

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary		
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: Following God leads to amazing things.</p> <p>TREMBLIN' SOUND WAVES ART: Kids are inspired by music and create line patterns with tempera paint.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: CD player, marching music selection</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Inspiring music selections, CD player, pencils, heavy white construction paper, tempera paints, paint brushes, black permanent markers</p>
Upper Elementary		
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God tears down and new life emerges!</p> <p>TORN PAPER 3-D COLLAGE: Kids experience God's gift of new life through a torn paper collage project.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Pictures of various types of walls: Great Wall of China, Stone Garden Wall, Berlin Wall coming down, Jerusalem Wall, prison walls</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Assorted papers (decorative, recycled, craft, scrapbooking), glue, mounting board or tag board, 3-D foam stickies (optional)</p>
All Kids		
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: Following God brings new life!</p> <p>KNOCK DOWN, BUILD UP INTERACTIVE ART: Kids explore barriers and positive alternatives while creating interactive art.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Wooden blocks</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Flip chart, empty, clean milk cartons (pint size), cereal boxes, and other assorted boxes, white acrylic paint, paint brush, "prepped" boxes (see Set Up), markers, crayons, old magazines, scissors, glue, peel-and-stick alphabet letters, masking tape</p>



Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content. Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find a downloadable Family Page for this rotation's story filled with ideas for families to use to explore this story and live out their faith at home.

Workshop Focus: Following God leads to amazing things.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit www.sparksondayschool.org to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Battle of Jericho Storytelling

Set Up: Have CD music cued and ready to go.

Activity Instructions

Have a robust march playing when kids enter. Invite them to follow you marching around the room. Combine interesting movements, turns, and more. Have kids suggest some ideas. Then stop the music and gather everyone with his or her Spark Story Bible.

Welcome! How was that for a morning workout? In today's story, the people did a variation of our march for SEVEN days! Can you imagine that? Does anyone know which story I'm talking about? Accept answers.

Turn in your Spark Story Bibles to The Battle of Jericho. It starts on page 102. Let's read about what happened with the Israelites at the wall.

Read together (or aloud to the group) pages 102-105.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

CD player
Marching music selection

Have you ever heard of such a battle plan? What do you think the Israelites thought while they were walking? Accept answers. **Do you think they expected God's plan to work?** (*maybe yes, maybe not*) **What else do you think God might've asked them to do?** Encourage some creative answers. **What can we do with our bodies that would cause shaking?** (*jumping up and down, stomping*)

Can you imagine how loud it was when all of those voices started shouting?

Even though all of this seemed quite unusual, as long as they followed God's instructions, the walls were guaranteed to fall.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Tremblin' Sound Waves Art

Set Up: Prep area to allow for painting with tempera paint. Provide an area for paintings to dry. Have CD player and CD preset to play music.

Activity Instructions

Today we're going to use music to inspire the art that you create. When the Israelites marched around the walls of Jericho they used lots of shofars—horn-like instruments that you blow through. They also shouted all together on the seventh day before the walls trembled and fell. Does anyone know a little bit about how the sound from instruments and voices and music gets to our ears so that we can hear it? Accept answers. Guide discussion to a simple explanation of sound waves. **Sound travels through the air like waves on water. Even though we can't see sound waves, we can hear them because our brains change the waves into signals we recognize as sound. Can you imagine what those sound waves "looked" like when people played their shofars or when everyone shouted together?**

Today, you will get a chance to listen to some different types of music and let it inspire your own "sound waves."

Before we move to the drawing and painting, let's do some air drawing first. Listen to this selection of music and see how it makes you respond. Watch me, put your hand in the air, and move your arm and hand in a motion that fits with the music. Do this with the children so they get the idea. **It's like dancing with your hand!**

Play the music for a bit and let kids give it a try.

Great! I saw lots of interesting movements. Now, let's transfer that movement to the paper. Pick up your pencil. This time, when the music starts, let the beat or the rhythm or the feel of the music inspire you. Draw a single line from one edge of the paper to the opposite side. Let it reflect what you hear. Will it be curvy? Jagged? Arched? Swirled?

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

CD player
Inspiring music selections, 2
(see instructions)
Pencils, 1 per kid
Construction paper, 12" x 18"
(30 cm x 45 cm) heavy,
white, 2 per kid
Tempera paints, black, white,
and other colors
Paint brushes, several in each
color
Black permanent markers

As the sound travels to your ear, transfer what you hear into a collection of lines on your paper. Play the music again and demonstrate for the kids.

