

# BRINGING THE STORY HOME

Week of October 29, 2017

**Timeless Truth:** God's power, not our own, wins the battle.

**Bible Basis:** Joshua 1-6

***The Story for Kids Weekly Reading:***

Chapter 7 The Battle Begins

**Memory Verse:** "Be strong and very brave. Make sure you obey the whole law....Then you will have success everywhere you go." Joshua 1:7



## TABLE TALK

NOTE: These questions are designed to help prompt discussion among a wide range of ages. Please adapt them as they best fit YOUR family.

- 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?
- Why do you think God asked the Israelites to march around the wall? Do you think God's people felt silly walking around Jericho for six days while being completely quiet? How does this show they had faith in God?
- Do you think the wall actually fell because of their marching/yelling? (Joshua 6:2)
- How did the fall of the Jericho wall reveal God's power to His people? How did the event reveal His faithfulness to His people?
- Spend a few moments talking about Rahab and how she helped God's people in a big way.
- God blessed Rahab for her faith and for helping His people. What are some ways you can show your faith in God and help other people?

## EXTRA MILE

God brought people together to help the Israelites. In Jericho, Rahab helped the spies. God used her to make a big difference for His people. Rahab even shows up in the genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:5), which shows how God works through all kinds of people to accomplish His plans. As a family, think about how you can make a difference in one person's life by showing God's love in a tangible way. If no one comes to mind right away, feel free to talk to a pastor, your neighbors, and friends to find an individual who might need some help. Maybe it's an elderly person who needs yard work. Perhaps it's a family who could use a bag of groceries or a gift card. Maybe it's a military family who has a spouse overseas who would delight in a card of encouragement and/or dinner out. Be creative as you seek to serve one person in your community. Finally, make sure that this person knows of God's great love for him or her!

## PRAYER TIME

Dear Heavenly Father, You are our great God and you give us everything we need. Thank you for giving us your word, the Bible, so that we may grow in faith and trust in you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



# The Story for Kids 3x Week Reading Plan

## DAY 1

**Reading:** Be Strong and Brave, pg 50 (blue – pg 62- top of pg 63) (1 min)

This reading covers: Joshua 1

**Summary:** Since God would be with Joshua, he could be strong and brave.

**Do together:** Have an arm wrestling match with the family members. The winner has to do the dishes.

**Think about:** Who is the strongest one in our family? What is the big job that God told Joshua to do in our story? Do you think Joshua was afraid? What does God keep telling Joshua about going into the land? Are you afraid of anything? What can you do when you are afraid? Who can help you be strong and brave? (Also read: Psalm 56:3.)

**Prayer:** Thank you, God, that you are stronger and braver than anyone in our family. Thank you that when we are afraid we can trust in you. Please help us to be strong and brave for the things that scare us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## DAY 2

**Reading:** The Fame of God, page 51 – break on page 52 (blue- top of pg 63 - break on 64) (2 mins)

This reading covers: Joshua 2

**Summary:** Even people who don't know God have heard about God.

**Do together:** Open up the newspaper and find an article about someone that you can safely read to the family. Do we know this person? Do you know about this person? We can know about other people because friends tell us things or we read about them in the paper.

**Think about:** Our Bible story tells us about a lady named Rahab. Rahab had never seen any of the wonderful things that God had done for the Israelite people. She had never prayed to God herself, but she had heard about the things that their mighty God had done. She knew that God was so mighty and powerful that she wanted him on her side. She hid the spies and took care of them so their God would be glad. Do you have any friends who do not know God? Maybe we could pray that they would know him because of us. We can show them that God loves them just like the children of Israel did for Rahab. (Also read: Romans 5:8.)

**Prayer:** Dear God, we are so happy that we know you. Please help us to show our friends who you are. Please help us to show our friends your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## DAY 3

**Reading:** Strange Battle Plan – break on pg 52 - end (blue-break on 64 - end) (3 1/2 mins)

This reading covers: Joshua 6

**Summary:** We don't understand God's ways.

**Do together:** Have everyone work together to build a simple wall from blocks or Legos. Then, as everyone marches around the wall tell the children that when you say, "Go!" they should all whistle and click their tongues. After the kids obey this simple command, act surprised that the wall is still standing. Ask: "I wonder why the wall did not come tumbling down? I wonder why it is still standing tall and sturdy when we clicked our tongues and whistled?"

**Think about:** Help the kids to realize that our ways are not the same as God's ways. In order for the wall to come down, you would have to had to use your hands or feet. God can do things that we cannot. We don't understand it, but we accept it because it is true. (Also read: 2 Samuel 22:31.)

**Prayer:** Father, you are a mighty God. You are strong, and smart, and you can do things that we cannot do. We thank you that we can trust you to do things your way, even when they seem strange to us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.