



JOSHUA

TNCC
CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

GOD WAS WITH JOSHUA

WELCOME

WELCOME

Energetically welcome kids to a brand new year at tNCC Kidz!

Introduce new kids.

Ensure kids are in the right classes:

RED: 3-5 yo

BLUE: 6-8 yo

YELLOW: 9-11 yo

YOUTH: 12 and above (12 yos have an option of staying back in YELLOW if they prefer to)

Hand out registration cards to those who have not filled out yet.

HOOK: UNSEEN FORCE

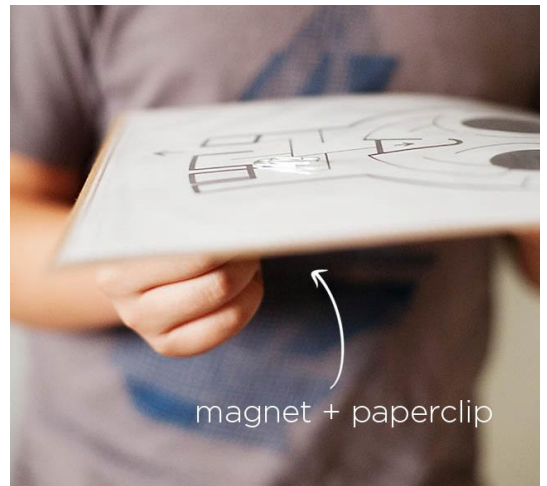
Materials: Magnet, some paper clips, sheet of paper (optional: maze)

Put some paper clips on top of the sheet of paper and the magnet underneath. Move the paper clips around using the magnet.

If you have a maze printed on the paper, you can ask the kids to race the magnet through the maze.

As you are moving the paper clips, explain that even though we do not “see” the magnetic force, it is still there moving the paper clips.

In the same way, even though we may not actually “see” God, but we know that He has always promised to be with us because He has promised to never leave nor forsake us in His word.





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LESSON

Do you remember when the Israelites were slaves in Egypt and God used Moses to bring them out?

Due to their unbelief and disobedience, the Israelites had to wander around the desert for 40 years before entering the Promised Land.

Before Moses passed away, he presented his assistant Joshua before the people as the new leader who would replace him and bring them into the Promised Land. (Joshua was also one of the 12 spies that Moses had sent to the Promised Land. He and Caleb were the only ones who believed that God could and would bring them in safely).

When Moses died, Joshua was suddenly left with the huge task of leading an entire nation of people. The Israelites were many, many, many, many people. If you include the women and children, there would have been about 2 million people! That's a VERY BIG JOB!

It was a scary challenge, but God reassured Joshua:

"Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. ³ I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. ⁴ Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. ⁵ No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. ⁶ Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

⁷ *"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸ Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*



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God told Joshua three important things:

i. “Get ready to lead the people into the land I am about to give to them!”

God told Joshua that all of the land was theirs—just as he had promised. God had already provided all that was needed for this BIG job. He had already prepared the land for the Israelites. Joshua just had to go and get it.

Imagine your dad telling you, “I bought you your favourite ice cream. It’s in the freezer. Go and get it!” Would you say, “No, it’s too difficult. I don’t have the money. I can’t get the ice cream”? Of course not. Because it’s already been provided for you!

God was with Joshua. And the same God is with me!

ii. “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Joshua had large shoes to fill. But God promised Joshua that just as He was with Moses, He will be Joshua also. He will never leave him nor forsake him.

In the same way, God promises you and me that He will be with us always.

God was with Joshua. God is with me!

iii. Be careful to obey all the law ... then you will be prosperous and successful.

God gave the people of Israel His perfect law, and if they follow it completely, they will be blessed. As we know, it’s impossible to keep God’s law perfectly in our own strength. That’s why God had to send Jesus—the only One who can keep God’s law perfectly.

The law is a shadow of things to come; the reality is found in Jesus. (Col 2:17) As we meditate on God’s word, we realise more and more about Jesus and His complete work on the Cross. And with a fuller understanding, we will enjoy God’s blessings and be prosperous and successful in every part of our life.

God was with Joshua. God is with me!

Last Sunday, we learnt about God’s promises. This week, we learn about these three key promises: God has already given us the victory; He will never leave us nor forsake us; And the more we know about Jesus and His finished work on the Cross, the more we will experience His prosperity and success in our lives!



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GOD WAS WITH JOSHUA

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

MEMORY VERSE

Joshua 1:9: *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you, wherever you go."*

HUDDLE TIME

Get into small groups. Share one challenge you are facing. Pray for each other.



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Joshua 1:9



Have I not

you? Be strong and



Do not be



terrified

do not be

for the LORD your God

will be with you

you go."





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GOD WAS WITH RAHAB

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HOOK: I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE

<http://www.howcast.com/videos/391420-How-To-Play-I-Spy-With-My-Little-Eye>

Today we are going to follow the adventures of two men who went to spy on a land with their little eyes.



