

References

Joshua 6;
Patriarchs and Prophets,
pp. 487-498



Memory Verse

"How good and pleasant
it is when brothers live
together in unity!"
(Psalm 133:1, NIV).



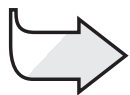
Objectives

The children will:

Know that in God's
family we all
work together.

Feel a desire to work
together at church.

Respond by becoming
involved in their church
and affirming others
who do so.



The Message

In God's family
we all work
together.

The Silent Battle

Monthly Theme

We encourage one another to follow Jesus.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

God gives Joshua exact instructions on how to conquer Jericho. Led by seven priests blowing rams' horns and carrying the ark, the army of Israel is to march around Jericho once a day for six days. On the seventh day they are to march around the city seven times, and after a trumpet blast, shout loudly. Together, they follow these instructions, and the walls of Jericho collapse. God gives Jericho into their hands.

This is a lesson about community.

When God's people all work together to obey His instructions, He blesses their united efforts. The victory is the Lord's, but the community has a part to play by working together.

Teacher Enrichment

"All who were to march round the city were to be men of war. This did not necessarily include the whole army, but representatives from each tribe. The common people apparently were not included. Such a large number would have created too cumbersome a retinue. Though described as a 'large' city, Jericho was 'large' only in comparison with the fortified cities of its day, rather than with cities of our time. Excavations of the ruins reveal its area to have been only [approximately 10 acres]. The size of the procession must have been proportionate to this limited area" (*The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 197).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Puzzled</i> B. <i>Church Family Portraits</i>	jigsaw puzzle of fewer than 50 pieces white paper for each child, crayons or colored pencils or markers, Bible
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	<i>Sing for Joy Children's Mission</i> offering container none
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	Bible-times costumes; rulers, yardsticks, or sticks; paper rolled diagonally; cardboard box spray-painted gold; banner paper with stonework drawn on it beanbag or small, soft ball; wide-tipped marker; paper; tape; Bible Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Army of God</i>	Bible
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Awards Day</i>	photocopied award certificate for each child (see p. 144), Bible

***Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Give them puzzle pieces and ask them to help the others put the puzzle together. Or have them get ready to participate in the readiness activity you have selected.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- jigsaw puzzle of fewer than 50 pieces

A. Puzzled

Bring in a puzzle of fewer than 50 pieces and distribute all but one of the pieces to the children as they arrive at Sabbath School. (Children will each have several pieces.) Tell them to work together to put the puzzle together.

Debriefing

When all but the last piece is placed, ask: **Which is the most important piece in this puzzle?** Supply the missing piece and take out another one. **Now which is the most important piece?** (the missing piece) **How is this puzzle like our church family?** (Everyone is important; you miss people when they are not there.) **How does that make you feel—to be that important?** (good, needed) **Today's message tells us:**



IN GOD'S FAMILY WE ALL WORK TOGETHER.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- white paper for each child
- crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- Bible

B. Church Family Portraits

Give each child a piece of white paper on which to draw a portrait of someone in the church. Suggest people the children will know: the pastor, a song leader, elder, other Sabbath School teachers, etc. When the pictures are finished, pin them to a bulletin board with a caption that says today's message. Everyone tries to guess who the pictures are and what the person does to help at church.

Debriefing

Ask: **What happens if we take someone away?** Remove a picture temporarily. (There is a gap. We need to find someone else to do their work. We miss them.) **What happens if you are not in church?** (We miss you. There is a gap that only you can fill.) **How do you feel about being so important to your church family?** (special, good, pleased, etc.) **Today's message tells us:**



IN GOD'S FAMILY WE ALL WORK TOGETHER.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

Any
Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Review the memory verse and allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- "We Are the Church" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 141)
- "We Are the Church, Everyone" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 143)
- "The Family of God" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 139)
- "Sing Praises to the Lord" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 2)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Help the children identify how people in God's family worked together.



