

Sunday September 27, 2026-LESSON 3

JOSHUA AND JERICHO

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Leads Us

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 5-6

GOD'S BIG STORY: God provides the Israelites with an unusual battle plan and leads them to victory over the city of Jericho, the last major obstacle standing in the way of the Israelites and their new homeland.

WORD OF WONDER: He remembers his covenant forever, the promise he made, for a thousand generations. —1 Chronicles 16:15

CURIOSITY Large Group or Small Group

Hands-on activities to spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God

- Welcome Question: What's your favorite game? Explain how to play it.
- Curiosity Questions
- Interactive Game: Follow the Leaders
- Declaring God's Wonder



BELIEF Large Group

An interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder

- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder

FAITH Small Group

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own

- Word of Wonder Activity
- Discussion Questions
- Small Group Prayer Time

IDENTITY Large Group or Small Group

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids that they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder

- Elementary Responding in Worship: Build, March, Draw
- Blessing Your Kids

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more! [WONDER@HOME \(PDF\)](#)

Wonder Ink

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Leads Us

SCRIPTURE: [Joshua 5–6](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [1 Chronicles 16:15](#)

When life gets crazy, sometimes I just want to be told what to do. I long for someone to enlighten me on the “right” way to proceed. But when I ask for a friend’s advice, I don’t always take it. Why? Because deep down, I believe my own ways of solving life’s problems are better.

After God faithfully led the Israelites across the Jordan River on dry ground and gave them assurance that they would defeat Jericho, He gave Joshua an unusual battle plan: Walk around the city, blow trumpets, and shout. Although God’s ways are mysterious, the Israelites were learning that His leadership can always be trusted.

Read [Joshua 6:1–7, 20–21](#). Joshua had the Lord’s assurance of success if he followed each instruction. The people followed Joshua’s lead, and the result was a crumbling wall and an overwhelming victory.

- When have you followed God’s lead? What happened?
- When have you failed to follow God’s lead? What happened?
- What is an area in your life you can yield to the Lord’s leadership today?

In good times and bad, we can trust God to lead us. He is a good shepherd with a perfect plan. God led the Israelites, and God leads us too! Thank Him for providing divine guidance in every situation.

—**Suzanne Gosselin**

Children’s Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS****WHO?**

This story revolves around God and how He delivered Jericho into Israel's hands. Jericho was famous as a walled city, but God showed that He is stronger than the thickest walls.

WHAT?

[Joshua 5–6](#) shows how God led the Israelites to defeat the army of Jericho. God laid out a plan and the Israelites followed it, marching around the city for seven days. On the seventh day, God brought the walls of Jericho crashing down.

WHERE?

The story takes place at Jericho, which is one of the oldest cities in the world. The city was located on particularly fertile land in Canaan, which made it strategically valuable to the Israelites.

WHEN?

This story takes place immediately after God piled up the water of the Jordan River so that the Israelites could cross on foot ([Joshua 3–4](#)).

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

This story shows the central role that God played in defeating Israel's enemies. The Israelites didn't have to tear down the walls themselves. Instead, God brought the walls down for them. Likewise, salvation isn't something we can earn through what we do: It's a gift from God through Jesus!



Curiosity

Small Group

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Jericho Welcome Question Slide](#)

Before kids arrive, write the following question on a whiteboard: “What’s your favorite game? Explain how to play it.” Set out paper and coloring utensils.

As kids arrive ...

Welcome each kid by name. Remember to introduce kids to each other and encourage everyone to introduce themselves when new kids arrive. Point out the Welcome Question and read it to younger kids. Move throughout the room, talking with kids about their favorite board games, outside games, or sports. Encourage kids who enjoy drawing to draw their answers too.

At your start time ...

