** BIBLE 101**

Unit 6: Trusting in God

*Joshua and the Battle of Jericho*

**A Note to the Teacher:** The fall of the walls of Jericho provides a great opportunity to talk about how trust in God makes the impossible possible! This lesson uses the demonstration of the fall of an actual “wall” as a jumping off point for talking about the impossible walls we face in our own lives and how we tackle them.

This is an active lesson. Be sure that students are engaged not only in the activity but with the story it illustrates. Ask questions and invite students to read or help tell the story.

**Gathering**

As students enter the space, gather them in a seated circle. In the center of the circle, place a pile of Legos. **Say, “Our story today is about a wall. A very sturdy wall, in fact, that surrounded an entire city. A wonder – could you all use these Legos to build a wall?”** Give the students several minutes to build a wall. They may choose to work together, or to each build a wall independently.

**Say, “Now a wall is supposed to be strong. Let me see if the walls you created are strong.”** Take one of the walls and attempt to bend it. Pretend to work REALLY HARD. **Say, “Wow, you all must be excellent masons, because this wall is very strong. But as strong as it is, it would be no match for the wall in our story.**

**Our story takes place in a town called Jericho. The leaders of Jericho had built a huge wall around their entire town and the gates were closed tightly. They wanted to keep the Israelites – the Jewish people who believed in God – out. So no one ever went in to the city and no one ever came out. But that was about to change.”**

*Read, or invite a volunteer to read, Joshua 6:1-20.*

**Ask, “Wait a minute, the walls fell down because of a trumpet and some shouting? How is that possible?”** Give time for answers.

**Say, “No, a trumpet and some shouting couldn’t knock the walls down. But if that didn’t do it, what did? Just like Gideon was able to fight a huge army with a trumpet, a clay pot, and a torch, and just like Daniel was able to survive the night in a pit full of hungry lions, Joshua was able to knock down a huge wall without any weapons at all because of HIS TRUST IN GOD! Joshua knew that it would be impossible to break through the wall with weapons or to knock it down with the strength of even the largest army. But he trusted that God would make it possible. And because of his trust, God brought down the walls of Jericho! Trusting in God makes the impossible possible!”**

**Ask, “Have you ever been asked to do something you thought was impossible?”** Give time for answers. **Ask, “How did you do it?”**

**Say, “When we trust in God – even if we are scared or worried or think something is too hard – God helps us to do amazing things.”**

**The Walls Came Tumbling Down**

Set out a large pile of cardboard “bricks.”

**Say, “Let’s see if we can recreate the story of Joshua and the Battle of Jericho. First, we need to build a huge round wall, as if it goes all the way around a city.”** Help the children to build a large wall to circle an imaginary city.

**Say, “Now, we are going to be the Israelites sitting outside the wall. I am going to read the verses from Scripture again and we are going to do what it says. Let’s see what happens.”**

Read Joshua 6:1-20 again, pausing at each instruction and having the children do it.

When the trumpet sounds and everyone shouts, invite the students to push the wall down. When the walls fall, cheer!

**Say, “We had to help our wall out a little bit, but imagine how excited the Israelites were when the wall fell! How loudly do you think they cheered?”** Allow the children to celebrate their accomplishment.

If time allows, you may wish to build another wall and repeat the process.

**Closing**

When everyone has finished, work together to return the blocks to a neat pile.

Corrie arrives to teach music at 11:20am. At that time, students gather in a seated circle near the classroom couch. If time allows, have students help cleanup before heading to choir practice.