Offering

Say: **We help God's church when we bring our own money for an offering. It joins with money your friends give to help others learn about Jesus.**

You Need:

- offering container



Prayer

Before prayer, give each child an opportunity to name something they would like to do in God's church family (collect offering, distribute bulletins, etc.). Also take prayer requests. Have the children hold hands and make a circle. Ask each one to pray for the person on their right and to pray for their church. Ask a teacher to close by thanking God for each child and for the ways that He can use each one.

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- Bible-times costumes
- rulers, yardsticks, or long sticks
- paper rolled diagonally
- cardboard box spray-painted gold
- banner paper

Experiencing the Story

Dress the children in Bible-times costumes and involve them in an interactive Bible story.

Characters: Joshua; seven priests blowing trumpets; four priests carrying ark of the covenant; soldiers. (Small church option: Everyone blows trumpets, marches, shouts.)

Props: Rulers, yardsticks, or sticks for soldiers' swords; paper rolled diagonally for trumpets; cardboard box spray-painted gold for the ark; banner paper with stonework drawn on it for the wall. (It collapses at the sound of the trumpet.)

Read or tell the story.

(Call Joshua to stand up front in the center.)

"March around Jericho," God had told Joshua, the leader of Israel. And today was the day they were going to start. So everyone in the community of Israel got up early.

"The four priests carrying the ark of the covenant stand here," Joshua called. Quickly and carefully the priests obeyed. *(Prompt your priests to stand to one side, facing Joshua.)*

"Seven priests with trumpets," Joshua called again. "Come stand in front of the ark." *(Prompt your Joshua to repeat the command and step back out of the way. The priests with trumpets stand in front of the ark.)*

"An armed guard must go ahead of the priests and the ark," Joshua commanded again. *(Some of the armed soldiers take their places at the front of the line.)*

"The rear guard will follow the ark." *(The rest of the armed soldiers line up behind the priests with the ark.)*

Joshua then explained that when the priests blew their trumpets, everyone would start marching. But they must not give a war cry or raise their voices. A war cry was meant to frighten the enemy. Why didn't Joshua let Israel make a war cry? Because everyone was to rely only on God.

"Do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout," Joshua reminded them. Their heads nodded silently. Then the long parade marched away. Armed soldiers led the way. Behind them came seven priests blowing ram's horn trumpets. Then came the priests carrying the ark of the covenant, followed by the rest of the army.

(Instruct your "Israelites" to march around the room once while you narrate the following.)

As the Israelites approached Jericho they saw that the city gates were tightly closed. They knew that the people of Jericho were watching. They looked out their windows at the top of the wall. When the priests rested their trumpets a few minutes *(priests hold trumpets by their sides)*, the only sound was the tramp of hundreds of feet. The parade marched all the way around Jericho. Then the silent Israelites marched back to camp.

The next day, the same parade left the Israelite camp. *(The parade begins again.)* They marched around Jericho. First, soldiers. Then seven priests playing trumpets. Next, priests carrying the ark. And finally, the rest of the soldiers.

The trumpets blared. The soldiers marched. And no one said a word. Each soldier knew that he was helping, just by marching and not saying a word. After circling the city, the parade marched back to camp. What kind of war was this? The people of Jericho didn't know. And they became frightened.

The same parade wound its way around Jericho on the third day. And the

fourth day. And the fifth. And the sixth.

At sunrise on the seventh day, the long parade of soldiers and priests once more left the Israelite camp. Quietly, they moved toward Jericho. The walls of the great city looked higher than ever. The parade circled the city once. But it did not return to camp as it had on the days before. Instead, the soldiers and priests marched around the city again and again. (*Your "Israelites" march continuously around the wall as you narrate.*) Seven times they marched around. Nobody spoke, nobody shouted. Nobody stepped out of the parade. Everyone wanted to help by working together as Joshua had instructed them.

Then the parade stopped. The priests put the trumpets to their lips and sounded a mighty blast.