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GOD WAS WITH RAHAB

LESSON (Joshua 2)

Last Sunday, we learnt about a new leader whom God chose to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. Who was he? *Joshua*

Remember what God told Joshua? *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you, wherever you go.”* (Joshua 1:9)

After 40 years in the wilderness, the Israelites were finally about to cross over into the Promised Land. But standing in their way was the big massive walls of the city of Jericho.

So Joshua sent two spies into the city to check it out and find out more information.

The two spies went in ... and they met a woman named Rahab. (People in the town did not like her very much ... because she did things that were not very good.)

Rahab allowed the two spies into her house as it was night time and getting dark.

However, the king of Jericho heard that there were two spies in Rahab's house. So he sent men to find them. The king's men came to Rahab's house and demanded that she bring the spies out.

But Rahab took the spies to the rooftop and hid them under some stalks of flax, a type of long-stemmed plant. She told the king's men, *“Some men came to my house. I don't know where they were from. But they left in the evening before the city gate was closed.”*

So the king's men quickly headed off to look for the spies.

After they left, Rahab went to the spies and said, *“I know that God has given you this land. Everyone here is afraid because we've all heard what God has done for you — drying up the Red Sea, winning battles. Your God is the real God!”*

Then Rahab made a bargain with the spies. *“Just as I have protected you, promise me that you will save me and my family when you take over this city — don't let us be killed.”*

The spies agreed. *“If you don't tell anyone what we have been doing, we promise you that when the Lord gives u this land, we will treat you well.”*

The city gates were closed, and the guards were looking for the spies. So Rahab let the men out of her window with a long red rope. It was a bit like Rapunzel and her long hair. The spies had to climb down the long red rope.

Then the spies told Rahab: *“When we come back, tie this red rope at your window. Get all your family members together in your house. And we promise you that you will all be safe.”*



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And the spies returned to Joshua and told him, “We are sure that the Lord has given us the whole country. All the people there are terrified of us.”

Later on, the spies did return, and Joshua and the Israelites did take over Jericho. And as promised, Rahab and her family were all saved!

RAHAB KNEW ...

Rahab was a Gentile (non-Jew) but she knew a few things about the God of the Israelites. She told the spies:

i. God has given: “I know the Lord has given you this land”

Rahab knows that God has given the Israelites the victory. The people in the big strong city were afraid, even though the Israelites were just a small group in the desert.

Today, because God gave Jesus who defeated sin and death with complete and perfect work on the cross, we already have the victory!

1 Corinthians 15:57 “But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

ii. God is great: “We have heard ...”

Rahab and the people of Jericho heard how God dried up the waters of the Red Sea when the Israelites came out of Egypt. They heard of how God destroyed the kings of the Amorites, the enemies of the Israelites.

This same great God is our God. Today, we can look back and see God’s great and powerful works in our lives and the lives of others.

iii. God shows kindness:

Rahab was a Gentile (not one of God’s special people). She was from Jericho — Israel’s enemy. She was a woman and a prostitute — unworthy in the eyes of society. Yet Rahab knew the heart of God. So she appealed that the Israelites show her and her family kindness and spare their lives.

Even when we were most undeserving, God showed His kindness by sending His Son to die in our place and spare our lives.



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GOD WAS WITH RAHAB

A SURE SIGN

The spies told Rahab to tie a red cord out of her window as a sign, so that Rahab and her family will be saved when the Israelites take over Jericho. And Rahab and her household were saved.

Back in Egypt, God told the Israelites to put the lamb's blood over their doorposts so that the angel of death will Passover their homes and they will be saved.

Today, you and I have the blood of Jesus over us. It is this blood that saves us.

LIFE OF GRACE

Even though people in the town may not have liked Rahab because of her life and her past, God still used her to help the Israelites. God still saved her and her family.

And more than that, God brought her into His own special people, and she lived together with the Israelites. And do you know something special? Rahab is one of Jesus' great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great ... grandmother!

So no matter how you feel today, know that if "God was with Rahab, God is with me too!"



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GOD WAS WITH RAHAB

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

MEMORY VERSE

1 Corinthians 15:57 *"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

HUDDLE TIME

Get into small groups. Share one challenge you are facing. Pray for each other.

CRAFT:

Get kids to tie a red cord to Rahab's window and write the memory verse on the wall.

(Pix suggestion: http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/classmat/rahab_craft.htm)





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CROSSING JORDAN

STORY (Joshua 3)

We've been following the adventures of the Israelites as they are leaving the desert (after 40 years!) to enter the Promised Land.

Who was their leader? *Joshua*

Remember what God told Joshua? *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you, wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:9)

How many spies did Joshua send into the Promised Land? *Two*

Who helped the spies? *Rahab, a prostitute*

JORDAN RIVER

So now, the Israelites were all ready to cross over.

But there was one problem.

A huge river separated them from the Promised Land. How do you get more than a million people safely across the river?

It was harvest time, and at harvest time, the Jordan River was always so full of water that it overflowed its banks. In fact, at this time of year, many think the Jordan River would have been more than a football field wide.

VIDEO: Check out this video of the Jordan River: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=quDZ298uF4E>

This is definitely not a nice calm and peaceful river that we can just walk across. It was deep and swift and dangerous.

