

Session 13

Breaking the walls

As your 5 to 8s hear of the walls of Jericho falling down, encourage them to learn to trust God and do what he says, even when they are scared. God found a way for Joshua and the Israelites because they trusted him, and he will do the same for us!

To plan your session... Choose a selection of *Opening, Into the Bible* and *Living the life* activities to make your session fun and memorable.

Options to open your session...

Big picture

Activity time: 10–15 minutes

Aim: to see that we can trust God
You will need: two large sheets of paper, a dice

- 1 Write 'Things we can trust God for' on one of the sheets of paper. Write the following code on the second sheet of paper: 1 – world; 2 – family; 3 – food; 4 – drink; 5 – home; 6 – care.
- 2 Invite the children to take turns rolling the dice. See if they can think of one thing we can trust God for in the category shown. For example, in the 'world' category, we could thank God for trees.
- 3 Challenge them to draw this on your big sheet of paper while the next person rolls the cube or dice.

Parachute worship

Activity time: 10–15 minutes

Aim: to praise our powerful God
You will need: a parachute or large sheet

- 1 Encourage the children to think of things that show God's power. These could be in nature or in Bible stories.
- 2 Teach them the refrain: 'We lift our praise to you, our powerful God.'
- 3 Invite the children to stand round the parachute, holding the edges. Together lift it up and down slowly. As the parachute is lifted up, encourage the children to say, 'We lift our praise to you, our powerful God...'. As it comes down, say phrases such as '... for the mighty mountains' or '... for the time you helped Moses cross the Red Sea'.

Aim

To learn to trust our all-powerful God, and to do what he says

Bible passage

Joshua 6

Ready to use activity

Drama

Activity time: 10 minutes
Aim: to remember that God is powerful

You will need: music (optional)

- 1 Ask the children to suggest some stories that show God's power: if the children have difficulty naming some, remind them of those they may have heard recently, such as the miracles of Jesus or the story of Jacob.
- 2 Invite the children to form small groups. Encourage each group to choose one of the stories and make a tableau or 'snapshot picture' of one part of the story where God showed his power. Admire all the tableaux.
- 3 Have some music playing in the background, if possible, while the children move about freely. Whenever you shout, 'God's power!' they should quickly make their tableaux again.

Tip for Leaders: Sitting in a circle so that everyone can see each other is ideal because it helps everyone to feel included. If possible, the leader should be on the same level as everyone else.

Into the Bible – options to explore the Bible passage...

Ready to use activity

Bible story and drama

Activity time: 15–20 minutes

Aim: to learn to trust our all-powerful God, and to do what he says

1 Set up

Tell the children that today they are going to imagine they are one of the people who has to trust God and do as he says as he helps them take over one of the important cities in the Promised Land.

Make a circle of about five chairs in the centre of the room, facing inwards. Ask the children to sit at one end of the room. Invite them to imagine that the chairs are the strong walls of the city of Jericho. They must take over Jericho in order to live in the Promised Land. Ask: What do you think you should do? Listen to their suggestions before continuing.

2 Imagine and act

Tell the children that there are two things that can help them be brave. The first is that the people of Jericho are scared. Ask the children to imagine frightened faces looking out over the walls. Then tell them that the second thing is that their leader Joshua trusts God. God promises to be with him, and tells him what to do. Say, 'Joshua is talking to you now.'

'Some of you priests,' Joshua is saying, 'are going to carry God's sacred chest. The rest of the priests will blow their trumpets. The soldiers will march holding their weapons.'

Ask the children to decide whether they are priests carrying the chest, priests with trumpets or soldiers. (Don't worry if not all the groups are represented.) Ask them to line up and listen carefully. 'This is what God has told us to do,' says Joshua. 'We will march around Jericho once today, but there will be no noise except for the trumpets.'

Ask the children to imagine, as they are marching, what it would be like – doing something strange, but trusting God who has told you to do it. They should also try to imagine the people of Jericho watching them over the walls, looking rather frightened because they don't know what is happening. March once round 'Jericho'.

Explain that the next day Joshua tells them that God wants them to march round Jericho once again. Do this and repeat it until you have marched around for 'six days'.

Ask the children to sit and listen to Joshua again. 'God wants us to do something different on this seventh day,' he says. 'We are going to march round seven times. Then I will say, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city!" When we shout, we will see God make the walls fall down.'