To start, fill the entire page with a collection of lines. Some may repeat, others may be close together or far apart, and still others may cross over each other. You'll probably want to have between 7 and 20 lines on your paper when you're done, because you'll be painting in the space between the lines with paint later.

1. Give each kid a piece of white construction paper and a pencil.
2. Start the first selection of music. Allow it to play for enough time for kids to fill their paper with their inspired lines.
3. Give kids a second piece of paper and play a new selection of music. Allow them to be inspired and draw a new collection of lines.
4. When kids have finished with their pencil lines, have them select their favorite line drawing to paint.
5. Give kids access to a variety of tempera paints and paintbrushes. Have them paint the spaces between the lines with vibrant paint colors. They may want to repeat a pattern with alternating colors or use a different color in each space. The use of black and white paint and a third color can have great visual effect.
6. Set the painting aside to dry. They may take the second drawing home to paint or, if there is time in rotation, they may do it another day.
7. The final touch of highlighting the "sound waves" needs to be completed when the paint is dry. Kids should use a black permanent marker to trace over the pencil lines (these may have disappeared in the painting process, so have kids use the marker to separate the colors of paint). This step may need to be done on the following meeting, or kids may take the artwork home and complete this step there.

Even though you didn't know exactly what you would create, you followed a plan and something amazing happened. The Israelites did the same and God made the walls come tumbling down at Jericho!

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

Imagine what the sound was like at the walls of Jericho! It must've been AMAZINGLY loud. People came together and followed God's plan. Just look at the size of the wall that came tumbling down! (Show Spark Bible pages 102-103.)

God truly has an amazing plan for us. Following the plan can lead to the most amazing things. If we follow the plan together, just imagine the way that acting with our faith in God will make a difference in the world.

Spark Resources

Family Pages
Spark Story Bible



Supplies

Optional: CD and music selection

Prayer Time

Let's pray in true "Jericho" style.

Have the kids form a line behind you. Instruct them to stop after each of seven rounds and say, **"Following God leads to AMAZING things!"** On each round, direct kids to get louder and louder. Then finish with this closing prayer:

Thank you, God, for showing us that your way may not make sense to us, but following your way will always bring about good things. May we always remember that following you leads to amazing things! Amen.

Workshop Focus: God tears down walls and new life emerges!

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Battle of Jericho Storytelling

When you think of walls, what are they for? (*boundaries, separate, protect, hide, privacy*) **When are walls good?** (*when you need privacy, for protection from weather*) **When are walls not so good?** (*to keep people out who should be allowed in; to imprison people illegally*) **What materials make for some of the strongest and most lasting walls?** Allow answers.

Look at this collection of walls. Show pictures. **Can you identify any of these places?** Allow answers. **Do you know anything about them?**

In the story of Jericho, the people of Israel are faithful people of God—most of the time. The wall around Jericho has kept them out and in order to capture the city, they must bring down the walls. What might be a good way to bring down a wall? (*blow it up with an explosive, push it down with a bulldozer, take it down stone by stone*)

Let's read Joshua 6:1-14 to see what God had in mind. Have volunteers read the verses aloud.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Pictures of various types of walls:
Great Wall of China
Stone Garden Wall
Berlin Wall coming down
Wall of Jerusalem
Prison walls

Then on the seventh day it was time for the final action. After the people marched around the city seven times, Joshua told the people to shout. Let's read verse 20 together.

What can God's people do now that the walls of Jericho are no longer keeping them out? Yes, they can start a new life. They can work with God to help new life to emerge! What does *emerge* mean? (to come out, to grow up) If something *emerges*, does it appear suddenly? (No, it comes out slowly.) Yes, the new life that God helps bring about comes out of us and out of our communities little by little, as walls come down.

Let's put a Makes Me Wonder sticker at the end of the story and jot down ideas about what kinds of new things might emerge when walls come tumbling down.

(people working together, nations cooperating, the ability to see others more clearly, friendships growing) **Jot your ideas in the margin.**

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Torn Paper 3-D Collage

Set Up: Gather a wide variety of craft, recycled, scrapbooking, and decorative papers. The more variety, the more interesting the creations that will emerge.