Greet all the kids excitedly and welcome them to church! Invite 2–3 kids to answer the Welcome Question aloud: **What’s your favorite game? Explain how to play it.**

Directions are pretty important to playing a game, aren’t they? Sometimes, we might want to jump right into the game—before making sure we know what we’re doing. Today, we’re going to learn about some unusual directions God gave His people when they finally arrived in the promised land. But first, it’s time to be curious!

Curiosity Questions

Ask the following “I’m curious” questions. Say, “I’m curious ...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one.

I’m curious ...

- **Have you ever followed directions you didn’t understand? Tell us about it.** As an example, you could share how following directions for a recipe can be hard and confusing.
- **What do you think makes a good leader?**

Elementary Interactive Game: Follow the Leaders

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Follow the Leaders Slide](#), [Jericho Wonder Truth Slide](#)

Ahead of time, recruit a youth or adult volunteer to be Leader B in this activity. Explain to her that she will lead kids throughout the room in a game of Follow the Leader, except the motions/actions she does will be erratic and difficult for kids to follow. For example, she might do complicated dance moves with jerky, unpredictable motions as she walks/skips/gallops around the room.

Let's start today with a game of Follow the Leaders! For this game, we'll have two teams and two leaders. Help kids divide into two equal teams: Team A and Team B. Explain that you're Leader A and will lead Team A; then introduce Leader B (who you prepped ahead of time), who will lead Team B. Invite kids to line up behind their team's leader. **You'll do your best to follow your team's leader around the room, doing the same motions and actions as she does. Let's get started!** Lead Team A throughout the room, doing simple, clear motions that are easy for kids to follow. At the same time, Leader B will lead her team, doing erratic motions that are difficult for kids to follow. Do not point out the difference in leadership styles—allow kids to notice it themselves.

After about two minutes, swap leaders so that both teams get to experience both types of leadership. Then gather the kids.

What did you notice about Leader A and Leader B? Invite kids to respond freely. **When we follow human leaders, sometimes it goes well. They lead well, and we can follow them well, like with Leader A. But sometimes human leaders don't lead well, like Leader B. God is not like human leaders. God always leads well, and we can always trust Him and His instructions. Today in God's big story, we'll hear about a time when God gave Joshua and His people good, but unusual, instructions as He led them. Our Wonder Truth for today is **GOD LEADS US.****

Make It Inclusive: If any of your kids have limited mobility, do this activity with kids on Team A sitting in a circle with their leader in the center, doing simple motions that everyone can follow.

Declaring God's Wonder

Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

You know what's best for me. (Kids repeat.)

I want to follow You. (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Belief

Large Group

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Share that today's words come straight from the book of Joshua in the Bible. God has led the Israelites through the wilderness for 40 years, and they're finally ready to enter the land God promised them. Invite kids to open their Bibles to [Joshua 6](#). Encourage volunteers to assist the kids.

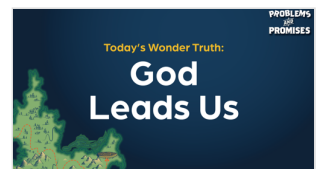
Invite three or four confident readers to read each section of the passage aloud while the rest of the group follows along: [Joshua 6:1–5, 8–11, 14–16, 20](#).

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Jericho Wonder Truth Slide](#)

Display the [Jericho Wonder Truth Slide](#).

Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD LEADS US. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.



Even though God worked through the Israelites to bring about His plans, it was God—not the strength of Israel's army—who defeated Israel's enemies. The Israelites didn't have to tear down the walls themselves. Instead, God brought the walls down for them. Our sins, or the wrong things we do, build a wall between us and God. But God doesn't expect us to tear down the wall by ourselves! He tears down the wall for us! God sent Jesus to live, die, and rise again so we can be with Him forever—no more walls!



Faith

Small Group

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

Word of Wonder Activity

WORD OF WONDER

He remembers his covenant forever, the promise he made, for a thousand generations.

—1 Chronicles 16:15 (NIV)

SUPPLIES: Bible, scissors (prep only), tape, boxes (8 per small group)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Box Wall Sheets [NIV](#)

Ahead of time, print the Box Wall Sheets [NIV](#) and cut out the word slips. Tape each slip to a separate box.

