dry land. The people of Jericho had also heard the stories of the battles God had already won for Israel. The people had heard these things and knew that the God of Israel was God over everything. Their courage failed and they were certain that the God who had done these things would keep His promise and give their land over to Israel.

The two spies returned to Joshua with the report. They knew that the people of Jericho were worried. The two spies were certain that God would indeed give the land of Jericho into the hands of the people of
Israel. All this led Jericho to attempt to close their walls and attempt to secure themselves inside the walls of Jericho.

II. The Walking Plan for the Wall. *Joshua 6:2-5*

Joshua went to the Lord before going to battle against Jericho. The Lord then began to lay out the battle plan for Joshua. God first assured Joshua that He would hand Jericho over the king and the soldiers. Joshua was guaranteed that he would win. Then, the Lord began to lay out the plan to Joshua for the biggest obstacle, the walls.

The Lord instructed Joshua to march around the walls one time for six days. All the men of war along with Joshua were to circle around the walls of Jericho. Along with the men of war there were supposed to be seven priests (men chosen by God to serve Him in a specific place with specific jobs). These seven priests were to have and blow on seven trumpets made of the horn of a ram. These priests were to go in front of the ark of God (a special gold covered box where God would show His glory and presence). This was the plan once a day for six days.

On the seventh day all of these should march around the walls of Jericho seven times. After that seventh time the priest would blow on the trumpets longer than normal and all the people would shout. After they did all this God said that the wall would fall. Israel would have a straight shot into Jericho to defeat them.

This would be a point where you and I may have some questions. Perhaps wonder if this really would work. Maybe ask if we could use something to knock down the walls. Maybe we would wonder if this was a dangerous plan. For seven days going out in the open along the wall with the possibility of Jericho attacking from the wall. So many things we could think of, but what did Joshua do?


Joshua did not spend any time asking God questions about His plan. Joshua did not delay doing what God had told him to do. Joshua gathered the priests with the trumpets and the people. He lined them all up. Armed men at the front with the priests behind them. The ark of God was behind the priests and then the rest of the armed men at the end. Joshua gave them only the instructions of what they would do for six days. He instructed the people to stay quiet for the six days until he told them to shout.

Joshua trusted the plan of God. Joshua was convinced that God would do what He said He would. Joshua only did and did not delay or disobey. For six days Joshua and the people trusted God that He would protect them as they followed His plan. Joshua was sure that even though the plan sounded unreasonable God could do the unsinkable. Nothing could mess up the unsinkable plan of God if Joshua simply trusted and obeyed. So for six days obeying, waiting, and trusting they carried out what God said.

On the seventh day they went around the city seven times just as God commanded. Then Joshua instructed all the people to shout for God had given them the city. Joshua carried out the instructions of God just as He had told him. Joshua assured the people than after this victory would be theirs. He instructed them on how they would divide and take the spoils of war. Joshua trusted in the faithfulness of God to do as He said He would.

IV. The Wonderous Fall of the Wall. *Joshua 6:20-21*

The victory over the walls of Jericho began with the blowing of the trumpets. When the people heard the trumpets blowing, they shouted. The plan of God was being followed trusting that He would give the result. Then came the amazing result of trusting God and His plan. The walls did not only fall but they fell flat. God not only took care of bringing down the walls of Jericho but made sure that they could go straight ahead. This
give some indication that they had no trouble going through the crumbled fallen wall. God came through on
His plan of war.

**Conclusion:** God had already worked in the hearts of Jericho to fear Him. God gave Joshua His plan to bring
down the walls that kept Joshua and Israel from entering the city to conquer. The plan did not sound like a
good or logical plan of war. The plan did not sound like anything that Joshua had heard before. But Joshua did
not sit around to try to correct or find a better plan. Joshua believed and trusted in the plan of God
immediately. Joshua carried out the plan of God with all the people of Israel. Joshua carried out the plan sure
that God could come through. In the end Joshua and the people saw how the unsinkable plan of God came
through. The trust that Joshua had in God and what God did through Joshua spread everywhere.

**Application:** The plan of God for our lives is an unsinkable plan. It is something God will make happen and
wants to happen in each of our lives. The question is, will we follow the plan? We all wonder if obeying our
parents really makes a big difference. We wonder if we really need to be nice to everyone and if that makes a
difference. You may wonder if telling the truth really is a big deal. But all those are small details of the big plan
that God has to do something great in our lives. The question is do you believe? Do you believe that obeying
mom and dad to brush your teeth makes a difference? Do you believe that cleaning your room when they tell
you really is part of the plan? We have a choice will we follow what we learn from God as part of His
unsinkable plan for our lives, or live in disobedience to it? God has prepared good works for you and me that
we should walk in them (Eph. 2:10). He has prepared an abundant life (John 10:10). God can do greater things
than we can imagine (Eph. 3:20). But He still looks for a Joshua who listens to His instruction and plan and
simply goes and does it. Someone who knows that the plan of God is unsinkable and it works every time.

The greatest unsinkable plan God had was to save you and me from our sin. The Bible says that because we
have all sinned we fall short of His glory (Rom. 3:23). This means you and I cannot be with Him and must be
separated from Him because of sin. The Bible says there is a place of punishment for those who die in their sin
and it is described as a place that burns with fire. Yet God always had the unsinkable plan to make a way for
everyone to be saved. The Bible tells us that God gave His Son Jesus that everyone who believes in Him
should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). This is where people have trouble. People think they
have to do something. People think they have to be good or in some way pay God to be saved. But the
unsinkable plan of God was to provide salvation to us as a gift out of love that we can have through Jesus.
Jesus died, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Cor. 15:3-4). He is the Lamb of God who take away the
sin of the world (John 1:29). Jesus once told Nicodemus that it came down to a choice for those who believe,
and those who do not believe (John 3:18). They plan for salvation is simple and clear it is through what Jesus
already did for us. The question if will you trust in Jesus to save you or will you walk away in your sin in
disbelief of what Jesus can do for you? Has there been a time where you trusted in Jesus to save you from
your sin and you asked Him to save you? If not then maybe today you want to follow the plan of God and
trust in Jesus and ask Him to save you. God has made a way through His unsinkable plan if you can trust in
Him today.
The Ark of the Covenant

As a symbol of God’s presence with Israel, the Ark of the Covenant was the center of Yahweh worship and was brought into the temple each year at Passover (Psa 24:7–9). It housed the covenant tablets; an omer of manna and Aaron’s budding staff were either set before the Ark or in it (1 Kgs 8:9; Heb 9:4).