GOD HAD A PLAN

Well, as you know, nothing is impossible with God. God had a special plan, and He told Joshua what to do.

Early one morning, Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over.

After three days, Joshua told the people: "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you."

He told the priests to carry the Ark of the Covenant into the Jordan River. The people were to follow behind them but to keep a safe distance from the Ark.



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CROSSING JORDAN

CROSSING OVER

The priests picked up the big gold box—the ark of the covenant—and started walking toward the water. The water was fast and looked very dangerous but they just kept walking.

It's a bit scary, isn't it? Walking into a huge raging river?

They get a little closer — 5 feet away, then 4 feet, 3 feet, 2 feet, and then they get right up to the edge of the Jordan River — and the river was still flowing fast and furious.

Then an amazing thing happened. As soon as the priest's feet touched the water, the water stopped flowing and piled up into a heap.

Wherever they walked, the river dried up! It was just like when the Red Sea parted for Moses. The priests took the ark and carried it to the middle of the Jordan River and then stopped. While the priests stood with the ark, all of the people passed through to the other side. They didn't even get wet.

REMEMBER

God wanted the people to always remember how He stopped the Jordan River. He told Joshua to choose 12 men (one from each tribe). The men went to the middle of the river, where the priests stood, and gathered one large stone each. The men carried the twelve stones over to their camp beside the river and put them into a large pile. The Lord told the people that, from now on, when anyone saw the pile of twelve stones, they would remember the special day that the Lord helped them cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land.

The Israelites made camp at Gilgal where they had put their stones. As everyone looked at the stones they must have thanked God and thought about what He had done for them.



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CROSSING JORDAN

LESSON

GOD WILL DO AMAZING THINGS AMONG US

God can free the Israelites from slavery, part the Red Sea and stop the Jordan River. God can do amazing things.

But under the Old Covenant, God's promises were conditional — the Israelites had to consecrate themselves. They had to be holy. Because an unholy person cannot be with a holy God.

Under the New Covenant, Jesus has made us holy and pure. Because of Jesus, we can experience God doing amazing things in our own lives.

WE CAN DRAW NEAR TO GOD

The Ark of the Covenant represents God's presence. God's presence is holy. And unholy people cannot go near a holy God. If they go near, they will die.

Under the New Covenant, because of Jesus, we can come boldly to the throne of our gracious God, where we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most. (Hebrews 4:16)

REMEMBER GOD'S MIRACLES

God also wants us to remember the miracles He has done in our lives.

When we remember, we have a heart of thankfulness.

When we remember, we trust more — the same God who has helped us in the past, will always be with us for today and the future.

When we remember, we remind others of how good God is to us.

That's why we take Communion every Sunday — to remember Jesus' finished work on the Cross and all His promises and blessings that He has in store for us.

This is a new chapter in our church life. And as we cross over to our new church building, we can also look back and remember how good God has been to our church and in our lives.



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CROSSING JORDAN

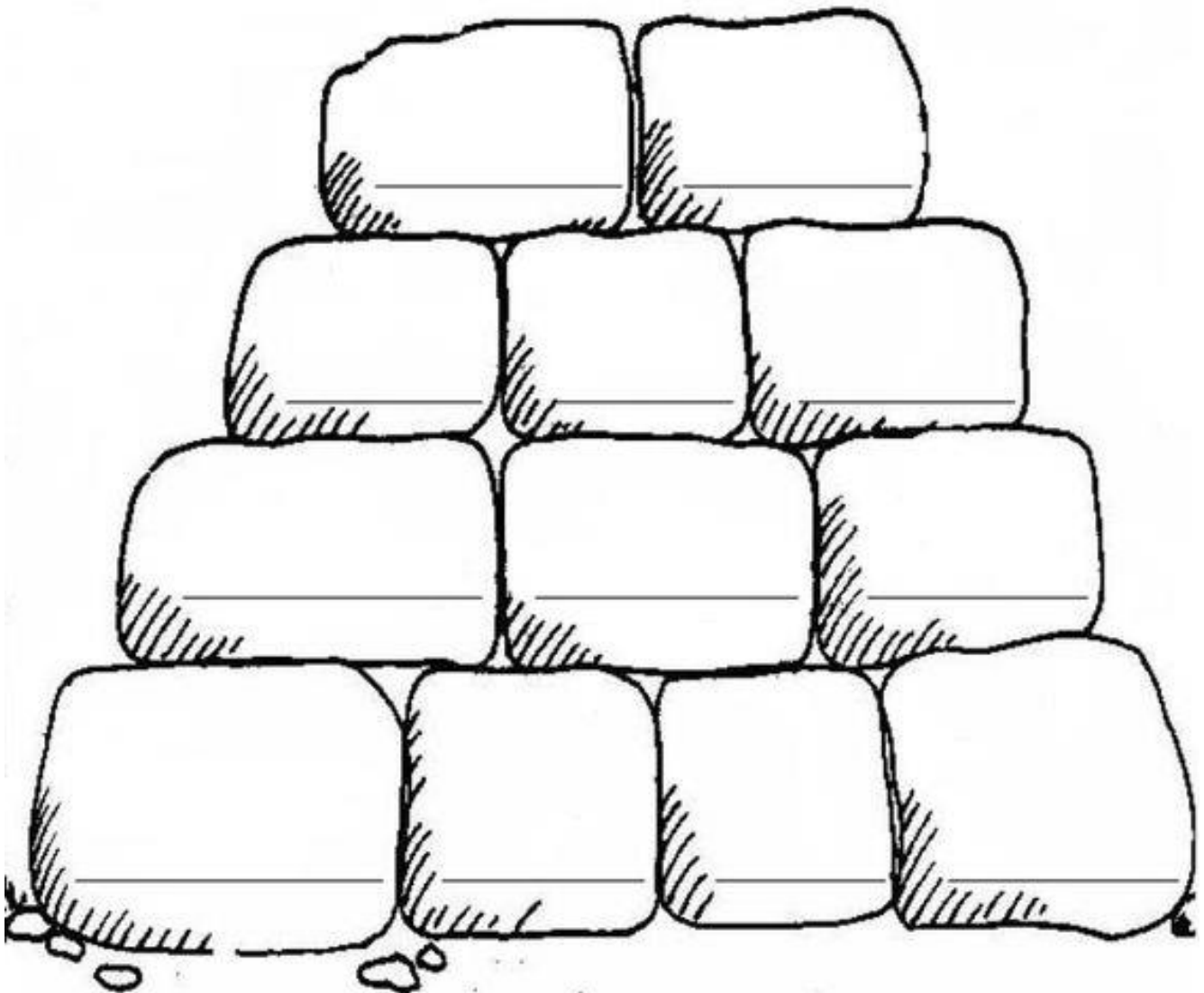
ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