Our Word of Wonder for the Problems and Promises series tells us that God always remembers and keeps His promises! Let's say the verse together now. Open your Bible to [1 Chronicles 16:15](#). Read [1 Chronicles 16:15](#) several times together.

In today's story, God led Joshua and the Israelites by having them do some unusual things, and in the end, the walls of Jericho fell! Let's practice our Word of Wonder by building a wall of our own. Invite kids to help you build a wall out of boxes, placing the words of the verse in correct order from bottom to top. **Fantastic! Now, like the Israelites in God's big story did on the seventh day, let's march around our wall seven times. After the seventh time, let's shout the words of the verse together and knock down the wall!** Join kids in marching, shouting the verse, and knocking down the wall. Then rebuild the wall and repeat the process, as time allows.

Leader Tip: *For Younger Kids.* Rather than build a box wall, write the words of the verse on stackable blocks (or on slips of paper that you tape to the blocks). Kids can stack the blocks in verse order, knock them down, and restack them!

Elementary Questions

Notice (allow the kids to process what they heard):

- **What do you see in the passage? What stands out?**
- **What did the priests do each day as the Israelites walked around the city of Jericho?** *(They carried the ark of the covenant, the gold-covered box that represented God's presence, and they blew their rams' horn trumpets.)*
- **What did the fighting men do each day as the Israelites walked around the city of Jericho?** *(They remained silent.)*
- **What was different about the seventh (and last) day the Israelites marched around the city of Jericho?** *(They circled the city seven times, the priests blew their trumpets, the army shouted, and the walls of Jericho crumbled and fell!)*
- **A lot of people marched around the city. Who led the Israelites?** *(God)*

Wonder (FIRST allow kids to ask questions of the passage):

Connecting (kids need to make connection)

- **What does this show us about God or faith?**
- **Does God still lead us and give us directions today? How?**

God led Joshua and the Israelites to victory over the city of Jericho! God leads us too, to know Him and know what's best for us. Let's spend some time talking with God in prayer and thanking Him for leading us.

Make It Inclusive: Open-ended questions can be difficult for some kids to answer. Consider modifying the questions into yes/no format or offering two answer choices for each.

Small Group Prayer Time

Encourage the kids to brainstorm times they might need God's direction and guidance. Invite those who feel comfortable to pray aloud, thanking God for always being with us and willing to lead us. Ask for help recognizing God's directions and for the courage to follow Him. Then encourage kids to share their own prayer requests and to pray for one another.

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

Elementary Responding in Worship: Build, March, Draw

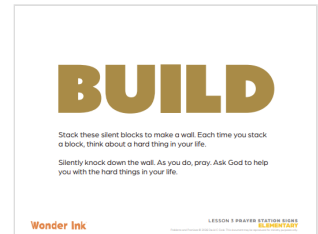
SUPPLIES: silent stacking blocks (i.e., beanbags, kitchen sponges, pool noodles), scissors, table, butcher paper or posterboard, permanent marker (prep only), coloring utensils, tape (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Build March Draw Slide](#), [Prayer Station Signs](#), music from the [Problems and Promises Elementary Spotify playlist](#) (optional)

Ahead of time, print the [Prayer Station Signs](#). Designate an area for each station and post the corresponding sign at each station:

- Build station: Place a large pile of silent stacking blocks. Ideas for blocks include beanbags, pool noodles sliced in half (vertically) and cut into smaller pieces, dry kitchen sponges cut into smaller pieces, or a combination of all three.
- March station: Set up a table with plenty of open space around it for kids to march.
- Draw station: Tape a large sheet of butcher paper or posterboard to the wall or set it out on a table or the floor. With a permanent marker, write "God Leads Me" in large letters across the top. Then cover the paper in rectangular-shaped brick outlines that kids can draw in. Set out coloring utensils.

