

## Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
<p><b>Lower Elementary</b></p> <p><b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> God loves an “impossible” idea!</p> <p><b>WHERE THERE’S A WALL, THERE’S A WAY:</b> Kids watch a video clip that illustrates the Jericho story, with the central characters overcoming supposedly “impossible” obstacles.</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Toy horns and kazoos, bullhorn or trumpet or cheerleader’s cone</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> None</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> <i>VeggieTales: Josh and the Big Wall</i>, DVD player and TV, toy horns, kazoos, and leader’s noisemaker from Open the Bible; OR <i>Scholastic Video Collection: Make Way for Ducklings</i>, DVD player and TV, kazoos from Open the Bible</p>
<p><b>Upper Elementary</b></p> <p><b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> God helps me to do the impossible!</p> <p><b>TOOTING THEIR HORNS:</b> Kids watch a video clip that illustrates the Jericho story, with the central characters overcoming supposedly “impossible” obstacles.</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> A loudspeaker at least 10 inches (25 cm) in diameter, hooked up to a stereo or sound source, and/or a large orange safety cone; thin paper or plastic (i.e., cellophane)</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> None</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> <i>Madagascar 2</i>, DVD player and TV; OR <i>We Are Marshall</i>, DVD player and TV</p>
<p><b>All Kids</b></p> <p><b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> God makes a way out of “no way.”</p> <p><b>OBSTACLES? WHAT OBSTACLES?</b> Kids watch a video clip that illustrates the Jericho story, with the central characters overcoming supposedly “impossible” obstacles.</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Large wall made of cardboard bricks; toy horns; trumpet, tuba, bullhorn, or some noisemaker (optional)</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> None</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> <i>Scholastic Video Collection: The Man Who Walked Between the Towers</i>, DVD player and TV; OR <i>Rocky Balboa</i>, DVD player and TV</p>



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 loves an “impossible” idea!

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:** Have toy horns and kazoos ready on a table; pass them out before the Spark Story Bible reading.

#### Activity Instructions

Gather in a circle and begin when everyone has arrived. **Welcome to Video! Today we are going to talk about the Battle of Jericho and how something everyone thought was impossible happened in front of everyone's eyes! Can anyone guess what happened? And how?** (*God told them to use their horns just before God brought down the walls of Jericho.*) At this point, produce a horn and toot it to emphasize the answer.

**As the people of Israel headed for the promised land, they ran into a big obstacle along the way—the city of Jericho. What did they do then? Quit? No way! Here's how the story unfolded. But first, we'll need you to recreate a very important part: the horn blowers!** Pass out horns and kazoos to kids, then read The Battle of Jericho story from the Spark Story Bible, pages 102-105. Invite kids to follow the action, and encourage them to blow the horns or kazoos louder and longer as the story progresses.

#### Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

#### Supplies

Toy horns and kazoos, 1 per kid  
Bullhorn, trumpet, or cheerleader's cone (Leader is encouraged to use one of these options so he or she has an even louder mouth instrument or noisemaker.)

**Why did God tell Joshua to send the priests around the city and have them play their horns? First, God loves an impossible idea! And it's an even better idea if it looks so unusual to the enemies of God's people that they dismiss it. Can you imagine how the soldiers of Jericho felt when they saw the priests of Israel and heard all that tooting? And this went on for seven days, too!**

**So let's have a big cheer for Joshua and the priests of Israel. Better yet, let's give them a horn blast of approval. Ready? Go!**

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### Where There's a Wall, There's a Way

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**Set Up:** Preview and select the DVD clip you would like to use. Collect the additional supplies for the video you will be showing. Set up the TV and DVD player in your space, making sure that everyone in the room will be able to see it. If desired, prepare a snack for the kids to enjoy while they watch the DVD. Ask Shepherds to help you with this. *Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.*

**Video Option 1: VeggieTales: Josh and the Big Wall** (1997, no rating, animated)

**Start cue:** (Middle of chapter 5, 13:00) Philippe the French pea, playing a Jericho soldier, says, "Did you hear something, Jean Claude?"

**End cue:** (End of chapter 8, 30:15) End of "Promised Land" song. Last line is spoken: "Does anyone have any saline?"

**Scene set-up:** The VeggieTales characters retell the Joshua-Jericho story, with Larry the Cucumber as Joshua. The scene begins as the Israelites arrive at the walls of Jericho.

#### **Activity Instructions for VeggieTales: Josh and the Big Wall**

Move to the area where you will watch the video.