"Shout!" Joshua commanded. "The Lord has given you the city!" (*Prompt your Joshua and your soldiers to shout.*) The soldiers threw back their heads and shouted with all their might. That's when the completely unexpected, the absolutely, positively impossible happened. With a deafening rumble the walls of Jericho gave way and fell down. The Israelites rushed into Jericho and took the city.

God had given Jericho into Israel's hands. The victory was God's. But the Israelites had their part to play. They had worked together as God and Joshua had instructed.

Debriefing

Ask: **How do you think the soldiers felt as they marched silently around the city?** (Accept answers.) **What about the priests who blew the trumpets?** (important) If you have access to a ram's horn, called a shofar, show it to the children.

What do you think the other Israelites who remained in camp were doing? (They were helping to care for the camp and were probably praying.) **What**

would you have thought if you had been a child in the camp of Israel and heard the instructions for capturing Jericho? Would you have wanted to help? (Yes; maybe; not sure.)

Are you willing to work together with your church family to do something for God? When He is working with you, you and your church will do great things. Let's say today's message together:



**IN GOD'S FAMILY WE ALL
WORK TOGETHER.**

Memory Verse

Before Sabbath School, use a wide-tipped marker and write the words of the memory verse, each on a separate piece of paper. (Large class, make more than one set; small class, give children more than one word.)

Give every child a word to tape to their chest. Arrange the children in a circle facing inward with the words mixed up. Open your Bible to Psalm 133:1 and read the verse aloud. Give the beanbag to the child with the word "How." That child is to toss it to the child with the next word, "good." That child will toss it to the child with the third word, "and." Continue in this fashion with all the children repeating all the words as the beanbag is tossed through all the memory verse. Repeat until everyone knows the verse.

Bible Study

Divide the class into two groups, with readers in each group. Have each group alternately read (in unison or taking turns) the following verses from Joshua 6 in the order they are found in the Bible:

Group One: Verses 6, 7 - Verses 12-14

Group Two: Verses 8 -11 - Verses 15-19

Both Groups Together: Verse 20

You Need:

- beanbag or small, soft ball
- wide-tipped marker
- paper
- tape
- Bible

You Need:

- Bibles

Debriefing

Ask: **How did the Israelites work together?** (They listened to Joshua, followed his instructions.) **What would have happened if they had not followed instructions?** (God would not have helped them. They would not have won the battle.) **What effect did it have on people in the city when they saw the Israelites working together?** (They were afraid.)

Ask: **What do you think happened to Rahab, the woman who hid the spies Joshua had sent into Jericho earlier?**

Allow time, then read aloud Joshua 6:22-25. Ask: **What do you think about that?** (It was the right thing to do; God's people keep their promises, and we should too.)

What happens when God's people work together? (God can work through us. Others will be impressed.) **When our church takes on a big project, are you willing to do your part? Let's remember today's message . . .**



IN GOD'S FAMILY WE ALL WORK TOGETHER.

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- Bible

Army of God

Say: **All the people in our church, including the children, are in God's army. So let's see what that means for us.**

- 1. Who is the Commander-in-Chief?** (Jesus, God)
- 2. Our church is a company with its own captain; who is our captain?** (Name the pastor or first elder.)
- 3. What are we in the army?** (recruits, draftees, or foot soldiers, etc.)
- 4. Who are the priests?** (elders, pastors, those who lead up front, or family heads)
- 5. Who are the trumpeters?** (organist, pianist, choir, anyone providing music)
- 6. Where is the city that God is calling us to march around?** (your

neighborhood, a nearby town, a shopping mall)

7. How and where could we march?

(in our neighborhood with a sign about God's love, or do prayer walking—praying for the people in each building/store as you walk past them)

Debriefing

Read Psalm 133:1 aloud. **If the people in our church are all arguing and fighting, how effective will our marching or prayer walking be? So what might we do first before we start our prayer walking?** (Pray for unity; pray for everyone to follow God, our Commander-in-chief.) **What are we going to remember today?**



IN GOD'S FAMILY WE ALL WORK TOGETHER.