HUDDLE TIME

Get into small groups. Share one thing God has helped you in the past. Pray for each other.

WORKSHEET

Try to remember some things God has done for you. Write them down on each stone, and thank God for what He has done.





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CONQUERING JERICO

STORY (Joshua 6)

We've been following the adventures of Joshua and the Israelites as they are leaving the desert (after 40 years!) to enter the Promised Land.

How many spies did Joshua send into the Promised Land? *Two*

Who helped the spies? *Rahab, a prostitute*

One of the big obstacles they faced was a raging river. What was it called? *Jordan*

How did the Israelites manage to get across? *God stopped the water from flowing*

What did they do to remember this miracle? *Took 12 stones (representing 12 tribes) from the middle of the Jordan and put them in a pile as a memorial.*

The Israelites faced a huge problem, and God did a great miracle for them.

But now ... they faced an even bigger problem — the walls of Jericho!

JERICO

Jericho is considered the oldest known inhabited city in the world. It was a fortress city with great thick walls. It was possible for two spies to creep in. But how does a nation of people take over a city as powerful as Jericho?

But the same God who delivered the Israelites from Egypt, who brought them through the Jordan, is the same God who will deliver Jericho into their hands.

God told Joshua that Himself! *"See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men."*

God also told Joshua what to do. And it was quite strange.

This was the plan:

For **six days**, the Israelites would circle the city one round.

The priests with trumpets went first, blowing their trumpets. Then the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant, followed by the army, who are supposed to march quietly.

Then on the **seventh day**, they would circle the city in the same manner ... for seven times! Then the priests would blow a long blast with their trumpets, and the whole army would give a loud shout.

Then the walls would fall flat and they would run into the city and burn everything and everyone in it.



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CONQUERING JERICHO

Joshua had a great test of faith. Would he try his own brilliant military plan, or completely trust God and obey in faith? He had an intelligence report from the spies, and might have even drawn some plan of attack.

But Joshua trusted God. He may not have understood, but He believed and obeyed. God's ways are different from ours. And they are so much greater!

So Joshua and Israelites did what God told them to (even if it may have felt a bit silly ... especially after the third or fourth day).

On the seventh day, after the seventh time around the city, Joshua gave the command and everyone yelled as loud as they could shout.

Then a great miracle of faith happened: the walls fell out from the city, flat on the ground! The Israelites ran straight in and burned everything. The only family who survived inside Jericho was Rahab and her family because she had faith to trust God to save her.

Archaeologists (people who dig up old places) have found these ancient walls of brick, and the burned remains of the city. We can trust what the Bible says. The Bible is an accurate record of history.

Nothing was taken from the city. Joshua put a curse on Jericho and no one ever rebuilt it on the same site again. God was determined to wipe out the idol worship and practices in Canaan. God began the conquest of Canaan with this miraculous victory at Jericho, where the walls came tumbling down!



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CONQUERING JERICHO

LESSON

GOD'S WAYS ARE HIGHER THAN OURS

Sometimes, God tells us to handle our problems in a way totally different from how we think it should be done. We have to totally submit our ways to His. When we do, we are amazed at how He does incredible things.

GOD CAN BRING DOWN OUR BIGGEST PROBLEMS

Jericho was supposed to be one of the strongest cities. But God was stronger.

What problems are you facing today? No matter how big or scary your problems are, they can crumble and fall in Jesus' name!