**Today we're going to learn about the Battle of Jericho and how God helped the people of Israel bring the walls down. Now in this VeggieTales version, things are a bit different: The leader of the Israelites is a giant cucumber, and the Jericho soldiers fight back with grape slushies. And guess what? The soldiers are French peas! Now that is really silly.**

**But no matter how silly the VeggieTales characters get, the story is based on what happened in the Bible. So when the Israelites march around the walls of Jericho, you might want to join in with your horns! I'll use my noisemaker, too.**

Show *Josh and the Big Wall* using the cues above for starting and stopping points. Encourage kids to blow their horns and get into the action. Join with them.

#### **Spark Resources**

None

#### **Supplies**

Video Option 1: *VeggieTales: Josh and the Big Wall*

DVD player and TV

Horns, kazoos, and leader's noisemaker from Open the Bible

Video Option 2: *Scholastic Video Collection: Make Way for Ducklings*

DVD player and TV

Kazoos from Open the Bible

Following the clip, discuss the video using these questions: **What does Josh remind the people of Israel of when they want to ignore what God says?** (*that the Lord has given the land to them and will take care of them*) **Do the guards in Jericho take the Israelites seriously?** (*no*) **How do the Israelites react after the first day?** (*They want to give up on God's plan.*) **If you were a Jericho soldier, how would you have reacted to the Israelites marching and blowing their horns?** Allow kids time to discuss.

**God loves an impossible idea! And a group of people bringing down the walls of a city with horns and marching sure seems impossible, doesn't it? But it also gives God a chance to show power when things look grim. And that same power is there for you and me today. God can bring down any wall!**

**Video Option 2: Scholastic Video Collection: Make Way for Ducklings** (2004, no rating, animated)

**Start cue:** (Start of chapter 1, 0:00) Start of video episode.

**End cue:** (End of chapter 1, 11:12) End of video episode.

**Scene set-up:** In this Caldecott Award-winning Robert McCloskey story, a mother duck leads her ducklings through dangerous city traffic and bustling street life to their new home in a Boston park.

#### **Activity Instructions for Make Way for Ducklings**

Move to the area where you will watch the video. **Today we're going to learn about the Battle of Jericho, and how God helped the people of Israel bring the walls down. Now, a lot of people would say that attacking a walled city with horns would be impossible. If someone showed up at your home tonight with a horn and said she was going to march around it for seven days, blow the horn, and bring it down, what would you say?** Allow kids time to respond.

**In this story, the mother duck has a mission Joshua could appreciate: She has to lead her ducklings through a very busy city to their new home in Boston's Public Garden. Let's follow the action, and whenever you feel like it, encourage those ducklings by joining in with your horns! I'll use my noisemaker, too.**

Show *Make Way for Ducklings* using the cues above for starting and stopping points. Encourage kids to blow their horns, quack through the kazoos, and get into the action. Join along with them.

Following the clip, discuss the video using these questions: **How hard is it for Mr. and Mrs. Mallard to find a new home?** (*very hard, they look about half a dozen places*) **When are the Mallard babies first in danger?** (*when they have to cross a street full of speeding cars*) **Who helps the ducklings out besides Mrs. Mallard?** (*Michael the policeman*) **Why do you think the babies were always safe and never close to getting hurt?** Allow kids time to discuss.

**God loves an impossible idea! And a group of people bringing down the walls of a city with horns and marching sure seems impossible, doesn't it? So does a family of ducks making it through bustling city streets without having a single feather harmed, I'd say. No matter the challenge, God has a way of showing power when things look grim. And that same power is there for you and me today. God can bring down any wall!**

## Send (5 minutes)

### Wrap Up

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Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Pages for this story if kids haven't already received them, and come together for Wrap Up. If space permits, invite kids to form a circle.

**Take a minute to think about the video we just watched and how God looks out for us.**

**God's love continues on today, just as in the days of the Israelites in the promised land. And guess whom God loves? God loves you! And God will look out for you, making sure that you have the strength and support to knock down any wall that you face.**

### Spark Resources

Family Pages



### Supplies

None

### Prayer Time

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Invite kids to echo each line:

**They blew their horns,  
And marched around  
Until the walls  
Came tumbling down.  
Yes, God so loved  
The Israelites  
And keeps us ever  
In his sight.  
Amen.**

**Workshop Focus:** God helps me to do the impossible!

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.
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## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### The Battle of Jericho Storytelling

**Set Up:** Have your pieces of thin paper (tissue paper and/or rigid cellophane) ready and a sound source to vibrate them on a table next to you. Make sure kids have their Spark Bibles and are ready to turn to page 237.