Sharing the Lesson

Awards Day

Before Sabbath School, photocopy the award certificate on page 144 for each child. Call the pastor and let him or her know that the children want to make awards to church members. Ask the pastor to make time for the presentation of these awards in church.

In Sabbath School, ask the children to think of people in their church family to affirm for a job well-done. Help the children choose the reasons for the affirmation. Then assign one child to prepare and award the certificate for that person.

Adult supervision may be needed to write the name and check the appropriate affirmation statement. Children then write the name of their town on the flag and color the picture. They might also write a personal affirmation on the back.

Practice presenting the award and shaking hands with or hugging the adult.

During the church service, at the time designated by the pastor, have the primaries come up front, each holding an award. Call the names of the adults and ask them to stand in a line behind the children. Read the awards one at a time, then have the primaries present their award to the adult.

Debriefing

Read aloud Psalm 133:1. Ask: **What have you learned today about your-**

selves and our church family? (They are part of the family of the Living God; they all can work together; all are important in the family.) Say: **How does that make you feel?** (important, needed, etc.) **This week what are we going to remember about us and the church?**



IN GOD'S FAMILY WE ALL WORK TOGETHER.

Closing

Sing "We Are One in the Spirit." (See words below.) Then pray that your church family will always work together.

1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored,
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in the land,
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

—Peter Scholtes (Music and Text Copyright 1966 by F.E.L. Publications Ltd, Los Angeles, California.)

You Need:

- photocopied award certificate for each child (see page 144)
- Bible

The Silent Battle

References

Joshua 6;
Patriarchs and
Prophets,
pp. 487-498

Memory Verse

"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1, NIV).

The Message

In God's family we all work together.

Did you ever feel so excited you couldn't sleep? Or wake up extra early on an extra special day? That's how it was the day that the army of Israel marched for the first time around Jericho.

Long before daybreak the Israelite soldiers and priests arose. After a hurried breakfast, the soldiers dressed for battle. Soon they lined up behind the golden ark of the covenant. Four priests in spotless white robes stood ready to lift the poles of the ark to their shoulders.

When Joshua, the leader of Israel, appeared, he encouraged all the people. "Do not give a war cry," Joshua directed. "Do not raise your voices. Do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout." A war cry always helped the soldiers feel brave, and it scared the enemy. But Joshua wanted the soldiers to rely only on God.

Soon the long parade marched away. A small group of armed soldiers led the way. Behind them came seven priests blowing ram's horn trumpets. Then came four more priests carrying the ark of the covenant. The rest of the army followed.

As the Israelites approached Jericho, they saw that the city gates were tightly closed. Soldiers lined the top of the city walls, their weapons ready. But before reaching the walls, the Israelites turned and began marching around the city. When the priests rested their trumpets for a

few minutes, the only sound was the tramp of hundreds of feet.

The Israelite parade marched all the way around Jericho. Then they headed back to camp. The soldiers on the walls lowered their weapons, completely puzzled. What was going on?

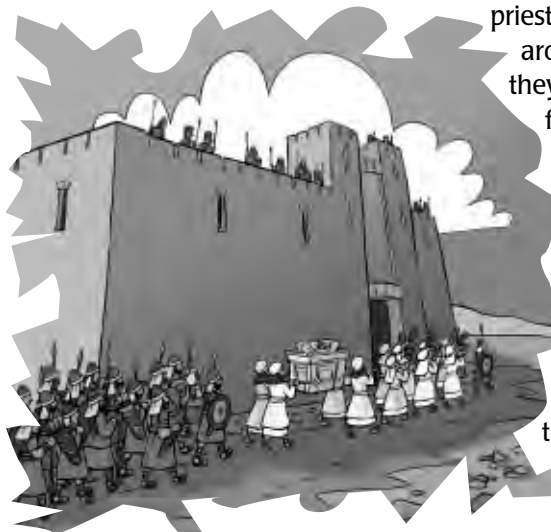
The next day, the same parade left the Israelite camp and marched toward Jericho. First, soldiers. Then seven priests playing trumpets. Next, priests carrying the ark. And finally, more soldiers. The trumpets blared. The soldiers marched. No one said a word. Each soldier knew that he was helping, just by marching and not saying a word. Again the parade circled the city. Again they marched back to camp, leaving the people in Jericho bewildered. What kind of war was this?