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CONQUERING JERICHO

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

GAME: God Says

(version of Simon says: only do the action if preceded with "God says")

God says blow your trumpet

God says walk in a circle

God says yell hallelujah!

Clap your hands << *kids shouldn't do this because no "God says"*

God says stomp your feet

Turn around

SONG: Here We Go Round the Jericho Wall

(to the tune of Mulberry Bush)

Here we go round the Jericho wall

Jericho wall, Jericho wall

Here we go round the Jericho wall

Early in the morning

2. This is the way we blow our horns ...

3. This is the way we quietly walk ...

4. This is the way we shout really loud ...

5. This is the way the walls fall down ...

HUDDLE TIME

Get into small groups. Share one challenge/wall you want God to help you with. Pray for each other.



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SIN & CONSEQUENCES

STORY (Joshua 7)

[Bring a mat and hide some play jewellery and nice shirt/jacket under it before the class starts]

We've been following the adventures of Joshua and the Israelites as they are leaving the desert (after 40 years!) to enter the Promised Land.

How many spies did Joshua send into the Promised Land? *Two*

Who helped the spies? *Rahab, a prostitute*

One of the big obstacles they faced was a raging river. What was it called? *Jordan*

How did the Israelites manage to get across? *God stopped the water from flowing*

What did they do to remember this miracle? *Took 12 stones (representing 12 tribes) from the middle of the Jordan and put them in a pile as a memorial.*

Then the Israelites were faced with a huge big wall of Jericho! What did God ask them to do? *Walk round the walls once every day for six days, and seven times on the seventh day ... then at the sound of the trumpets ... SHOUT!*

What happened to the wall? *Came crumbling down!*

God had given Israel the victory!

But God also gave a condition: Don't take any of the treasures and valuables, or you will have trouble! All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron should be given to God. (Joshua 6:18-19)

BATTLE OF AI

After the walls of Jericho fell down, something terrible happened! Someone disobeyed God's command and stole some things from Jericho.

Joshua and his men of war went from Jericho to the city of Ai. Some of the men went up and took a look at the city of Ai. It was a very small city, so the men came back and told Joshua that he should send only 2,000 or 3,000 men to fight. So Joshua did as they suggested. They expected an easy victory ... after all they conquered Jericho. But they were wrong. 36 men died!

Joshua knew instantly that something was wrong. He tore his clothes, fell with his face to the ground in front of the ark of the covenant until evening, then he and all the leaders or elders put dust on their heads. This was a sign of great sadness. Joshua prayed to God and asked why this had happened.

God told Joshua that someone had sinned by stealing and putting it in their own tent! Someone had sinned, and sin had consequences — separation from God and His protection and deliverance.



So the next morning, following God's instructions, Joshua told the people to sanctify themselves and divide up into tribes — according to their families (e.g. Reuben, Simeon, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, and so on).

Then God showed Joshua that the tribe/family of Judah had sin in their camp. Judah's families was divided up into smaller families, and then man by man ... and finally God showed Joshua the culprit — Achan — who stole valuables from Jericho. (Achan: pronounced *AY-kan*)

Joshua asked Achan to tell him what he had done and not to hide it from him. Achan said that he had sinned against the LORD God. Achan said that when he saw a beautiful piece of clothing from Babylon in the things that were to be destroyed in Jericho, he stole it. He also stole silver and a wedge of gold and he hid them under his tent.

[Get 1-2 kids to search for the stolen goods in the classroom]

Joshua sent messengers and they ran to Achan's tent where they found all of the stolen goods. They took all of the stolen things to Joshua and the people.

That day, Achan and his family were stoned to death as punishment for disobeying God.

After sin had been paid for, God restored the Israelites and gave them complete victory over Ai.





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SIN & CONSEQUENCES

LESSON

WE CANNOT HIDE SIN

Achan was greedy and disobedient. He was a thief. He tried to hide his stolen goods in his tent. But in the end, all his sins were exposed!

We may try to hide our wrongdoing. We may fool people. But we cannot fool God! God knows everything — even those hidden in our thoughts and hearts.

SIN HURTS AND BRINGS DEATH

Because of Achan's sin, the Israelites lost the battle of Ai — against a small city.

Because of Achan's sin, 36 men died.

Because of Achan's sin, he and his whole family died.

Romans 6:23 tells us, *"For the wages of sin is **death** ..."*

God views sin seriously. Because sin brings death.

JESUS PAID THE PRICE

And that's why Jesus had to come as a man. Like Achan, Jesus was born into the tribe of Judah. And He was born to die.

Because all of us have sinned. And all of us deserve to die. But Jesus took our place and all our sin. So that we can live! So that we can have hope!

Romans 6:23 also tells us, *"... but the gift of God is **eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**"*

God has given us everything we need when He gave us Jesus. When we understand that, we don't have to be greedy like Achan or take things that do not belong to us!

A STORY OF HOPE

After Achan and his family were punished, the place of judgement became known as the Valley of Achor. Achor means 'trouble' — Achan brought trouble upon the nation.

The Valley of Achor was mentioned in another part of the Bible. In Hosea 2, God says He will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.

