

Bringing **The Story** Home- Ch. 7- Week of February 17th



The Battle Begins

Bringing The Story Home is a tool for you to use with your family to connect with the weekly lessons taught in "The Story" curriculum. Feel free to use these activities in a way that fits your family life. Do what works with the time you have each week.

Timeless Truth: God's power, not our own, wins the battle.

Bible Basis: Joshua 1-6

Key Verse: Be strong and very brave. Make sure you obey the whole law.... Then you will have success everywhere you go. Joshua 1:7

Parent Tips: Read and discuss the key point from the Sunday School class your child or children attended. Use the Table Talk questions to start a discussion around the dinner table (or elsewhere) during the week. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your family understand how God's mighty power can accomplish things that we cannot on our own. The Extra Mile will get your family involved in encouraging someone in your community.

Get The Point: *Preschool:* God sent help for his people. God sends me to help, too.

Elementary: God sent help for his people. God sends me to help, too.

Middle School: God's power can break down any wall—literal walls and personal walls in your life.

High School: God is strong. He wants His followers to be strong and not make compromises in their lives. He wants them to fight and win the battle within.

Table Talk:

Preschool/Elementary

- Why do you think the Israelites had more faith this time than when the spies were sent into the Promised Land years before? (All of the people from before were dead; God showed His consistent power in the desert as they wandered.)
- Read Joshua 3:15-17. How did God show His power before the Israelites even got to Jericho? When did God show His power to part the water before this?
- Do you think God's people felt silly walking around Jericho for six days while being completely silent? How does this show they had faith in God?
- What do you think the people inside Jericho were thinking as they watched the Israelites march around?
- How much confidence do you think God's people had after they watched the walls around Jericho tumble down under God's mighty hand?
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Middle/High School

- God used Rahab, a woman with a sketchy background, to help His people in a big way. What does this tell you about God?
- Rahab lied to the king's men to save the Israelite spies. Was it wrong for her to lie? (Yes, lying is always wrong. Rahab was not a Jew, but she did have faith that the God of Israel was the one true God—read Joshua 2:11.)

- Will God forgive past sins, such as lying?
- God blessed Rahab for her faith and for helping His people—not for lying. What are some ways you can show your faith in God and help other Christians?

Living Faith: Gather a glass bowl half filled with water and a pepper shaker. Make sure the bowl is totally clean and free from soapy residue. Place the bowl and pepper on the kitchen table. Have some liquid dishwashing soap near the table where the children cannot see it. Bring your family together at the table and ask one family member to sprinkle pepper on the entire surface of the water. Say: **The pepper is like the wall around the city of Jericho. It protected this city by holding out enemies. It could not be broken.** Have a child dip their finger into the bowl. What happened? Say: **There would be no way for the Israelite army to break through the wall by its own power. Only with the help of God would they be able to break through and capture the city.** While you are saying this, secretly put some liquid dishwashing soap on your finger and dip it into the bowl. Watch as the pepper is immediately slammed against the sides of the bowl, leaving much of the water clear. Show how you did this to the children by getting a different bowl. Show how the dishwashing soap lowers the surface tension of the water and forces the pepper to the sides. Allow the children to sprinkle pepper on the water and then to watch it being drawn to the sides by adding the dishwashing soap. Say: **God's wonderful creation called water is made to act this way when dishwashing soap is in contact with it. Similarly, it was God's mighty hand that crumbled the wall around the city of Jericho. God's people were then free to enter and take over the city!**

Extra Mile: God brought people together to help the Israelites. In Jericho, Rahab helped the spies. God used her to make a big difference for His people. She even shows up in the genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:5), which shows how God can work through all kinds of different people to accomplish His plans. As a family, look to make a difference in one person's life by showing God's love in a tangible way. If no one comes to mind right away, feel free to talk to a Pastor, your neighbors and friends to find an individual who might need some help. Be creative as you seek to serve one person in your community. Finally, make sure that this person knows of God's great love for him or her!

Prayer Time: Dear Heavenly Father, You are our great God and protector over all. Thank you for being there for us as we battle our evil foe, the devil. Thank you for sending us Jesus who has conquered him for us, so that one day we will receive the Promised Land prepared for us. *Amen!*