Activity Instructions

In the story of The Battle of Jericho, the wall must first come down before anything new can happen. Remember our focus statement? God tears down walls and new life emerges! Think of this as you tear pieces of paper in order to create a wonderful collage. Hold up piece of paper and tear it into long strips. **See how pulling something apart—like those things that keep us from God—happens before something else, something better, can emerge?**

You are invited to use a variety of materials today in order to create a 3-D collage. Can someone explain what 3-D means? (three dimensional, has depth) Who has a good idea of how you might tear some of these papers? Have a few kids demonstrate ideas. Fill in with other ideas if needed: small scraps, strips folded into accordions, corners torn to create angles.

How can we attach these torn pieces to this mat to create a 3-D collage? (glue only one end down, combine and intertwine pieces, layer) Think about creating a collage that really "POPS!" Let your artwork surprise the viewer, knowing that you started with only flat sheets of paper.

1. Instruct kids to tear pieces of paper into a variety of sizes and shapes.
2. Next, have them attach the torn strips to the piece of tag board or mounting board using glue and/or 3D foam stickies.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Assorted papers:
decorative, recycled, craft, scrapbooking, enough for kids to have many choices
Glue
Mounting board or tag board, 12" x 15" (30 cm x 38 cm), 1 per kid
3-D foam stickies (several per kid, optional)

3. Remind them to create a 3-D effect by layering the torn pieces, attaching them only at one end, joining them together, folding them, etc., so that they “pop” off the board.

Encourage kids to work together and share ideas. Remind kids there was a great result at Jericho when people worked together. Walk around the room and monitor progress. Look for interesting tearing and attaching options. Encourage creativity. Can kids really get the torn pieces to POP off the mat? God’s new life is powerful stuff!

Extra paper or torn pieces that aren’t used should go back to the center of the workspace so that others can be inspired to use them or include them in their collage.

If a collage is beginning to feel overly full, kids may want to start a new collage and experiment with new colors and shapes.

When kids are finished encourage them to step back and take a look at their work. Perhaps have a friend hold it up so that they can view it from a distance.

Join kids together to talk about the new creations that have emerged. **What are some of the great things you discovered as you tore the paper and started to build something new?** Explore art and feelings. **Were you ever frustrated or encouraged? How do you think the people of Jericho felt as they were watching the walls come down?** (*excited, afraid of the people, danger on the other side, amazed*) **Does it help to know that God is the one with the plan? How?**

Kids are welcome to take these collages home. For a terrific visual effect, however, why not display them in a tight grid formation to further demonstrate what can happen when the walls that keep us from following God come down!

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if kids haven’t already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

It was great to hear you think about The Battle of Jericho. It’s great to imagine what new and amazing things can emerge as we follow God’s plan and tear down walls that keep us from a close relationship with God and with others.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
Construction paper, 3
different colors

Prayer Time

Let's form a circle and "TEAR AND PRAY." I'll start with these three sheets of paper and tear a piece. Be sure to tear small pieces so everyone has a chance to tear. As we tear it, we will pray, "Help me to follow you, Lord!" Then we'll pass the paper to our left and the next person will tear a strip and pray, "Help me to follow you, Lord!" until we get to the end. When everyone is done, we'll toss the strips into the center of our circle and shout, "AMEN," and we'll see what our strips create. Ready?

Dear God,

You are the one with the plan.

Give us courage and trust to follow you.

You led Joshua and the Israelites to tear down the walls of Jericho.

(tear the paper) **Help me to follow you, Lord, just like they did!**

(pass the paper and remind kids to pray the words)

Amen! (toss into center)

What have we created? What new life comes about when we follow God? Help kids identify creative shapes in the confetti. **Can you see a dove? Can you see a rainbow? Can you see a candle? What other life-filled things can you see?**

Workshop Focus: Following God brings new life!

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Battle of Jericho Storytelling

Set Up: Preset wooden blocks to form a 3-5 blocks high “mini” wall.

Activity Instructions

Set the stage for today’s story by inviting kids to sit in a circle around the “wall” of stacked wooden blocks. It is highly likely that the blocks will fall or get knocked over during the course of the morning. That’s okay—it will reinforce the Bible story.

Do these blocks remind you of anything? (*childhood, playing, building*) **When you see a stack of blocks, does it make you want to do something?** (*knock them down, stack them*) Select a volunteer to knock them down. Leave them in a pile.

In today’s story, there was a huge wall around Jericho that kept people out. God wanted the Israelites to take action and knock down the wall.

Open your Spark Bible to page 237 and let’s read together Joshua, chapter 6, verses 1 through 5.