Ask the children to think of something to shout that shows they are trusting God to help them. Check that everyone has thought of some words. Then get them to stand up and march seven times round Jericho as before, ending with your shout together.

Ask everyone to sit down on the floor as you tip over the chairs to represent the walls falling down.

3 Think

Ask the children to look at the broken-down walls. Find out what this story tells them about God. Allow time for them to respond. Guide them towards the fact that we can trust our all-powerful God and should do what he says, just as Joshua did.

**You will find another
Into the Bible option
on the next page...**

Into the Bible – options (continued)...

Bible story with pictures

Activity time: 15–20 minutes

Aim: to learn to trust our all-powerful God, and to do what he says

You will need: pictures from page 96

1 Look at pictures

Give each child a set of the pictures from page 96 and ask them to spread the pictures out in front of them (you may like to provide some extra copies of the picture of the soldiers). Alternatively, use one enlarged set of pictures for the group to share. Ask the children to find the following in the pictures:

Joshua, the leader

The city walls around Jericho

The sacred chest (the ‘covenant box’ in GNB)

The priests with their trumpets

The soldiers (army)

The fallen-down city walls.

If there is time, the children could colour in the pictures.

2 Prepare for the story

Tell the children that you are going to read the story from the Bible. They are to find the picture that goes with each part of the story and gradually put them in order. But, first of all, you are going to remind them of the words God gave Joshua when he first became Israel’s leader.

Read out Joshua 1:9, or ask the children to read it with you. Say to the children that God is going to ask Joshua to do something really scary and strange in today’s story. Joshua is going to need to remember God’s words and trust him very much.

3 Listen and find the picture

Read Joshua 6:1. Challenge the children to find the picture that goes with the verse (the city walls) and put it first in line. Continue reading up to the end of verse 5.

Ask the children to find three more pictures as you read verse 6 (Joshua, the sacred chest, the priests). Invite them to line these pictures up next to picture 1. They should find the picture of the army as you read verse 7.

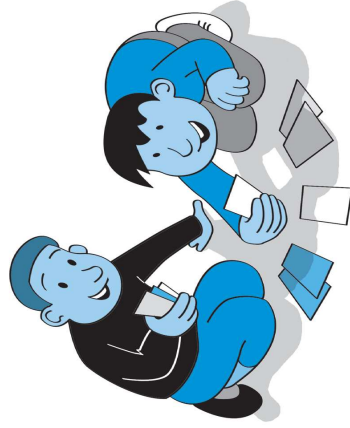
Check that everyone has the correct pictures so far and, if you have them, give everyone an extra picture of the soldiers. Read verses 8 to 14 and encourage the children to match their pictures of the priests, the soldiers and the sacred chest around the picture of the city walls in the correct order, as described in the passage (soldiers (advance guard in GNB), priests, sacred chest, more soldiers (rearguard in GNB)).

Read verses 15 and 16, then verse 20, encouraging the children to cover their picture of the city walls with the picture of the fallen-down walls when you reach the final verse.

If you have time, read the whole story again as the children move their pictures.

4 Think and pray

Ask the children: What was the strange thing God asked Joshua to do in the story? Why would it have been scary and difficult? Why would it have been good for Joshua to remember God’s promise? Ask the children to think about what they would like to say to God who kept his promise to Joshua, as Joshua trusted God and did as he ordered. Suggest that they talk to God about the story on their own.



Living the life – options to help live God’s way...

Splash!

Activity time: 15-20 minutes

Aim: to remember to trust God every day and do what he says

You will need: copies of the *Splash!* sheets from pages 97 and 98, drinking straws cut in half

- 1 Make copies of pages 97 and 98, so that they are back to back on one sheet of paper; you will need one copy per child.
- 2 Help the children to cut out the basket shape on their *Splash!* sheet and make up their basket.
- 3 Talk together about the words on the basket. ‘Trust’ means we believe God will help us as he did Joshua. ‘Obey’ means we will do what God wants, just as Joshua did.
- 4 Help them to cut out the days of the week circles. Look together at the backs of the days of the week and discuss how they can remind us each day to trust God and do what he says.
- 5 Fix each day to a straw. Put today’s straw in the basket with the words showing and the others upside down. Encourage the children to put the right straw the correct way up each day to remind them to trust and obey God.

