

Session 5

The fall of Jericho: Seeing red?

We listen to the story as told by Rahab and we hear how God displays his might by letting the walls of Jericho fall and saving Rahab.

Scripture: Joshua 6

Supplies:

- A ball
- Vuvuzela or something else to make a loud noise
- Rams' horn or a picture of it
- Red wool or red string
- "Find the silly mistakes" picture
- "Join the dots" picture
- Edible display of Jericho
- Boxes
- Glue, paper and crayons



Welcome

Ten pin bowling

Divide the children in groups of ten. Stick a masking tape line on the floor and position the children like pins. The throwers stand behind the line and roll the ball to the pins. The pins are not allowed to lift their left foot, but can lift their right foot to dodge the ball. The last pin left standing, wins. Swop the teams around.

Vuvuzela freeze!

Give instructions such as "jump on one leg", "run", "scream", "clap hands", or "roll on the ground". Once the vuvuzela blows, they must freeze in the action.



Worship

In Joshua's time, they made a kind of trumpet from a rams' horn by drying it out and making a hole to blow it. It made a very unique sound and when it was blown, it was a sign to everyone that something special was about to happen. (*Show a rams' horn or a picture to the children.*) God often told the Israelites to blow these trumpets. When they were obedient and did it, God did something special.

Settle down ritual: Play the sound clip (download it free from our website and play on a phone.)

Loud sounds

"Look left and look right, but don't be scared!" (*Show with movements*)

Thunder etc.

"Look up, look down, and don't be afraid." (*Show with movements*)

Music

"In front and behind you, above and below you, around you and inside you is God, the everlasting Lord." (*Turn around with your arms spread out.*)



Word

Rahab tells the story. She begins with the first day when the Israelites walked around the city. This is her story: “They’re here. The Israelites. Wait, let me make sure the red rope is sturdy.”

(Rahab checks that the rope is sturdy and still hanging where it should.) “Joshua promised that they would keep me and everyone in my house safe when they see the red rope. If the rope isn’t there... No, I don’t want to think about that. I wonder why they’re walking around the city like that. Maybe they’re trying to scare us. I’m already scared. Luckily, they promised to protect my family and me. Now they are going back to their tents. Weird.”

(Hovers at the rope and checks it is still sturdy.)

“It’s the third day already. *(Rahab looks out the window again.)* The city gates stay locked because the Israelites are walking around the city. Yesterday I watched the march. There were priests and soldiers that walked without talking. Even the shouting from the walls didn’t bother them. Jericho’s people and soldiers are mocking them from the wall but the Israelites stay silent. Their priests are carrying a golden box with two golden angels on it. I heard God’s law is inside it. Everyone in the city is wondering about it because no one knows what’s going to happen. My family is angry with me because I won’t let them leave. I tried to explain to them that the Israelites would kill them. But they don’t believe me. They say it’s only stories, but I know it’s the truth. The Israelites don’t live like we do. Our city is full of bad people. I know, because I also lived a bad life. The worst is that they worship Baal. I know there is only one true God. Baal is an idol that people dreamt up themselves. They do awful things and then say they are doing it for Baal. God gave them hundreds of years to stop, but they only got worse. That’s why God is going to destroy Jericho.

Let me just check again... yes, the rope is still fine.

The red rope is a sign for the Israelites to remember their promise to me. Today is the seventh day that they’re walking around the city. But I something will happen today. They have walked around the city three times already. Three times, I tell you! My family wanted to leave the house. I asked them to stay. There they go for the fourth time... the fifth time... the sixth... the seventh... Now what? What’s that noise?” *(Blow the vuvuzela, let the children shout and scream. Rahab looks if something happens to the rope.)*

“The whole wall has fallen over, but my house is still standing! The God of Israel is a wonderful God. It is he who let the wall fall down, but it is also He who saved me!”

Read Joshua 6:23–25 to end the story.

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder how Rahab felt when the Israelites walked around the city in silence.
2. I wonder how you would feel if you were in Rahab’s house .
3. I wonder if you can remember a time when God saved you from danger.



Working and Playing

- Arm crochet or plait a chain with red wool or an old cut up T-shirt.
- Connect the dots activity
- Get big boxes and build a wall with it. Let the children act out the story.



- Build a candy Jericho. The children can break down the candy walls.

Closing prayer to end the session