Only God can turn a valley of trouble for you into a door of hope! And this hope is in Jesus! Thank you God for Jesus, our Hope!



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SIN & CONSEQUENCES

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

HUDDLE TIME

Get into small groups. Share one sin we struggle with. Thank Jesus for paying the price of our sin and helping us to change from the inside out.

CRAFT: Tent

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/15621929934474752/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/546342998527860024/>

Text: Jesus is our door of hope



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GIVE ME THIS MOUNTAIN

STORY (Joshua 14)

Suggested prop: Mountain (can be a paper mache or just a mound of pillows)

When the Israelites left Egypt, who remembers how many spies did Moses send to spy out the Promised Land? *12*

That's right. All of the spies brought back good reports about the land — flowing with milk and honey, lots of big juicy fruits etc.

But ... 10 were scared of the big strong 'giants' in the land. "We're like grasshoppers!" they said.

Only 2 believed that God can give them the victory. What were their names? *Joshua and Caleb.*

We've been hearing a lot about Joshua.

But who's this Caleb? And what happened to him?

Well, because of their faith, and "different spirit", God promised that both Joshua and Caleb will enter the Promised Land. And they did.

God promised: *"But My servant **Caleb**, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it."* (Numbers 14:24)

CALEB KEPT BELIEVING

Caleb was 40 years old when he was sent out by Moses to spy the land. Because of his faith, Moses told him that whatever land he had stepped on would be his inheritance.

And now ... 45 years later ... Caleb still held on to that promise. He wanted his mountain!

Caleb knew 3 things:

- i. God kept him **alive** (Joshua 14:10).
The whole generation that came out of Egypt had died in the desert except for Joshua and Caleb.
- ii. God kept him **strong** (Joshua 14:11).
Even though he was now 85 years old, he was still as strong as he was at 40.
- iii. God was **with him**. (Joshua 14:12).
And God will help Caleb drive out the Anakim 'giants' from the mountain.
"Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the Lord spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the Lord said."



JOSHUA

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GIVE ME THIS MOUNTAIN

LESSON

WE HAVE A DIFFERENT SPIRIT

When we believe in Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit in us. We have a different spirit. We are different from others. This spirit confirms that we are Jesus' boys and girls!

JESUS TOOK THE MOUNTAINS FOR US

When Jesus was on earth, He taught about God on mountains. (e.g. Mount of Beatitudes)

But one of the most important mountains in the Bible is **Golgotha** — the place of the Skull. This was the mountain where Jesus was crucified for you and for me. On this mountain, Jesus defeated sin and death to set us free. We don't have to worry about any 'giant' in life anymore. We have our inheritance in Jesus!

Another important mountain is the **Mount of Olives**. Many key events happened on this mountain. After His resurrection, Jesus went back to heaven from the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:9-12). And more importantly, one day soon, Jesus will return to the Mount of Olives (Zech 14:1-4, 9).

We may face many mountains in life. Challenges, difficulties, sickness etc. But if we know that Jesus is our source of life, our source of strength, and our victory, then we can also conquer our mountains!

We can look forward with hope because of Jesus, because we have a different spirit, and because He is coming again soon!