#### Activity Instructions

Gather in a circle and begin when all kids have arrived. **Welcome to Video! Today we're going to talk about the Battle of Jericho and how God helped Joshua and the Israelites to do something quite incredible—almost impossible! Can you imagine bringing down an entire city and its walls with just footsteps and horn blasts? Well, that's what happened.**

**Sound is invisible, just like God. But it also has energy behind it—just like God! To demonstrate, let's take a look at what happens when we expose a piece of paper to sound.**

Ask a volunteer to assist you by holding a piece of paper near the speaker, bullhorn, or cone. Take care to make sure his or her ears are not in the direct path of the speaker or sound source. You may demonstrate the effect of sound vibrating paper by using different types of paper and/or sound sources.

#### Spark Resources

Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

#### Supplies

Loudspeaker at least 10 inches (25 cm) in diameter, hooked up to a stereo or sound source, and/or a large orange safety cone  
Thin paper or plastic (i.e., cellophane wrapping for compact disc), several sheets

**Now it's one thing for sound to move paper—and another for God to move his people and give them the power to bring down a city wall. Let's listen to The Battle of Jericho story.**

Read the account of The Battle of Jericho story in Joshua 6:1-20 on pages 237-238 in the Spark Bible. As an option, consider using animated pictures from the Spark Story Bible (pages 102-105) to punctuate the action.

**Have you ever felt as if you faced a very difficult task?** Allow time for kids to discuss. **How did you face it? What did you do? How did you ask God to help you?** Allow time for kids to discuss.

Invite kids to use their Spark Bible Stickers if they wish, and then share which verses they marked.

**Today we are going to watch a video clip that shows people facing tasks that seem impossible—and succeeding.**

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### Tooting Their Horns

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**Set Up:** Preview and select the DVD clip you would like to use. Set up the TV and DVD player in your space, making sure that everyone in the room will be able to see it. If desired, you can prepare a snack for the kids to enjoy while they watch the DVD. *Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.*

**Video Option 1: *Madagascar 2*** (2008, PG, animated)

**Start cue:** (Start of chapter 20, 1:03:24) Mom the lioness says, "You're gonna mope around like this all day?"

**End cue:** (Middle of chapter 22, 1:17:30) Fadeout of cheering by the restored watering hole.

**Scene set-up:** Alex the lion and his father, Zuba, are trapped off the reserve, surrounded by stranded New York tourists at rifle point. Alex wins escape for himself and his dad through his fancy dance moves, and then he helps the jungle animals restore their watering hole.

#### **Activity Instructions for *Madagascar 2***

Move to the area where you will watch the video and invite kids to be seated.

**God helps people when they need the help most. When the Israelites approach Jericho, it doesn't look good for them to bring the walls down armed with tooting horns and marching feet. But they do it. God gave Joshua and the Israelites amazing power just when they needed it! Let's watch a clip about another leader that won't give up despite an impossible situation.**

#### **Spark Resources**

None

#### **Supplies**

Video Option 1: *Madagascar 2*  
DVD player and TV

Video Option 2: *We Are Marshall*  
DVD player and TV

Brief them with the scene set up before starting the film. Ask them to observe how Alex, like Joshua, uses the least likely of weapons to defeat his foes.

When the clip is over, use the following questions to discuss the clip: **Does Alex ever panic once he has the chance to dance for the New Yorkers?** (*no*) **How do the New Yorkers react to his dance moves?** (*They applaud and drop their weapons.*) **Are Alex or Zuba in control at the point when the dam breaks?** (*no*) **What do you think Mkunga learns from watching his son dance out of a jam?** Allow kids time to discuss.

**Great ones never give up. Like Alex the lion, Joshua was great—and God greatly loved Joshua’s people, the Israelites.**

**Video Option 2: *We Are Marshall*** (2006, PG)

**Start cue:** (Start of chapter 25, 1:41:07) Marshall University football players gather at the burial site of six unidentified Marshall players who died in a plane crash.

**End cue:** (Middle of chapter 29, 1:58:35) Marshall players flood the field after winning the game in the final seconds.

**Scene set-up:** The 1971 Marshall University football squad is now made up of walk-ons and replacement players after 75 of the team’s original players have died in a plane crash. Coach Jack Lengyel has taken his inexperienced new players to Spring Hill Cemetery for a pep talk before playing Xavier University.

