

ELEMENTARY (K-3)

13. The Warrior Leader

The story of Joshua and Jericho.

Memory Verse

Trust in the LORD with all your heart;
do not depend on your own
understanding.

Seek his will in all you do,
and he will show you which path to take.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Story Time

Read 'The Warrior Leader' (pages 108-115 in the Jesus Storybook Bible) or watch the video on our website.

Understanding the Story

Talk this through with your kids:

In our last story, 10 ways to be perfect, God's people were following Moses. While following Moses, the people hadn't fully trusted God. God showed them the land He'd promised them, but all they did was grumble and worry. They refused to follow God's instructions! So instead of living in that land, they wandered the desert for 40 years (that's a long time!) until it was time for a new leader - Joshua.

God asked Joshua to do something that maybe seemed a little unusual...but Joshua was obedient (that means he did as he was asked) and followed God's instructions. Have you ever heard of anyone winning a battle by walking in circles, shouting and playing trumpets?! But Joshua wasn't asked to fight, he was asked to trust God and follow Him, and he did just that! God rescued his people from years of wandering in the desert and he gave them a home. We can trust that God will save us too. All we have to do is follow His instructions to believe Jesus is our Rescuer and follow Him.

Digging a little deeper:

It's important to remember that Joshua wasn't the perfect leader either. The perfect leader will come later, the true rescuer, Jesus. But Joshua led God's people as best he could, and even though they still made mistakes, those mistakes point us back to Jesus and the fact we need a rescuer.

Questions to get you talking:

- The Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years, that's a long time! How many years until you're 40?
- Think of some places you might find instructions (Example: Lego kits!)
- Have you ever ignored the instructions you were given? What happened?
- What's the weirdest rule or instruction you've ever heard of?

Activities in your box

- **Lego Model** Follow the instructions/try to put it together without them, what worked best.

- **Colouring sheet**

Activities using things around the house:

- **VeggieTales "Josh and the Big Wall"** is a fun half hour movie of today's story. It's available free on YouTube.

- **Follow the leader game**

This would be a fun game to play at dinnertime. Assign a leader, you have to follow all their instructions. But, before the game begins, assign a trick word. It can be anything you agree on (common words like 'the' or 'do' will make the game more difficult) If the leader uses the trick word, the person who notices first becomes the new leader. You can assign them a new word or use the same trick word for the whole game.

- **Recreate the story** using toys around your home. If you don't have blocks to create Jericho, you could use boxes or cans from your recycling.

ELEMENTARY (4-7)

13. The Warrior Leader

The story of Joshua and Jericho.

Memory Verse

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Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT

Story Time

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Understanding the Story

Talk this through with your kids:

In our last story, 10 ways to be perfect, God's people were following Moses. While following Moses, the people hadn't fully trusted God. God showed them the land He'd promised them, but all they did was grumble and worry. They refused to follow God's instructions! So instead of living in that land, they wandered the desert for 40 years (that's a long time!) until it was time for a new leader - Joshua.

God asked Joshua to do something that maybe seemed a little unusual...but Joshua was obedient (that means he did as he was asked) and followed God's instructions. Have you ever heard of anyone winning a battle by walking in circles, shouting and playing trumpets?! But Joshua wasn't asked to fight, he was asked to trust God and follow Him, and he did just that! God rescued his people from years of wandering in the desert and he gave them a home. We can trust that God will save us too. All we have to do is follow His instructions to believe Jesus is our Rescuer and follow Him.

Digging a little deeper:

It's important to remember that Joshua wasn't the perfect leader either. The perfect leader will come later, the true rescuer, Jesus. But Joshua led God's people as best he could, and even though they still made mistakes, those mistakes point us back to Jesus. Point to the fact we need a rescuer. Point again and again to God's GRACE.

Grace is something that's given without being earned. That even though we don't deserve to be saved because of all the wrong we do, God still saves us anyway.

Questions to get you talking:

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- Think of some places you might find instructions (Example: Lego kits!)
- Have you ever ignored the instructions you were given? What happened?
- What's the weirdest rule or instruction you've ever heard of?

Activities in your box

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- **Colouring sheet**

Activities using things around the house:

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- **Recreate the story** using toys around your home. If you don't have blocks to create Jericho, you could use boxes or cans from your recycling or build a fort out of blankets.