

## Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
<b>Lower Elementary</b>		
<b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> God surprises us!	<b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles	<b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bible
<b>THE GREAT BIG STORY WALL:</b> Kids illustrate and tell parts of the story by using large boxes to build a wall that eventually tumbles down.	<b>SUPPLIES:</b> Bag, stickers or trinkets	<b>SUPPLIES:</b> Boxes, butcher wrap, scissors, tape, markers
<b>Upper Elementary</b>		
<b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> God's work is newsworthy!	<b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	<b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers
<b>READ ALL ABOUT IT:</b> Kids create news headlines with corresponding "still life" photographs to present the story in a journalistic way.	<b>SUPPLIES:</b> Newspaper	<b>SUPPLIES:</b> Boxes, fabric pieces, scarves, costume jewelry, horns and trumpets, assortment of armor, large calendar pages, umbrella, baseball cap, lawn chair, soccer ball, doctor's kit, chart paper, markers, Fact-Finding Sheet (page 87), Read All About It Skit Script (page 89)
<b>All Kids</b>		
<b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> God's power is amazing!	<b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	<b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers
<b>THE GREAT WALL DAYS PARADE:</b> Kids present a running commentary on the Jericho story as if it were a parade highlighting a big, amazing holiday celebration.	<b>SUPPLIES:</b> None	<b>SUPPLIES:</b> Boxes, fabric pieces, scarves, costume jewelry, horns and trumpets, bells, assorted armor, wagon(s), illustration of the Ark of the Covenant, crepe paper streamers, balloons, paper, markers, scissors, tape, bed sheet, chairs, microphone props, The Great Wall Days Parade Skit Script (pages 91-92)



Visit [www.sparksundayschool.org](http://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:** God surprises us!

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.sparksundayschool.org](http://www.sparksundayschool.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:** Place the stickers or trinkets inside the bag.

**Activity Instructions**

**Welcome to Creative Drama! I have a surprise for you today!**

Show kids the bag. **Raise your hand if you like surprises. I like surprises, too. Let's get ready to hear a story with a surprise in it!** Hand out the stickers or trinkets.

Have kids stand in place. **As I read the story, you will help by marching in place. Listen carefully and I'll tell you how fast to march! Let's start by marching slowly.**

Read The Battle of Jericho on pages 102-105 in the Spark Story Bible. Direct the kids to change the tempo of their marching as noted after the following sentences:

- "... tall, tall walls of the city called Jericho" (stand still)
- "Joshua counted off seven . . ." (march normally)
- "Everyone needs to walk quietly." (march quietly)
- "The Israelites kept walking." (march normally)
- "... the ground began to shake!" (march quickly)

**Spark Resources**  
Spark Story Bibles

**Supplies**  
Bag  
Stickers or trinkets, 1 per kid

**Let's talk about the story. What was all around the city of Jericho?** (*tall walls*)  
**How many times did the Israelites march around the city on the final day?**  
(*seven*) **What was God's surprise?** (*The walls fell down.*) **Did this story surprise you?** Allow kids to respond.

**We don't always know what God's plan is. God surprises us!**

**Let's get ready to retell the story of the Battle of Jericho with a surprise ending!**

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### The Great Big Story Wall

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#### Set Up:

- Cover boxes with butcher wrap to create drawing space if necessary.
- Place the boxes and markers where kids can use them.
- Clear a large area in the room where the wall can be built as the story is told.
- Set the extra boxes in the open area of the room as the start of the story wall.

#### Activity Instructions

##### Prepare to tell the story:

Have each kid find a partner. **You and your partner will work together to help tell part of the story.**

Assign partners to illustrate one of the first six paragraphs of The Battle of Jericho on pages 102-105 of the Spark Story Bible. Multiple partners can be assigned to each paragraph. **Read or listen to your part of the story, and ask for help if you need it.** Have Shepherds help kids understand their part of the story.

Direct each pair of kids to choose a box. **You and your partner will use the markers to draw your part of the story on your box. Where are the people in your part of the story? What are they doing? What will you draw on your box?**

##### Tell the story:

Direct partners to bring their boxes and sit carefully where they can see the wall being built. **Today's story is about a great big wall around the city of Jericho and a surprising thing God did! You're going to take turns telling us your part of the story by showing us your box. Then you will add your box to the growing wall of boxes!**

Begin with the partners assigned to the first paragraph of the story. Encourage kids to tell the story in their own words, but help them out if they get stuck.