Have the younger kids follow with the older kids.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Wooden blocks, assortment

Tell the person next to you what actions you heard God tell them to take. (*march, blow horns and trumpets, shout*) **Quite an interesting way to bring down the walls!**

This is a story of faith in action. Even though the people may have thought what God was asking them to do was silly, still, they followed and trusted God. They knew they could not overcome Jericho by themselves. They knew they needed God to help them.

Let's put a Makes Me Want To sticker next to this story, and write your response in the margin.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Knock Down, Build Up Interactive Art

Set Up: Have a set of volunteers prep boxes for the project. Boxes should be clean, empty, and dry. For the best results, tape down the opening of each box to create flat sides. Paint the entire outside with white acrylic paint and let dry. This provides a clean “canvas” for the project. Boxes could also be covered with white paper.

Activity Instructions

We're going to work together today to create two quick brainstormed lists on a flip chart. We'll be able to use all of these ideas to create an *interactive piece of art*. Does anyone know what interactive art is? (*art that is okay for us to touch and move in order to learn from it, like pop-up books*)

In today's story, the wall of Jericho was standing in the way of the Israelites. Sometimes there are things blocking us that we need to knock down or push through, or march around and shout at, in order to move ahead. Just like the Israelites needed God to knock down those walls, we need God to knock down what blocks us, too.

We're going to create two lists. On our first list, let's list some of the things that keep people apart or have a negative influence in the world. What keeps communities apart? What causes sadness or division or anger?

1. Have kids brainstorm ideas and write this first list on a flip chart. Post the ideas.
2. On the second list, have kids brainstorm things that are positive and helpful to create a world that is filled with peace, justice, kindness, and love. Write these ideas on the flip chart and post.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Flip chart
Empty, clean milk cartons
(pint size), cereal boxes,
and other assorted boxes, 1
per kid
White acrylic paint
Paint brush for acrylic paint
“Prepped” boxes (see Set Up)
Markers
Crayons
Old magazines
Scissors
Glue
Peel-and-stick alphabet
letters
Masking tape

To begin, we need to create the art part of the project:

1. **You will have a chance to help create a mini-wall of Jericho. Each of you will get a blank “brick” to build the wall. I know that it’s a box and not a real brick, but you all have great imaginations.**
2. **First, we need to decorate the bricks. On one side I want you to use the first list that we created** (point to the first list) **and write a word or draw an image or use pictures or words cut from a magazine to show those things.**
3. With a mixed-age group, have the older kids help the younger ones to select words or to find images to put on each of their bricks.
4. Have kids use markers, crayons, pictures cut from magazines, and peel-and-stick alphabet letters to create their images.
5. Walk around the room and monitor progress and help as needed.
6. **Now, on the other side of the box, use the other list we created** (point to list of things that bring new life) **to create a side of your brick that shows those things.**
7. Use the same collection of decorating materials.

Here comes the INTERACTIVE part:

1. When everyone is finished say, **Let’s stack all of the “negative” images in an open area in a wall formation.**
2. **Now, we are going to march around the wall seven times, stomping our feet. On the last round, we’ll shout!**
3. **Now we’ll do what God did after the Israelites shouted. Let’s (gently) knock down the wall!**
4. **Send up a cheer! Amazing things happen when we follow God’s plan.**
5. **Now, instead of building another wall, let’s take all of the boxes and the positive messages and work together to create something amazing. Do you think we can stack them again? What new symbol could we create?** (*cross, a wall with an opening for a door, the outline of a heart, GOD spelled out in boxes*) **Which side of the boxes should show?** (*the positive side that the kids created*) **How can we attach them?** Have some masking tape ready to go and a wall that kids can put boxes up against, or just build on the floor.
6. Rebuild the wall with all of the positive sides facing outward.
7. There will be no “right” answer for how the finished project turns out. Encourage sharing and keep the focus on positive interactions. Every brick will need a place in the wall.
8. When finished, take time to look at the positive images and celebrate.

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

There certainly was a lot of excitement at our wall. God's work is packed with action. We are part of God's plan and part of some amazing events. When you are out in the world, know that your actions are part of God's plan, and so go forward with enthusiasm and energy!

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Let's stand around our new creation in celebration. When it's your turn, you may say (or SHOUT), "Thank you God for _____" and fill in the blank with the positive idea you put on your brick. Ready?

Hello God,

We are called to trust and follow you! Thanks for being here to show us how. We are thankful for all the ways you bring us new life!

Thank you, God, for (name one positive thing and motion for the next kid to follow you).

Let's all shout, "Amen!"