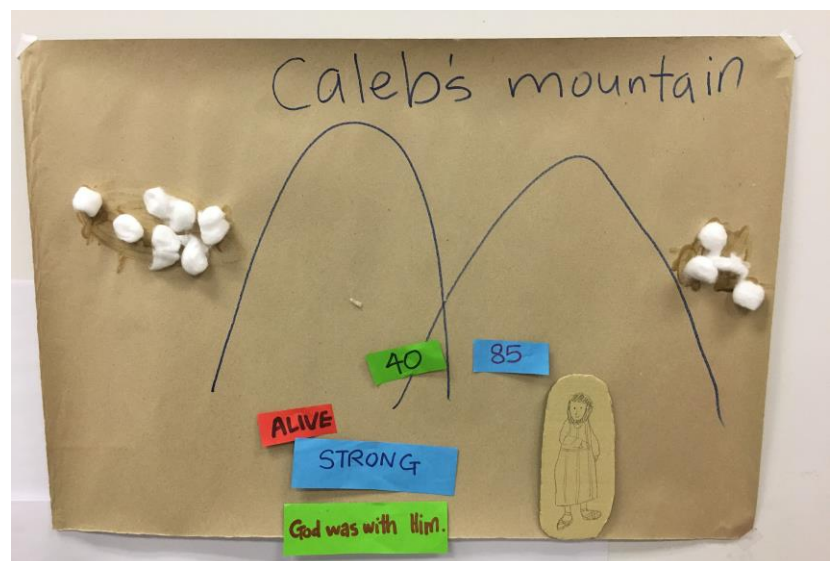
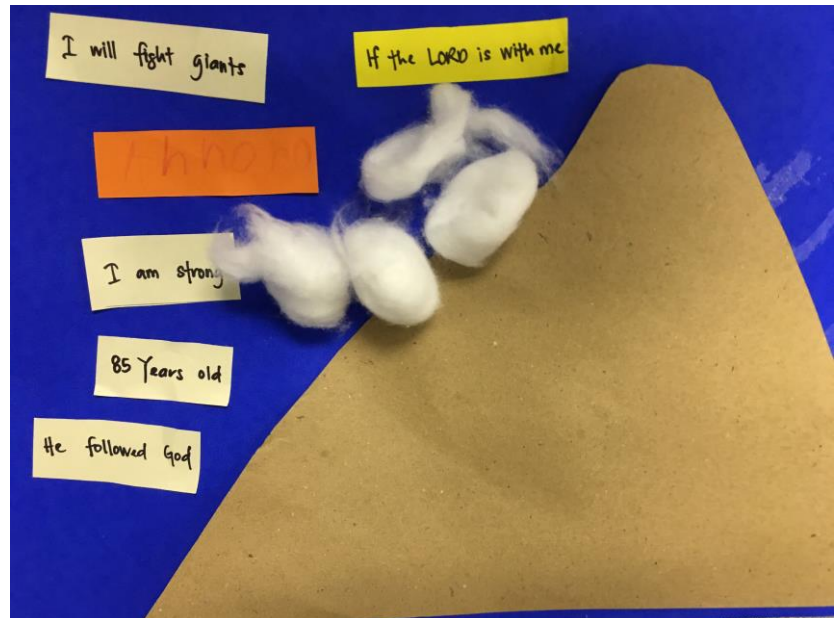
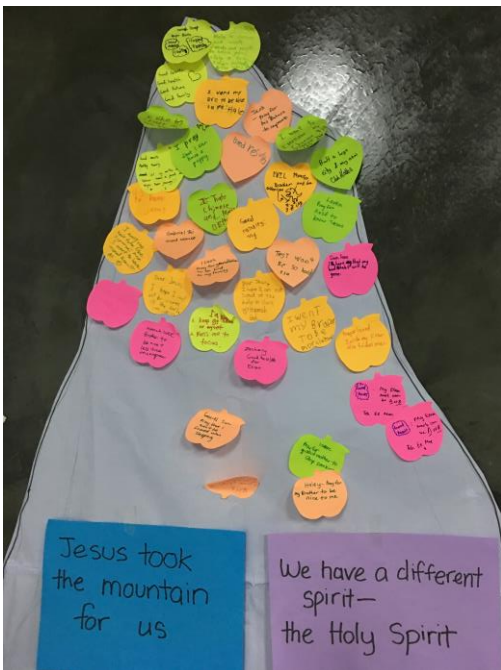


ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

HUDDLE TIME

Get into small groups. Get to know the kids and pray for them individually.

CRAFT: Give me this Mountain





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JESUS, MY REFUGE

HOOK

Prepare: A large box or 'tent' in the front of the room. Get into the box/tent and speak from there.

Oh, look everyone! I've got something awesome here. Who has ever built a tent in the living room or made a place to hide from a box? Me too!

Did you know the Bible calls this a refuge? It's like home base.

When you are playing catch, if the players make it to home base, they are safe, right? That's what a refuge is ... a home base!

Do you know God created home bases for His people when they entered the Promised Land?

STORY (Joshua 20)

When the Israelites entered the Promised Land and divided up the land, God told Joshua to set up six **cities of refuge** (protection).

The names of the cities are Kodeash, Golan, Ramoth Gilead, Shechem, Bezer and Hebron.

What are cities of refuge?

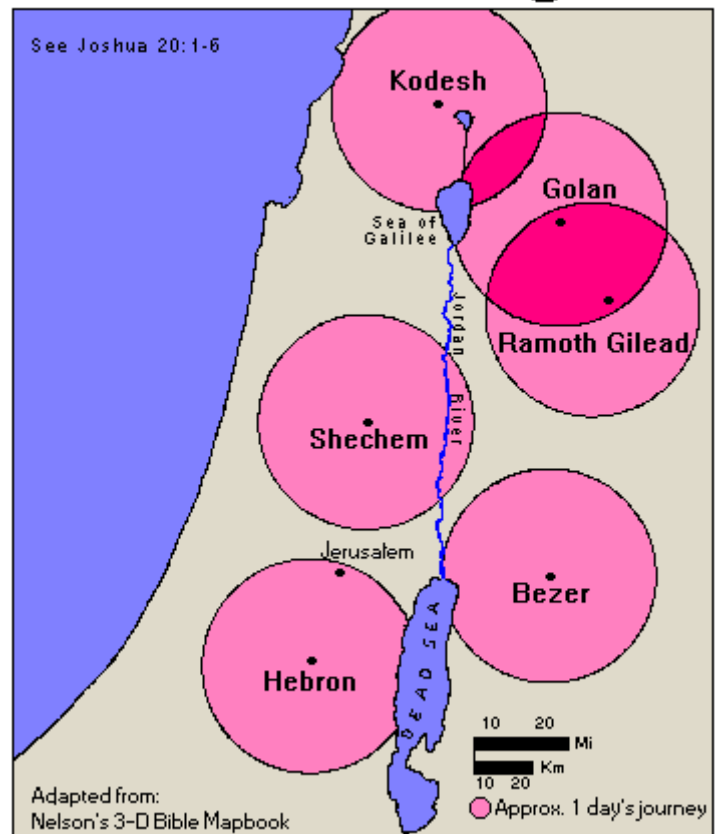
These cities would be safe places (or home bases) for anyone who accidentally killed someone else.