After paragraph six, gather the kids around the wall. **Let's all gather around our story wall for the last part of the story.** Have kids shout as you tell the last part of the story. Encourage the kids to *carefully* knock the wall down and celebrate God's surprise!

#### Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

#### Supplies

Medium and large cardboard boxes, 1 per pair of kids plus a few extra  
Butcher wrap  
Scissors  
Tape  
Markers

### Following the story:

Assist kids in cleaning up the boxes then gather to debrief the story. **That was a surprising story! Let's review. Who gave Joshua the plan to take over the city of Jericho?** (*God*) Point to the picture on page 103 of the Spark Story Bible. **What did Joshua tell the priests to do?** (*play the shofar and march*) **What do you think the people of Jericho did when the walls fell down?** Allow kids to respond.

**God always has a plan. We don't always know what God's plan is. God surprises us! When was a time God surprised you?** Allow kids to respond.

## Send (5 minutes)

### Wrap Up

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

**Thank you for coming to Creative Drama today! We had fun with the story wall. We learned that God told Joshua a plan. The Israelites marched around the city of Jericho for seven days. Then God made the walls tumble down. God surprises us!**

#### Spark Resources

Family Pages



#### Supplies

None

### Prayer Time

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**Let's pretend to be part of the wall during our closing prayer today. We'll start low and grow taller as we pray. Then at the end we'll tumble down!**

**Dear God,**

**Joshua led the people.** (start low)

**They marched around Jericho.** (grow higher)

**You made the walls tumble down.** (grow higher)

**Thank you for your plans!** (grow higher)

**Thank you for surprises!** (tumble down)

**Amen.**



**Workshop Focus:** God's work is newsworthy!

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

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- 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

**Welcome to Creative Drama. I'm glad you're here.** Show kids the newspaper.

**Have any of you seen the recent news?** Read an appropriate headline. Do you think this story would be worth reading about in a newspaper? Allow kids to respond. **Sometimes important things happen which aren't covered in the news, but that doesn't make them any less important.**

**I'm sure if there was a newspaper around during Bible times, this story would have made the headlines!**

Direct kids to turn to Joshua 6:1-20 in their Spark Bibles. Invite volunteers to read the following passages:

- Joshua 6:1-2
- Joshua 6:3-5
- Joshua 6:8-9
- Joshua 6:10-11
- Joshua 6:15-16
- Joshua 6:20

#### Spark Resources

Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

#### Supplies

Newspaper, current

Direct kids to mark part of the passage with an I Read It, Something I Like, or Makes Me Want To sticker, using a pencil to write their response in the margin.

**Let's review. Who gave Joshua the plan to capture Jericho? (God) How many days did the Israelites march around the city? (seven) What happened after the Israelites followed God's directions? (The walls fell and they captured the city.) What was the most interesting thing for you about this story?** Allow kids to respond.

**Even though we don't always realize it, God's work is newsworthy! We're going to consider what makes this story newsworthy for today's workshop.**

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### Read All About It

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#### Set Up:

- Provide four open areas in the room where the skit scenes can take place.
- Place the props in an area where kids can look through and choose among them.
- Make four copies of the Fact-Finding Sheet, page 87.
- Make two copies of the Read All About It Skit Script, page 89.

#### Activity Instructions

##### Prepare for the skit:

Invite two kids to be the narrators for the skit. Give them copies of the skit script to practice. **What would it be like to discover a newspaper from Bible times? What if you had never heard the news story before? How would you react?**

Divide the rest of the kids into four groups. **Imagine you are all reporters. Your group is going to write a headline and a brief news article about the topic you are assigned. In addition, you will need to "create" a photograph to go with your article using props and the people in your group! Use the chart paper and markers to write your article as if it were part of a giant newspaper. Don't forget the headlines!** Give each group a Fact Finding Sheet.

