



The Walls of Jericho

Joshua 6

God Statement: God is Omnipresent! (all-present)

KEY VERSE:

“The eyes of the Lord are everywhere. They watch those who are evil and those who are good.”
(Proverbs 15:3, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

Purpose: To build relationships with families and help parents feel comfortable leaving their child.

As parents check-in their child at your classroom, try to welcome them by name to help them feel secure in leaving their child in your care. Once you’ve completed each of the check-in procedures, welcome the child into your classroom and encourage him/her to play with the classroom toys and activities. If you have LITs in your classroom, this is a great time for them to help engage with the kids while you continue checking in the kids.

If a child brings money for offering, allow them to put the money in the class offering bank. Thank them for sharing with others.

If a child is upset or reluctant to enter the room, encourage him or her by offering toys, books or other fun items. If a child is still upset, let the parents know that we will text them if their child continues to be upset. Then, offer to carry the child into the classroom and try to calm the child with toys or other activities.

Use the “Connect” reminder (listed below) to help kids feel comfortable and safe in your class!

CONNECT WITH KIDS

Purpose: Building relationships & prioritizing safety for our youngest children.

Our goal, first and foremost, when serving babies and young toddlers is to prioritize building trusting relationships and the feeling of safety. We build trust with our littlest kids by meeting needs and helping them learn that church is a secure place where they are loved, known and safe.

The 4 Ss are a simple way to keep our hearts and minds focused on this:

When a child feels... *(most of the time)*

SAFE: physically and emotionally

SEEN: known and understood

SOOTHED: calmed and supported

They can become **SECURE.**

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

(10 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: The Walls of Jericho

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about the Walls of Jericho.

Say: Raise your hand if you like to build things! What do you like to build? *Let kids respond.* Do you want to know my favorite part of building? Getting to knock it all down! Who likes to knock down towers after you build them? *Let kids respond.* Well, today, we are going to hear about a story in the Bible, God's Word, when God's people had to knock down a very big wall.

Say: God had promised a new land to His people, the Israelites. The city of Jericho was in the way. Uh oh! God had a plan to knock down the city though, so God's people didn't have to worry. God was in control! God's plan involved a lot of marching and even some trumpets! Before we hear the whole story, let's do our activity!

MAKE: Explore Musical Instruments

Supplies: *a box of musical instruments*

Directions: Gather the class into a big circle on the ground. As they sit there, take out your classroom instruments. Pull instruments out one at a time and pass them in a circle letting kids try each one. Then, invite the kids to explore each instrument freely and pick one of their own liking. Turn on music using Plex (or Spotify if plex is not available) and continue to let kids play and explore the musical instruments.

Say: *Today, we are going to hear about some instruments that had to be played to knock down a really big wall. Joshua and his friends had to march around the wall for a long time because God told them to. Playing music is so fun!*

CLEAN UP

(5 minutes)

Have the children begin cleaning up as you transition into Large Group time. All the toys should be put away by the end of clean up time.

Try singing: “Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere.”

LARGE GROUP

(15 minutes)

After clean up, have your class gather around the story time rug/blanket/squares and Hamilton’s house for Large Group time.

WELCOME & PRAYER

Tell the kids you are so excited to have them joining you this morning and give them a brief explanation of Large Group and the expectations of them during this time. After going over the expectations, pray to open large group time.

OFFERING – Ask: *Did anyone bring money for an offering today? This money is used to help other people. You may put your money in the class offering bank.*

WORSHIP

Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex (Miss Mindy) to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, **go to Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder.**

- *I’ve got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down in my Heart*
- *I’m in the Lord’s Army*

READ A BIBLE STORY

Purpose: Engage our youngest children in a meaningful way by teaching God’s word!

This week, watch the video entitled The Walls of Jericho from Saddleback Kids. You can watch it on your Plex or a laptop.

BIG IDEA:

God is omnipresent! (ahm-ni-pre'-sent). (Spread your hands and arms in front of you.) God is everywhere! He watches the evil and the good. He watches YOU! He loves you.

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as you read, allowing the kids to turn the page or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word on the page! Kids have very short attention spans (1 minute for each year of age) so try to keep your interactions short and don't get discouraged if a child loses focus!

BIBLE STORY (5-7 minutes)***THIS WEEK'S LESSON: The Walls of Jericho***

Using the props and Hamilton puppet, tell the story for the day. Make sure to keep it brief and engaging by asking the kids questions throughout and using Hamilton to keep their attention.

Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton is holding a musical instrument from your class collection.

Say: Hi Hamilton, I see you have a shaker. I know a story where God had a special plan for some musical instruments. Want to hear that story? ***Hamilton nods excitedly.***

Say: God had promised a new land to His people. The city of Jericho was in the way. God had a plan to knock down the city. He told Joshua and the people to help.

Watch the story video from Saddleback Kids about the Walls of Jericho on Plex or use classroom device.

Say: Wow, what did God's people have to do to get the walls to fall? ***Let kids respond.*** That's right, they had to march around the walls on 7 different days and the 7th day they had to march around SEVEN TIMES! They blew their horns super loud and what happened, Hamilton? ***Hamilton acts like the wall falling down.*** You're right! The walls came tumbling down!

Say: Thanks for joining us today, Hamilton. I can't believe how powerful God is! God is so awesome! Hamilton, I hope you have fun playing with your instrument. We can't wait to see you next time for our story. See you later! ***Wave bye to Hamilton.***

SAY IT OUT LOUD! (30 seconds)

This is the opportunity to remind the children of the God Statement for the day. Even if they struggle to pay attention during the lesson, this part is important to do every week.

We are learning that **God is omnipresent! (ahm-ni-pre'-sent). (Spread your hands and arms in front of you.) God is everywhere.**

WORSHIP RESPONSE (2 minutes)

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Encourage class to sit quietly.

Say: We've been learning today that God is omnipresent! (ahm-ni-pre'-sent). ***Spread your hands and arms in front of you.*** God is everywhere! What does that mean to us?

Say: He is with your grandma at her house. He is with your baby at home. He is with your brother at school. God is everywhere and He watches over us. Let's tell Him 'thank you' for watching over us. Thank you, God!

Close large group time in prayer.

BLESSING (1 minute)

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

Say: *Friends, remember that God is watching over you with love.*

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

PLAY: Walls of Jericho Coloring Page

Supplies: *coloring page, crayons*

Directions: Encourage the kids to use the crayons to color their pages as bright and colorful as they can. Make sure to send the paper home if they don't have time to color, so that parents can see what they learned from the day.

Say: *Let's color this picture of the walls of Jericho to remind us of how powerful God is! He is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent!*

While you are working with each child, ask:

- What is happening here?
- What is your favorite color?
- God is watching over you all the time with love. What do you think His face looks like while He watches over you?

PLAY!

Purpose: Engage our youngest children by playing games and having fun!

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

Suggestions of activities:

- Hide an object and let kids find it
- Name and count parts of the body
- Discuss colors & numbers
- Turn on music and play freeze dance
- Have kids follow simple instructions (hop, sit down, clap, etc.)
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball

CHECK-OUT

(End of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in free play. Follow the check-out procedures for your classroom, making sure to send all of the child's belongings (diaper bag, bottle/sippy cup, pacifier, blanket, etc.) with the parent.

Give the parent encouragement about how the child did in your class and say "Bye (child's name)!"