

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

- Preteen Responding in Worship: Brick Prayers
- 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.

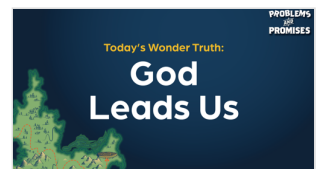
Invite three or four confident readers to read each section of the passage aloud while the rest of the group follows along: [Joshua 6:1–5, 8–11, 14–16, 20](#).

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!

Preteen Questions

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

- **What do you see in the passage? What stands out?**
- **Do you remember what God told Joshua about Jericho before giving him any battle plan directions?** (If needed, reread [Joshua 6:2](#). God would lead Joshua and the Israelites to victory over Jericho.)
- **What was the difference between the directions for the Israelites on days 1–6 and on day seven?** (On days 1–6, the army was to march around the city one time, following the priests carrying the ark of the covenant. On day seven, they were to march around it seven times. After the final time, the priests would blow their trumpets, the men would shout, and the wall would crumble and fall.)

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

- **How would you have felt if you had been in Joshua's place? Do you think you would have done what God said? Or do you think you would have followed your own battle plan? Why?**
- **Why do you think God revealed the Israelites' victory to Joshua before they even took a step?**
- **Who was ultimately leading the Israelites around the city?** (God)

Connecting (kids need to make connection)

- **What does this show us about God or faith?**
- **How do you think God might be leading you?**

The ark of the covenant that the priests carried around the city was a symbol of God's presence with His people. God promises to be with us and help us too, leading us as we have the courage to follow Him. Let's spend some time asking God to help us recognize His directions.

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.

Preteen Responding in Worship: Brick Prayers

SUPPLIES: writing utensils, coloring utensils

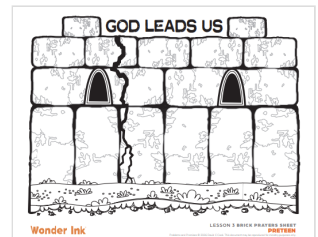
Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Brick Prayers Slide](#), [Brick Prayers Sheet](#) (1 per kid), “Way Maker” from the [Problems and Promises Elementary Spotify playlist](#), [Response Prayer Slide](#)

Ahead of time, print a copy of the [Brick Prayers Sheet](#) for each kid.

Display the [Brick Prayers Slide](#) and gather the kids. **Today we heard how God led the Israelites to victory over the city of Jericho, a huge obstacle standing 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.**



Give a [Brick Prayers Sheet](#) to each kid. **Each of you has a sheet with a picture of a wall on it. Who would like to read the words at the top of the wall? Can anyone read the words at the top of the wall?** Encourage a volunteer to read, “God Leads Us.” **The wall on your sheet can remind us of the walls of Jericho. The Bible said the walls were too high to climb over and too thick and strong to break down, yet God knew exactly how to bring those walls down.**



As we listen to music, take time to think about things in your life that feel like high, thick walls. Where do you need God to lead you? Then write about or draw a picture of each of those things on a different brick on your wall. You don't have to fill up every brick.

Leader Tip: Consider sharing an age-appropriate story about a “wall” you have faced in the past or are facing now. How has God led you through something difficult?

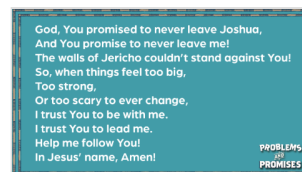
Play “Way Maker” or another song from the [Problems and Promises Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids reflect and write or draw. Once the song is done, pause to give further directions.

We're going to listen to this song again, and this time, I invite you to think of things that God has already helped you with, walls God has already brought down for you. Provide kids with some ideas, such as finding a new friend, knowing how to respond to a bully, getting help with family relationships, getting help studying for a test at school, etc. **As you think about these things, write or draw them in the empty bricks on your wall.**

Play “Way Maker” or another song again, watching to see if anyone needs help thinking of ways God has already worked in their lives. Feel free to engage with these kids individually, dialoguing with them about ways God has come through for them.

Let's stand up and place our hands on our paper walls as though we're going to push them over! Demonstrate by holding a [Brick Prayers Sheet](#) between your hands. **I'm going to read the words of a prayer, and you can repeat each line after me. As we pray, imagine God's hand on yours, gently but firmly working to help bring your walls down.**

Display the [Response Prayer Slide](#). Pray each line out loud and pause for kids to repeat after you. Here's the prayer for your reference:



God, You promised to never leave Joshua, (Kids repeat.)

And You promise to never leave me! (Kids repeat.)

The walls of Jericho couldn't stand against You! (Kids repeat.)

So, when things feel too big, (Kids repeat.)

Too strong, (Kids repeat.)

Or too scary to ever change, (Kids repeat.)

I trust You to be with me. (Kids repeat.)

I trust You to lead me. (Kids repeat.)

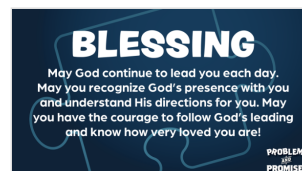
Help me follow You! (Kids repeat.)

In Jesus' name, Amen! (Kids repeat.)

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!