Assign three groups the following parts of the Joshua story: Joshua 6:1-5, Joshua 6:8-11 & 14, Joshua 6:15-16 & 20. **Use your Fact-Finding Sheet to help you write your news article. Remember, news articles have a lot of information in a short paragraph. If you were the first person to tell this story, what would be important for people to know?**

Assign one group to make up a modern-day news story about something big God has done. **What would people want to read about God? What might God do to get people's attention? Use your fact sheet to help write a modern-day story about something big God has done. Pretend you are actually there, watching this**

#### Spark Resources

- Spark Bibles
- Spark Bible Stickers

#### Supplies

- Boxes, cardboard, of various sizes
- Fabric pieces of various colors and textures
- Scarves
- Costume jewelry
- Horns and trumpets
- Assortment of armor
- Calendar pages, large
- Umbrella
- Baseball Cap
- Lawn chair
- Soccer ball
- Doctor's kit
- Chart paper, large sheets
- Markers
- Fact-Finding Sheet, page 87
- Read All About It Skit Script, page 89

**story happen. What would you take a picture of? What would be happening? As a group, practice posing and holding still. Make sure your picture shows something that is described in your article!**

**Perform the Skit:**

Have each group bring their props and news articles to their part of the room. **In a moment we're going to start the skit. Set up any props you need and place your news article on the floor in front of your area. Relax and watch the other groups until it's your turn.** Help kids face the right direction so they can see and be seen by the other groups.

**Imagine two kids on a trip to Israel discover an old crumbling newspaper . . . let's see what happens next!**

**Following the skit:**

Help kids clean up the area and then gather to debrief the experience. **Great reporting! Let's discuss the story.** Direct kids to find Joshua 6:8-9. Invite them to mark the passage with a Spark Bible Sticker of their choice, using a pencil to write their response in the margin. **In what order did the Israelites march around the city?** (*armed men, priests with trumpets, Ark of the Covenant, armed guard, rest of the people*) **What did all of the Israelites do right before the walls fell?** (*shouted*) **Do you think this story is worth telling others about? Why or why not?** Allow kids to respond.

**Telling stories about what God has done is a great way to share your faith with others. God's work is newsworthy! What is something God has done that you would like to share?** Allow kids time to respond.

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.

**Thank you for coming to Creative Drama. Today we learned how God gave Joshua a plan to capture Jericho. The Israelites marched for seven days and the walls came tumbling down. We created news articles and learned God's work is newsworthy!**

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

## Prayer Time

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**God has done many great newsworthy things. During our prayer, I'll pause and you can tell about something God has done, either from a Bible story or in your life. Let's pray.**

**Dear God,**

**From the beginning of time, you have done great things, such as causing the walls of Jericho to tumble down with a shout. You still do great things today. We want people to know what you have done. *(Pause.)* Thank you, God!**

**Amen.**

**Workshop Focus:** God's power is amazing!

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

**Welcome to Creative Drama. What is the most amazing thing you have ever seen?** Allow kids to respond. **The people in today's story must have talked about what they saw for a long time!**

**We're going to hear from the Spark Bible before and after the story. During the story, I'll need everyone's help.**

Direct the older girls to find Joshua 6:1-2 and the older boys to find Joshua 6:20 in the Spark Bible.

Invite everyone to stand. **Let's get ready to do some marching in place.**

Have the girls begin by reading out loud. Then read The Battle of Jericho on pages 102-105 of the Spark Story Bible. Have kids increase or decrease the tempo of their marching according to the action in the story. Have the boys read at the end of the story.

Spark Resources  
Spark Story Bibles  
Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies  
None

**Great participation! Let's review. What did the city of Jericho have around it?**

(walls) Direct older kids to find Joshua 6:2 in their Spark Bibles. Invite them to mark the passage with a Spark Bible Sticker of their choice, using a pencil to write their response in the margin. **Whose idea was it to march around the city?** (God's)

**What amazing thing happened on the seventh day?** (The walls tumbled down.)

**The walls tumbled down without any wrecking equipment. God's power is amazing! Let's have a parade to celebrate God's amazing power!**

# Activate Faith (25 minutes)

## The Great Wall Days Parade

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**Set Up:**

- Designate a parade staging area by hanging a bed sheet for a backdrop and placing two classroom chairs off to the side of the stage.
- Place the props in an area where kids can choose among them.
- Place the supplies in an area where kids can create with them.
- Make several copies of The Great Wall Days Parade Skit Script, pages 91-92.