Trust challenge

Activity time: 10–15 minutes

Aim: to encourage trust in our powerful God

You will need: a large sheet of paper, sticky tack

- 1 Ask the children what Joshua’s problem was (getting into Jericho). Explain that when Joshua trusted and obeyed God, the walls fell down.
- 2 Invite the children to think of things they need God’s help to do or cope with. These could be personal (‘I sit next to someone I don’t like’) or more general (‘There were upsetting pictures of starving people on TV’), but they should all be real to the children.
- 3 Cut some sheets of paper into brick shapes and give one to each child. Invite them to draw or write their idea on their brick.
- 4 Make the bricks into a wall, with a label saying ‘God knows about all these things’.
- 5 Challenge the children to talk to God about these things during the week.

Ready to use Activity

Responsive prayer

Activity time: 5–10 minutes

Aim: to ask God to help us trust him and do as he says

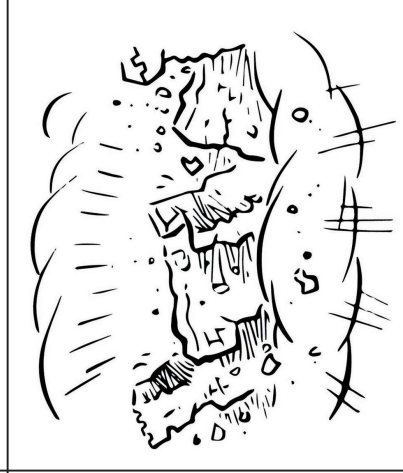
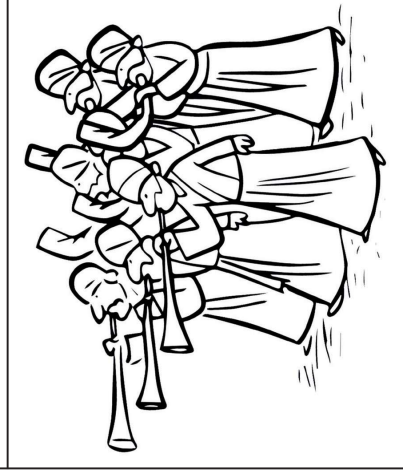
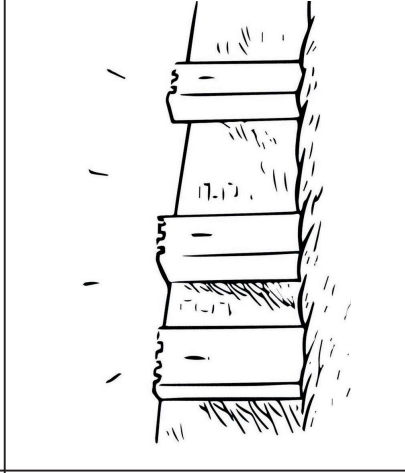
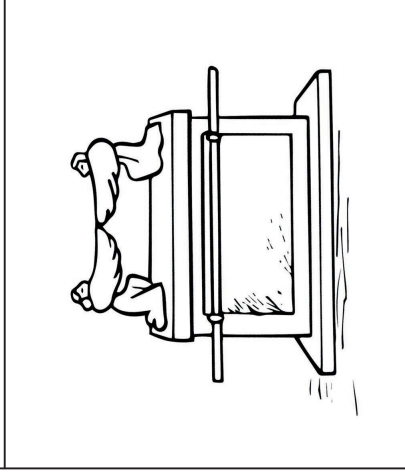
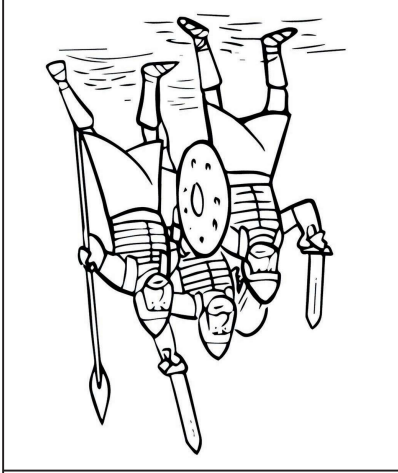
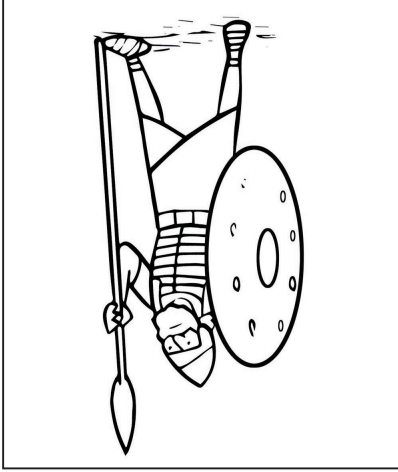
- 1 Ask the children about times when we might need to trust God to help us do something that is difficult, such as to be nice to an unpopular person or own up to something wrong we have done. Jot down the ideas. (If you have a big group, you could do this in smaller sets.)
- 2 Put the children into two groups. Read the ideas one at a time. After each idea invite the first group to respond, ‘Help us to trust you...’ and the second to add, ‘... and do what you say.’

