

# SABBATH SCHOOL

## Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

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Level 4 • Unit 6 • Week 2

### JOSHUA AND THE BATTLE OF JERICHO

**OBJECTIVE:**

To show by the story of Joshua and the battle of Jericho how God gives us victory.

**ATTENTION GETTER:**

Play the following activity to sharpen students' observation skills.

Supplies: Bundle of straw  
Red rope

Do: Put out a bundle of straw and a red rope. Ask the children to put other things on the table: pens, watches, coins, etc. Have lots of things put on the table to make it very challenging. Have the class close their eyes while a student removes one item from the table. Then have the class open their eyes and try to guess what item was taken. As time allows, let students taken turns.

**BIBLE LESSON:**

Supplies: Picture of the Passover foods  
Bowl of grain  
Unleavened bread  
Trumpet or ram's horn (or a picture)  
Stones

Say: The children of Israel had wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Now it was finally time for them to enter the Promised Land. They came near Jericho and sent spies ahead.

Do: Talk about how the scouts went on ahead to Jericho (Joshua 2:1-24).

Read: Joshua 5:10 "Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho." [Show a picture of Passover foods or a Passover celebration.]

Joshua 5:11 "And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day." [Hold up the bowl of grain and unleavened bread.]

Joshua 5:12 "Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year."

Ask: Do you think that seemed strange and a little scary to them?

Say: No more manna after 40 years! Most of these people had grown up eating manna every day. They might have been a little worried. Or they might have been kicking up their heels with joy to be able to have some different food.

They probably had to learn how to prepare lots of new foods. "How do we cook this stuff?" they might have asked.

Now the children of Israel had sent out spies to scout out the land. Two men had entered the city. They were in the house of Rahab when soldiers came looking for them. Rahab hid the two Israelites under stalks of flax she had drying on the roof. She told the king's men that they had left earlier and saved them.

Rahab told the Israelite spies she knew that the Lord had given the land to them and that the Israelites' God terrified all of Jericho. She asked that since she had shown them kindness, that they also show kindness to her and her family and spare them. So the scouts promised to protect her. They escaped by letting themselves down a red rope from the window of Rahab's house which was on the city wall. They told her to put the red rope in her window and have all her family in that house.

The people of Jericho were already terribly afraid, Rahab had said. They locked the gates and no one went in or out. Imagine how they felt. They had heard the stories about God and how He cares for and helps His people. They had heard stories of the Red Sea parting and the total destruction of two Amorite kings. Rahab told the scouts that her people quaking with fear.

Joshua was near Jericho when he saw a man with a sword! "Are you friend or foe?" Joshua asked. The stranger answered, "Neither, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." Joshua fell on his face and asked, "What does my Lord say to His servant?"

- Read: Joshua 5:15 “Then the Commander of the LORD’s army said to Joshua, “Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.” And Joshua did so.
- Do: Tell the story of Joshua and the battle of Jericho with enthusiasm and expression (Joshua 6:1-25).
- Say: Then God instructed Joshua. Joshua listened. He carefully followed God’s instructions. The army was to march around Jericho once a day for six days. Armed men were to march in front, then seven priests would come blowing trumpets. Then the priests came carrying the Ark of the Covenant—the gold-covered box that held the stone tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them. More armed men marched behind. The people were to march silently. No war cries, no shouts, no speaking. The only sound was the mournful wail of the seven trumpets.
- Do: Show the trumpet or ram’s horn (or picture) and explain that the priests used ram’s horn trumpets.)
- Say: Imagine you were with the citizens of Jericho watching the Israelites circle the city. Rahab said the people were afraid before. Imagine being with Rahab and her family as they also watched and waited. The seventh day at dawn, the Israelites marched early. In Jericho the people watched and waited with fear clenching their hearts. This time God’s people marched around the city seven times. Finally the trumpets sounded one long powerful trumpet blast. The crowd shouted while all Jericho listened and watched as the walls began to fall, crashing into rubble.
- Do: Dump out your pile of stones.
- Say: They all saw that the God of the Israelites is really the true God. They were defenseless! No more walls, no more locked gates. Rahab and her family stayed in their house waiting for the dust to settle. At last the two young spies came and they stepped into the dusty sunlight. They brought Rahab and all that was hers out of the house and situated them just outside the camp of Israel. God gave the victory, but Joshua did his part. Joshua was a man of vision and courage. He carefully followed all of God’s instructions.

#### **LESSON APPLICATION:**

Do: Build a wall with blocks, strawberry baskets or boxes to represent the walls of Jericho. Then have the children circle the wall once and then pretend to sleep. This should be done six times very quietly. Then on the “seventh” day, the children should march around seven times, then blow trumpets, shout and knock the wall down using their hands. (No kicking or using feet allowed.)

Ask: Who gave the victory?

Optional activity: Decorate cookies as walls—outline bricks and windows, etc. with icing.

**Music:**

Sing the following song.

“Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho”

Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho.  
Joshua fit the battle of Jericho and the walls came a tumbling down.

You may talk about your men of Gideon,  
You may talk about your mighty men of Saul,  
But there's none like good old Joshua,  
At the battle of Jericho.

Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho.  
Joshua fit the battle of Jericho and the walls came a tumbling down.

Up to the walls of Jericho,  
He marched with spear in hand.  
Go blow those rams' horns, Joshua cried  
For the battle is in God's hand.

Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho.  
Joshua fit the battle of Jericho and the walls came a tumbling down.

Then the lamb- ram- sheep horns began to blow  
And the trumpets began to sound.  
Joshua commanded the children to shout,  
And the walls came a tumbling down.

Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho.  
Joshua fit the battle of Jericho and the walls came a tumbling down.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

Joshua 1:8 “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

# family activity

## THE POINT:

The story of Joshua and the battle of Jericho shows that God gives the victory in all that we do.

## ASK ME...

What did the Israelites celebrate upon entering the Promised Land?

What kind of food did the Israelites stop eating when they entered the Promised Land?

How did the people of Jericho feel as they watched the Israelites walk around their city walls?

What happened when the crowd shouted?

Who gave the victory?

How well did Joshua follow instructions?

## FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Fill in the blanks:

Joshua 1:8-9 "This Book of the \_\_\_\_\_ shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall \_\_\_\_\_ in it day and night, that you may \_\_\_\_\_ to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good \_\_\_\_\_. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good \_\_\_\_\_; do not be afraid, nor be \_\_\_\_\_, for the LORD your God is with \_\_\_\_\_ wherever you go."

Joshua 6:2-3 "And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your \_\_\_\_\_, its king, and the \_\_\_\_\_ men of valor. You shall \_\_\_\_\_ around the city, all you men of \_\_\_\_\_; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do \_\_\_\_\_ days."

Joshua 6:5 "It shall come to pass, when they make a long \_\_\_\_\_ with the ram's \_\_\_\_\_, and when you hear the \_\_\_\_\_ of the trumpet, that all the people shall \_\_\_\_\_ with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down \_\_\_\_\_. And the people shall go up every man straight before him."

Joshua 6:10 "Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, 'You shall not shout or make any \_\_\_\_\_ with your voice, nor shall a \_\_\_\_\_ proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, "Shout!" Then you shall shout.'

Joshua 6:27 "So the LORD was with Joshua, and his \_\_\_\_\_ spread throughout all the country."

## MEMORY VERSE:

Joshua 1:8 "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."