### **Activity Instructions for *We Are Marshall***

Move to the area where you will watch the video and invite kids to be seated. **God helps his people when they need the help most. When the Israelites approach Jericho, it doesn’t look good for them, trying to bring the walls down armed only with tooting horns and marching feet. But they do it. God gave Joshua and the Israelites amazing power just when they needed it! Let’s watch a clip about another leader who won’t give up despite an impossible situation.**

Brief them with the scene set up before starting the film. Ask them to observe how Coach Lengyel, like Joshua, has a seemingly no-win task before him.

When the clip is over, use the following questions to discuss the clip: **Does Coach Lengyel lie to his players about how hard it’s going to be to win their game?** (*no*) **What does he tell his players that they have going for them, and that will make them winners?** (*They have heart.*) **Why do you think he brought them to the cemetery to see the graves of the Marshall players who died in the plane crash?** Allow kids time to discuss.

**Great ones never give up. Like Coach Lengyel, Joshua was great—and God greatly loved Joshua’s people, the Israelites.**

# Send (5 minutes)

## Wrap Up

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

**Thank you all for joining in the Video workshop today. And thank you to the Shepherds who brought you here: Let's give them all a high five!**

### Spark Resources

Family Pages



### Supplies

None

## Prayer Time

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If time and space permit, invite participants to form a circle for closing prayer. Ask them to take a moment to remember the Battle of Jericho story, which shows God helping people to tackle a seemingly impossible task.

**As we gather in a circle, think about how much God loved the Israelites to deliver them from a situation where they could've died in the desert or from an attack. God showed them a way to do the impossible. God can show us how to do things we've never dreamed of doing.**

**How can we help others to deepen their trust in God?** Invite kids to respond.

**Let's pray. Please repeat each line after me when I pray it, and use hand motions:**

**When the walls fell down,** (extend palms out and throw down, as if dropping something)

**The Israelites found**

**That their hopes soared higher and higher.** (raise palms as high as possible by stretching arms)

**The horns they blew** (toot a horn)

**And the people they knew** (point to head)

**That the victory was God-inspired.** (point to heart)

**Amen.**

**Workshop Focus:** God makes a way out of “no way.”

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.
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## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### The Battle of Jericho Storytelling

**Set Up:** Construct a wall with cardboard bricks behind you or off to one side as class begins. Have toy horns (i.e., New Year’s Eve-type) ready to pass out to kids. You may also accompany kids with a trumpet, tuba, bullhorn, or some noisemaker that will get kids to laugh. Ask one kid to hide behind the wall and wait for your signal to knock it down.

#### Activity Instructions

Gather in a circle and begin when all kids have arrived. **Welcome to Video! Today we’re going to talk about the Battle of Jericho and how God gave the Israelites power to do some amazing things—things that people then and now would consider almost impossible. Let’s listen to the Battle of Jericho story!**

Read The Battle of Jericho story. If your group is made up of primarily younger kids, use the Spark Story Bible (pages 102-105). If the group is primarily older, use the Spark Bible (Joshua 6:1-20 on pages 237-238). Read with special emphasis on how much patience it took for the people of Israel to follow God’s instructions and his plan to defeat Jericho’s walls.

#### Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles  
Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

#### Supplies

Large wall (at least 5 ft. (1.5 m) high) made of cardboard bricks  
Toy horns, 1 per kid  
Trumpet, tuba, bullhorn, or some noisemaker (optional)

If you are reading from the Spark Bible, invite kids to use their Spark Bible stickers to mark the story.

When the reading is done, invite kids to stand up and pick up their horns.

**I thought we'd try out a little bit of play acting to get a small taste of what this time was like for Joshua and his people.**

Ask kids to line up and face the wall.

**On my signal, toot your horns and march in place in front of this wall. Ready? Go! . . . Now louder! Louder!!! OK, now I'm going to join in.** Pick up your noisemaker or horn and join in. **Now stop! On my signal, we'll blow, shout "Praise God!" and bring the wall down!!! Ready? One . . . two . . . THREE!!!** When the noise begins, the student volunteer behind the wall will knock it down.

**Good job! Our volunteer did the knocking down of our wall. But who did the knocking down of the wall of Jericho? (God) God's power was active in their lives, and God's power is and forever will be active in our lives, too!**

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### Obstacles? What Obstacles?

