



UNIT 8 | SESSION 1

GOD DEFEATED JERICHO

JOSHUA 2; 6

KEY PASSAGE:

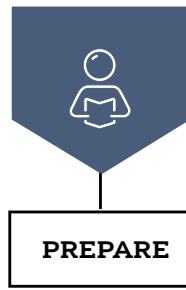
Psalm 77:14

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.

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: “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy” (Matt. 5:7). 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, and resurrection 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.



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 “Welcome everybody! I’m happy to see you. Have you ever done something that seemed impossible? Today, we’ll learn about how God did something that seemed impossible. God defeated Jericho by giving the Israelites some very unusual instructions.”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Seven on the Seventh” on the activity page.

SAY “Your activity page was a warm up for today’s story. How many times was the number 7 hidden? Seven times! Today, we will hear about the time God defeated Jericho. His plans involved the Israelites’ doing something seven times. We’ll find out what it was.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: HIDDEN WORDS

Before the session, use a cotton swab dipped in a baking soda and water mixture to write on paper some key words or phrases from this week’s story (spies, wall, march around, Jericho, battle, and so forth). Make a few different sheets in this way and set them aside to dry.

Allow kids to work together to spread a thin layer of grape juice on the sheets using a paintbrush. The acidic juice will react with the alkaline baking soda and reveal the words.

SAY “In that activity, the grape juice revealed the hidden messages. Spies often use code words and other hidden ways to communicate so they don’t get caught. When the Israelites went to Jericho, Joshua sent to scout out the land. Today, we will learn who helped the spies avoid getting caught.”

OPTION 2: RED HOT POTATO



Invite the kids to form a circle. If your group is large, form multiple circles. The larger the circle, the more challenging the game will be. Give a ball to one player in the circle. Kids should toss the ball around like a hot potato as they name items that are red. If a player repeats an item or takes more than five seconds to respond, she is out. Continue playing until one winner is left.

SAY “In today’s game, you needed to think of things that are red. In today’s story, we will learn that Rahab used something red to keep her family safe. She tied a red rope outside of her window. Soon, we’ll hear why.”





LEARN

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

Adjust your volume:
During certain parts of telling the Bible story for dramatic effect, lower your voice to a whisper during the times Israel had to be silent and loudly raise your voice when Israel had to shout.

Move about the room:
While telling the story, move to different parts of the room and invite the kids to follow you as if you are on a march just like Israel.

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ When the Israelites came to the city of Jericho, they found it was surrounded by a huge wall—the kind of huge wall that they couldn’t overtake on their own. Joshua sent two spies to scout out the city, but if they found any weaknesses in Jericho’s defenses, it didn’t seem to matter for God’s plan. God was planning to give them a miraculous victory. Rahab, the woman who helped the spies, had heard of the one true God and believed that He would give His people victory one way or another, so Rahab trusted in God for salvation.

Sure enough, God caused the walls around Jericho to collapse, and the Israelites defeated the city. God showed Rahab mercy, and she became a part of God’s people. Through the whole situation, God received glory. Everyone knew that the Israelites couldn’t cause Jericho’s wall to collapse by marching or shouting. This was something only God could do. It was a miracle!

Say our big picture question and answer with me: **What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.**

This miracle points us to an even greater miracle. People are unable to defeat sin and darkness by their own power. The power of sin and darkness can only be broken by Jesus, the Son of God. When we put our faith in Jesus, God gives us power to obey Him through His Holy Spirit. Through Jesus, God gives believers victory over sin and death. This is a miracle! Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection put God’s power on display and made the way for sinners to be forgiven and made righteous. Everyone who follows Jesus can tell others about Him. ”

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. Rahab was saved when she put her faith in God. He was her only hope for salvation against Jericho’s coming destruction. Sin always leads to death and destruction for everyone who doesn’t have faith in God for salvation. Faith in Christ is our only hope. 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 you what you ask Him for?
2. Why can we trust God even if He doesn’t answer our prayers how we want Him to?