The same parade wound its way around Jericho on the third day. And the fourth day. And the fifth day. And the sixth day. The people locked in the city could hardly stand it.

At sunrise on the seventh day, the long parade of soldiers and priests formed once more. They left the Israelite camp and moved toward Jericho. The walls of the great city were again lined with soldiers. The parade circled the city once. But it did not return to camp as it had before. Instead, the soldiers and

priests took a second turn around the city. Then they marched around it for the third time.

The Israelite army marched all the way around Jericho four times. Five times. Six times. Seven times. Then the parade stopped. The priests put the trumpets to their lips and sounded a mighty blast.



“Shout!” Joshua commanded. “The Lord has given you the city!” The soldiers threw back their heads and shouted with all their might. That’s when the completely unexpected, the absolutely, positively impossible happened. With a deafening rumble the walls of Jericho gave way and fell down. The Israelites rushed into Jericho and took the city.

God had given Jericho into Israel’s hands. The victory was God’s. But the Israelites had their part to play. They had worked together as Joshua instructed.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- With your family, make a “City of Jericho” out of rocks, sticks, etc. Make a parade of soldiers and priests out of pebbles or seeds. Read your lesson story together. When you read about the walls falling down, shout, and make your “Jericho” walls fall down.
- Read Psalm 133:1 together. Teach it to your family.
- Sing “I’m In the Lord’s Army” or some other marching song.

Sunday

- During family worship, read Joshua 6:1-16. Who won this battle for Israel? (Joshua 6:16). Check one:
___ Joshua ___ God and the army of Israel
___ God ___ The army
- What part did the army of Israel have in the victory?
- Make 13 brick-shaped cutouts. Write one word of your memory verse on each. Write the text on one. Arrange the bricks in order. Save them.

Monday

- With your family, read Joshua 6:16-20. *Unity* means everyone working together. How did the soldiers in this story show unity? (Circle Yes or No.)
They formed a parade. Yes No
They marched in the same direction. Yes No
They kept quiet. Yes No
They shouted when Joshua told them to. Yes No
- Arrange your memory verse “bricks” in order. Say the verse together.

Tuesday

- With your family, gather some small sticks or twigs. Break one with your bare hands. Now hold four sticks together. Try to break them all at once. Can you do it? Was it easier or harder? Why? In unity there is strength.
- Name six things you can do to show unity in your family. Name three things families do that show unity

in their church. Read Ephesians 4:2, 3 together. Pray for unity in your family and church.

Wednesday

- For family worship read Hebrews 11:30 together. How did the Israelites show faith, trust, and unity at Jericho?
- Write a last line and sing the following to the tune, “Are You Sleeping?”
Marching ’round Jericho, marching ’round Jericho,
Trusting God, trusting God.
(Softly) Give a mighty (loud) SHOUT! Give a mighty SHOUT!

- _____.
- Make the “brick” cutouts fall. Drop them as you say your memory verse. Ask God to help you trust Him more.

Thursday

- Draw a picture of a church with people holding hands and praying inside. Under the picture write: “The church that prays together is strong together.”
- As a family, link hands and make a circle. Have each person take a turn being left outside the circle and trying to get in. Then let the person come inside the circle and don’t let them get out. How is this like a church family? Read 1 Corinthians 3:9, first part, together.
- Look in a mirror and say your memory verse.

Friday

- Act out your Bible lesson as a family. Who will be Joshua? Read Joshua 6 together. Count how many times the parade marched around Jericho.
- What were people doing together as they marched? What do you do with others at your church?
- Design a family flag that illustrates unity in God. Write your memory verse on it. Wave it before your family and say the memory verse. Then thank God for unity in your family.