Extra ideas for the session, and beyond...

Use the pictures from page 96 for the children to make individual booklets of this story.

More on this theme

- If you want to do a short series with your group, other sessions that work well with this one are:
- **Session 10** Power with you, Joshua 1
- **Session 11** Help for the spies, Joshua 2
- **Session 12** Across obstacles, Joshua 3:1–4:9



Splash!

Sunday

Monday

D

C

Cut out carefully along the green lines.

A1

Fold forwards along the dotted lines.

Slot A2 into A1 and B1 into B2.

Glue C to C and D to D.

A2

Get it
with me.

Wednesday

Thursday

B1

B2

Cut four drinking straws
in half. Make a 1.5 cm slit in
one end of each half straw.

Insert a circle in the
slit. Put today's straw in
the basket the right way up, and
the rest upside down.

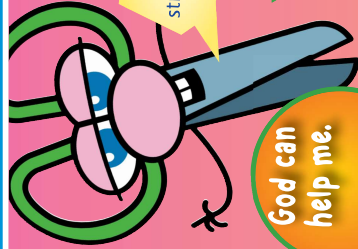
trust

Friday

D

C

Saturday



Find the right
straw for each day
of the week.

God is
with me.

I can
trust God.

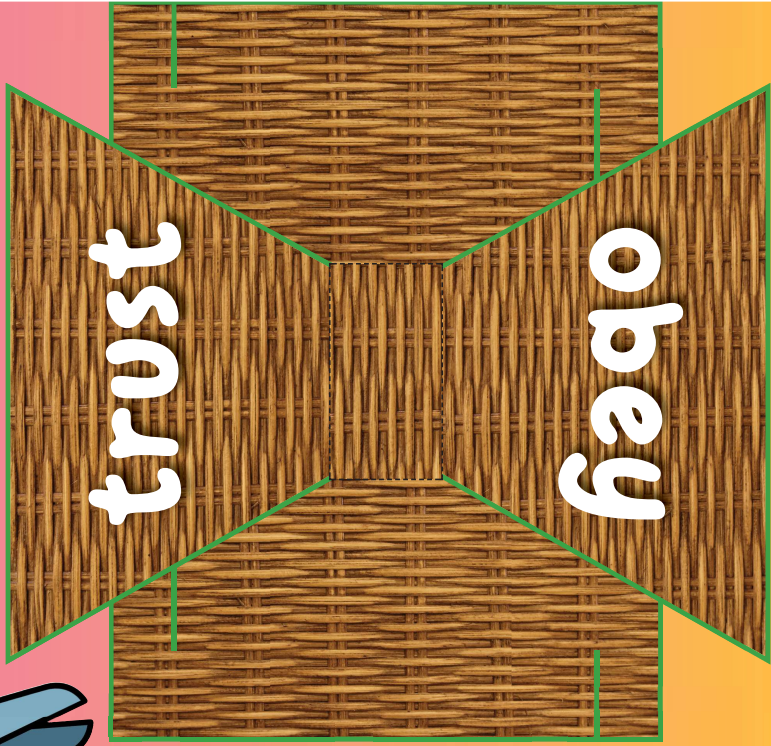
God can
help me.

God is
powerful.

God
helped
Joshua.

God is
always with
me.

God's
way is best.



trust

haqo