**Activity Instructions**

**Prepare for the skit:**

**When the Israelites were marching around Jericho, it must have looked something like a parade! We're going to imagine this story as a parade that takes place as part of a big, amazing holiday celebration called Great Wall Days!**

**Before we do, however, let's call out some amazing things God has done for us and be thinking of those things as we march in our parade.** Begin by calling out thanks for newborn babies, rainbows, sick people getting well, families, someone smiling, the people at church . . . Accept all answers from kids and encourage them!

Invite two older kids to play the parts of commentators. Give each of them a script and microphone prop. **You will read your parts from the parade "reviewing stand" next to the stage. Have you ever seen parades on TV? How are they described? Read through the script and ask if you have any questions.**

Invite a couple of younger kids and one Shepherd to be the stage crew. **Your job will be to use the boxes and construct the great wall on the stage. This will be the part of the wall the parade goes by. At the end of the parade, you will help the wall tumble down. How would a wall that is featured in a great big celebration be decorated?**

Divide the rest of the kids into the following parade entries: Joshua the Grand Marshall, Front Armored Guard, Priestly Horn and Trumpet Section, Ark of the Covenant Float, Rear Armored Guard, Israelite Family Clan. **Think of the parades you have seen. How are the people arranged? What do they wear and how do**

**Spark Resources**

- Spark Story Bibles
- Spark Bibles
- Spark Bible Stickers

**Supplies**

- Boxes, assorted of various sizes
- Fabric pieces
- Scarves
- Costume Jewelry
- Horns and Trumpets
- Bells
- Assorted armor
- Wagon(s)
- Illustration of the Ark of the Covenant
- Crepe paper streamers
- Latex-free balloons
- Paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Tape
- Bed sheet
- Classroom chairs, 2
- Microphone props, 2
- The Great Wall Days Parade Skit Script, pages 91-92

**they act? Use the props and supplies to get your group ready for the parade.**

**Don't forget your wave!** Encourage kids to use the Spark Story Bible for inspiration if needed.

Assign a leader or Shepherd to help assemble and cue the parade entries during the skit, according to the order listed above.

**Perform the skit:**

Have the commentators take their places in the reviewing stand and the first parade entry ready to start. Indicate a starting and stopping point for the parade entries that will allow the best view of the skit by everyone.

**Welcome to the annual celebration of "Great Wall Days!" We're going to see some amazing parade entries this year. Let's go down to our commentators as the parade is about to start!**

**Following the skit:**

Help kids clean up anything leftover from the skit and then gather to debrief the experience. **What a parade! God's power is amazing! Who did God tell his amazing plan to?** (*Joshua*) Point to the picture on page 103 of the Spark Story Bible. **What did the priests do while they marched?** (*played horns, shofars*) Direct older kids to find Joshua 6:20. **What did God have the people do to make the walls fall down?** (*shout*) Invite kids to mark the passage with a Makes Me Feel, Makes Me Want to, or Something I Like sticker, using a pencil to write their response in the margin.

**God didn't need any machines to knock down the walls of Jericho! God's power is amazing! Let's get ready to thank God for the amazing power we read about in the Bible and God's amazing power we see all around us every day!**

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.

**Thank you for coming to Creative Drama today! We learned how God told Joshua an amazing plan. The people marched around the walls of Jericho for seven days. On the last day, the people shouted and God made the walls tumble down. God's power is amazing!**

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

## Prayer Time

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**Let's stand and raise our hands to praise and celebrate that God's power is amazing!**

**Dear God,**

**Your power is amazing. You made the walls of Jericho tumble down with a shout.**

**You're awesome, God! Thank you for protecting me with your power.**

**Amen!**

# Fact-Finding Sheet

**What story are you reporting on?**

**What happened?**

**Where did it happen?**

**When did it happen?**

**Why did it happen?**

**How did it happen?**

**Who was involved?**

**What might happen next?**

**Summarize your story in less than five words:**



# Read All About It Skit Script

*Two modern-day kids are on a trip to Israel. As they are touring some old parts of the country, they come across a sheet of newspaper sticking out of the sand.*

**Cleo:** Hey, Tony! Check this out!

**Tony:** What is it, Cleo? It's not some secret treasure map, is it? You remember the last time we tried to go on a treasure hunt, don't you?