That way, he would not be killed by someone seeking revenge for the accidental killing.

The person who did the killing—whether Israelite or foreigner—can:

1. **Run** to one of the cities
2. Stand at the gates and **explain** his case to the elders
3. The elders will allow him into the city and **protect** him from anyone pursuing him
4. He can **stay** in the city of refuge until he stood trial and until the death of the high priest at the time.
5. Then he could **return** to the town he came from.

Cities of Refuge





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JESUS, MY REFUGE

LESSON

Even under the Law/Old Covenant, the Lord extended mercy to people who accidentally killed someone else. After all, killing another person was a sin. And sin is punishable by death. But the cities of refuge were an act of grace.

Under the New Covenant, God gives us, His people, a better promise and refuge in Jesus.

JESUS IS OUR CITY OF REFUGE

When we believe in Jesus, we have shelter and protection.

Jesus protects us from the punishment of sin ... because Jesus died on the cross and took all that punishment for us.

Jesus shelters us from the troubles and challenges of the world.

With Jesus, we can:

1. **Run** to Him when we are weary, and He will give us rest
2. Come to Him freely
3. He will **protect** us from the evil one
4. We can **stay** in Him forever
5. And when He comes again, we can **return** to the Father with Jesus

We can always find shelter with Jesus. Whenever you feel afraid or want to hide, you can depend on Him. Whisper to Him, "Lord I am afraid. Please be my refuge like your Word says." You'll feel Him close!

Thank you, Jesus, for being our City of Refuge.



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JESUS, MY REFUGE

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!" Psalm 91:2

HUDDLE TIME

Get the kids into small groups to share about what challenges they are facing and encourage them to look to Jesus as their refuge.

SONG: Refuge

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9BbT90NrXg>



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CHOOSING TO SERVE

HOOK

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Oh, look everyone! I've got something awesome here. Who has ever built a tent in the living room or made a place to hide from a box? Me too!

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Do you know God created home bases for His people when they entered the Promised Land?



STORY (Joshua 23-24)

The Israelites lived in Canaan for many years, prospering in the land of milk and honey. They built homes and cities. The fighting was over. The enemies had been defeated. The Israelites could live in peace.

When Joshua reached the age of 110, he knew it was time for someone else to be the leader. So he called a meeting for all the people and elders in Shechem.

So the people gathered around, and Joshua said goodbye to the 12 tribes.

He told them: *“Be very **strong**; be careful to **obey** all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left ... But you are to **hold fast** to the Lord your God, as you have until now.”*

Joshua then gives the people a history lesson, which starts back in the time of Abraham to God delivering them from Egypt, leading them through the Red Sea, feeding them daily in the wilderness, and bringing them into the Promised Land.

Then Joshua gives the people a choice: *“Today you must choose whether you will serve the Lord God or worship other gods. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”*

The people declared, “Yes, we will serve the Lord our God and obey Him.”

So they made a covenant and declared their choice before God.



LESSON

Today, all of you have to make the same choice: **Who will we serve?**

KNOW HOW GOOD GOD IS

Romans 2:4 *God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance ...*

When we know what God has done, we can make the right decision. God has created us, loved us, sent His son to die for us so that we can be righteous and with Him forever.

What has God done for you? *Get kids to share short answers.*

Now that we know how much God has done for us, what will your choice be today?

OUR CHOICE

Today, we may not physically worship idols. But there may be other gods in our lives — things that distract us and take us away from God. What are some of these things? *Money? Computer games? Friends? Ourselves?*

There'll be many times in our lives when we have to choose whether we want to follow God's way or our own way. When we say we choose to follow God, we have to make these other little choices every day and make the right choice.

What are some ways you can serve God? *Serve in church ministry, help the poor, help your parents etc*

WE CAN'T DO IT ON OUR OWN

The Israelites were very gung ho! "We can do it! We will serve! We will obey!"

But in the years that followed, they kept falling into a cycle of sin where they worshipped other gods and disobeyed the Lord their God. They kept breaking their covenant.

On our own efforts, even with our best intentions, we cannot fully obey God — who is holy, perfect and just.

That's why Jesus had to come to die for us and to cut a New Covenant. Under the New Covenant, Jesus is the one who kept and obeyed God's laws fully. And when we believe in Him, we are counted righteous and blessed before God.

Thank you, Jesus. Because of You, we can serve the Lord!

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

"But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." **Joshua 24:15**

HUDDLE TIME

Get the kids into small groups to share what choice they have to make and what other gods there are in their lives that they want to give up. Pray for one another.

SONG: Choose you this day

(Tune: "Are You Sleeping")

Choose you this day,
Choose you this day,
Whom to serve,
Whom to serve.

As for me and my house,
As for me and my house,
We'll serve God.
We'll serve God.

QUIZ ALERT:

Read and revise through the Book of Joshua. Quiz will be held on Sun, April 29.