

PARENTS' PAGE LESSON 7: The Battle Begins

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).

Resource: *The Story for Kids*: Chapter 7

Parent Tips:

Use the Table Talk questions to start a discussion around the dinner table during the week. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your family understand how God's power can accomplish things that we can't 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?

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 filled halfway with water and a peppershaker or pepper mill. Make sure the bowl is totally clean and free from soapy residue. Put the bowl and the pepper on the kitchen table. Hide some liquid dishwashing soap near the table. 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 Jericho. It protected the city by holding out enemies and couldn't be broken.

Have a child dip their finger into the bowl. Did anything happen?

Say: There was no way that the Israelite army could break through the wall by its own power. Only with God's help could they take the city.

As you say 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.

Explain how you did this trick by getting a new bowl or thoroughly washing out the one you used. Show how the detergent lowers the surface tension of the water and forces the pepper to the side. Allow your kids to sprinkle pepper on the water and then watch it being drawn to the sides by adding detergent.

Say: From the beginning of time, God designed the water to react the way it does in this trick. He knew exactly what the reaction would be when the detergent hit the water. In the same way, God's power brought down the wall around Jericho. He knew it would crumble when the Israelites blew their horns and shouted out to Him.

Extra Mile

God brought people together to help the Israelites. In Jericho, Rahab helped the spies and encouraged them by saying, "Everyone in this country is weak with fear because of you." God used one person, Rahab, to make a big difference for the Israelites. Rahab even shows up in the genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:5), which demonstrates how God had a great plan for somebody who the world may have viewed as a castoff.

As a family, decide to make a difference in one person's life by showing him God's love in a tangible way. If you don't know of anyone to help, talk to your pastor, friends, neighbors, a local charity or community organization to find an individual who needs help. Maybe it's an elderly person who needs yard work (grass cut, sidewalk shoveled or weeds pulled). Perhaps it's a single

mother who could be blessed by a bagful of groceries or a gift card to a grocery store. Maybe it's a military family who has a spouse overseas who would delight in a card of encouragement and dinner out. Be creative as you seek to serve one person in your community. Make sure this person knows that God cares for him or her.