Display the [Build March Draw Slide](#) and gather the kids. **Today we heard how God led the Israelites to victory over the city of Jericho, which stood between them and the land God had promised them. God leads us too! He desires us to trust Him and His directions, even when we don't understand them or see the outcome right away. Let's spend some time talking with God at prayer stations.**



Show kids the three prayer stations and explain what they'll do at each. These instructions are also on the [Prayer Station Signs](#):

At the Build station:

- Kids will stack these silent blocks to make a wall. Each time they stack a block, they can think about a hard thing in their lives.
- Kids will silently knock down the wall. As they do, they'll pray and ask God to help them with the hard things in their lives.

At the March station:

- Kids will silently march around the table six times. They'll pray this breath prayer each time:
 - (Breathe in) God, ...
 - (Breathe out) please lead me.
- March around the table one more time. Then pray this breath prayer:

- (Breathe in) God, ...
- (Breathe out) You are *amazing*!

At the Draw station:

- In one of the bricks on the paper, kids will draw a picture of one hard thing God has helped them get through.
- As they draw, they'll tell God "Thank You" for leading you through that hard thing.

Leader Tip: A *breath prayer* is a word or phrase repeated in a single breath with one part on the inhale and the other part on the exhale. Breath prayers help us focus on God and His presence with us. When teaching kids a breath prayer, pray it with them several times, modeling deep breaths in and out as you say the words.

Invite kids to pray at the stations. You might divide them into three equal groups and have each group rotate through the stations every few minutes, or you might let kids choose the station or stations they want to go to. If possible, station an adult or youth volunteer at each to help kids know what to do and stay focused. Consider playing music from the [Problems and Promises Elementary Spotify playlist](#) during this time.

After kids have had a chance to pray at the stations, gather them together. Invite them to share one difficult thing they've faced in life and how God helped them through it.

Blessing Your Kids

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Jericho Blessing Slide](#)

Display the [Jericho Blessing Slide](#). Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.



Blessing: May God continue to lead you each day. May you recognize God's presence with you and understand His directions for you. May you have the courage to follow God's leading and know how very loved you are!

GAME 3: DO WHAT I SAY, NOT WHAT I DO

In this game, kind of like Simon Says, the kids will do what you say, not what you do. Invite kids to spread out, so they have room to move.

I'll give you an instruction; your job is to do it. But here's the trick: I'll act out something different than what I tell you to do. Don't get confused! Your job is to do what I say, not what I do. Ready?

**Works great with the
Joshua and Jericho
lesson!**

Leader Tip: The leader role in this game is a bit tricky. It's challenging to say one thing while doing something else. Give the game a good start by filling the leader role yourself for the first round of play. It might work best for you to remain the leader with younger kids. Older kids can take turns being the leader.

If a kid doesn't follow your spoken instructions or mistakenly mimics your physical action instead, she's out. The last kid remaining wins the round.

Here are some examples that are easier to follow:

- Say, "Hop on one foot" while you squat low to the ground.
- Say, "Touch your nose" while you grab your ear.
- Say, "Reach for the ceiling" while you touch your toes.
- Say, "Clap your hands" while you pat your legs.
- Say, "Lie down" while you jump up.

The closer the instruction is to the action, the more challenging it gets. Here are some examples:

- Say, "Raise both of your hands" while you raise one hand.
- Say, "Pat your belly" while you rub your belly in a circle.
- Say, "Nod your head yes" while you shake your head "no."
- Say, "March in place" while you run in place.

Make It Inclusive: If kids in your group have physical restrictions, modify prompts to create the maximum opportunity for participation.

It was difficult to follow those instructions, wasn't it? Sometimes, it can be difficult to understand God's instructions. This might have been how Joshua felt when God gave him such strange instructions about bringing down the walls of Jericho. It takes trust to follow as God leads us! Even when it doesn't make sense to us, we can follow and trust God. He is the best leader!