**Cleo:** No, it's nothing like that. Besides, how was I supposed to know the treasure was going to be guarded by man-eating, fire-breathing lizards? Anyway, look at this. I think it's a type of newspaper.

**Tony:** I think you're right! Careful, that paper looks awfully old. Can you find a date on it?

**Cleo:** Hmm . . . It looks like it's a copy of Israel's Life and Times from 1400 B.C.

**Tony:** It's a good thing we learned how to read ancient Hebrew in that community ed class we took last summer. Let's check out the headlines and see what was considered newsworthy back then.

*Tony and Cleo approach the first scene, read the headline and article out loud, and then describe what they see in the picture.*

**Cleo:** I can see why this story was considered newsworthy! What was God up to?

**Tony:** I'm not sure, there must be more. Turn the page and see if we can find it.

*Tony and Cleo approach the second scene, read the headline and article out loud, and then describe what they see in the picture.*

**Tony:** This is incredible. No wonder God made the news!

**Cleo:** Look over here! I found the last part so we can see how everything turns out.

*Tony and Cleo approach the third scene, read the headline and article out loud, and then describe what they see in the picture.*

**Cleo:** Wait! That reminds me of something. I picked up this copy of the Sun Current to read at lunch today. I recall there was a front page article with an amazing headline!

*Tony and Cleo approach the fourth scene, read the headline and article out loud, and then describe what they see in the picture.*

**Cleo:** You know what this means, Tony? God's work is newsworthy! Not just in ancient Bible times, but also today!

**Tony:** You're absolutely right, Cleo! Speaking of God's work, there's this boat building seminar coming up that I . . .

**Cleo:** C'mon, Tony! The tour bus is leaving. We'll talk about that later!



# The Great Wall Days Parade Skit Script

**Mike:** Thanks for joining station JRCO's live, all-day coverage of the Great Wall Days parade! I'm Mike and this is my co-host, Marge.

**Marge:** Welcome, everyone. Today is turning out to be a beautiful day for a parade! We'll be here all day, right at the base of the Great Wall itself, bringing you all the action, LIVE, as it happens!

**Mike:** You know, every year this parade keeps getting better and better! What a great way to celebrate God's amazing power!

**Marge:** It sure does, Mike. And speaking of celebrations, I think I hear the crowd starting to cheer.

*Kids all cheer.*

**Mike:** That can mean only one thing. The Great Wall Days parade has begun! Who is this year's grand marshal?

*The Grand Marshal Joshua enters.*

**Marge:** It looks like none other than Joshua! The crowds love him. He's keeping up the time-honored tradition of leading this parade for his fourteen-hundredth year. This never gets old. Hi, Joshua!

*The Front Armored Guard enters.*

**Mike:** Here comes a group of finely trained individuals. All the way from the battlefield, we welcome the Front Armored Guard. Notice how they march with such precision! I sure am glad they're in a good mood today!

*The Priestly Horn and Trumpet Section enters.*

**Marge:** A real crowd-pleaser is next in the line-up. Let's hear it for the Priestly Horn and Trumpet Section. Check out their creative formation. This year they've added a little dance step to their playing. Let's listen and watch.

*The Ark of the Covenant Float enters.*

**Mike:** You can tell by the "ooohing and ahhing" of the crowd what's coming next. It's the Ark of the Covenant float. It still makes my heart flutter to have the presence of the Lord so close by!

*The Rear Armored Guard enters.*

**Marge:** Well, Mike, not to be outdone by the Front Armored Guard, here comes the Rear Armored Guard. It looks as if they're brandishing new armor this year. Watch as they raise it high above their heads!

*The Israelite Family Clan enters.*

**Mike: Last but not least, here comes everyone's favorite, the Israelite Family Clan! It looks like they're ready to take up their places in front of the great wall!**

**Marge: Every year, the crowd waits patiently to see if God will do it again. On Joshua's command, all of the people will shout. Let's see what happens!**

*Joshua raises his hand, everyone shouts, the stage crew makes the wall tumble down, everyone cheers!*

**Mike: He did it again! God's power is amazing!**

**Marge: Well, that does it for our coverage today. Join us next year as we cover the fourteen-hundred-and-first Great Wall Days Parade!**