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**Set Up:** Preview and select the DVD clip you would like to use. Set up the TV and DVD player in your space, making sure that everyone in the room will be able to see it. If desired, you can prepare a snack for kids to enjoy while they watch the DVD. *Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.*

**Video Option 1: Scholastic Video Collection: The Man Who Walked Between the Towers** (2006, no rating, animated)

**Start cue:** (Start of chapter 1, 0:00) Start of video episode.

**End cue:** (End of chapter 1, 9:39) End of video episode.

**Scene set-up:** Adapted from the Caldecott Award-winning book by Mordecai Gerstein, this video tells the true story of Philippe Petit, who walked between the World Trade Center towers in New York City in 1974.

#### **Activity Instructions for The Man Who Walked Between the Towers**

Invite kids to be seated. Brief them with the scene set-up before starting the film. Ask them to think about what it would be like to have a dream of walking between two very high skyscrapers on a wire—and then think of a way to do it: **As you watch this video, pretend that you are Philippe Petit and that you want to walk between two of New York's highest skyscrapers, on a thin high wire. But you've got to figure out a way to get the wire up there.**

**Spark Resources**  
None

#### **Supplies**

Video Option 1: *Scholastic Video Collection: "The Man Who Walked Between the Towers"*

DVD player and TV

Video Option 2: *Rocky Balboa*

DVD player and TV

When the clip is over, use the following questions to discuss the clip: **How much distance separated Philippe's toes from slipping, and sending him falling 1,300 feet to the street? (less than an inch) Did Philippe have to come up with an incredible plan for his incredible feat? Why? (He needed a plan because he wasn't allowed to walk between the towers.) Do you think most people would respond to Philippe's idea as impossible? Why or why not?** Allow kids time to discuss.

**Just like Philippe Petit, Joshua had an "impossible" plan and a big architectural obstacle. And just like Philippe, Joshua followed through with his plan and did something no one thought could be done. But Joshua knew his people could defeat Jericho's walls, because the plan came from God.**

**Video Option 2: Rocky Balboa** (2006, PG)

**Start cue:** (Start of chapter 18, 1:00:38) Rocky's son Robert walks into Rocky's restaurant and gives him a hand signal.

**End cue:** (Middle of chapter 21, 1:11:50) End of weigh-in scene; lightning strikes in the sky.

**Scene set-up:** Rocky's son Robert has just learned that he's going to fight heavyweight champ Mason Dixon in an exhibition match. Rocky is in his 50s; his son thinks his dad will get hurt badly in the ring. Even Dixon wants to protect Balboa and go easy on him. But Rocky is determined to fight.

**Activity Instructions for Rocky Balboa:**

Invite kids to be seated. Brief them with the scene set-up before starting the film. Ask them to think about what it would be like to make a comeback when someone you love believes you can't do it.

When the clip is over, use the following questions to discuss the clip: **When Robert asks his dad not to fight, how does he respond? (He says that he has to do it.) When Rocky steps into the gym to train, does he get the sense that it's going to be easy or hard for him to get in shape? (It's going to be very hard!) Does Rocky ever give up? (no) Listening to and watching Rocky get ready for his big moment, do you feel inspired by him? Why?** Allow kids time to discuss.

**Just like Rocky Balboa, Joshua had an "impossible" plan and big obstacles. And just like Rocky, Joshua followed through with his plan and did something no one thought could be done. But Joshua knew his people could defeat Jericho's walls, because the plan came from God.**

# Send (5 minutes)

## Wrap Up

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

**Joshua reminds us that to people who believe in God, and listen to God, nothing is impossible. No obstacle is too big, no task is too difficult, and no sacrifice is too great. We know that believing is often hard, and the people of Israel had lots of reasons to doubt: Horns and shouts to bring down thick walls of stone? Huh?**

**Yet God blessed the people with a plan, purpose, persistence . . . and power. The walls came down, and the promised land awaited them. As you seek your dreams in life, remember that God is waiting to do the same for you. No obstacle is too difficult for God to help you face.**

**As we pray, let's thank God for God's amazing strength and faithfulness, expressed in a Bible story that can still inspire us thousands of years after it happened.**

## Prayer Time

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**Creator God,**

**You caused walls to tumble and turn to rubble when everyone around saw an obstacle that could not be moved. You gave Joshua a heart full of courage when he had every reason to doubt and fear. You led your people into a promised land when it seemed they had reached the end of the road. Nothing is impossible for you. We reach out, giving thanks and praise, and ask you to inspire us where we meet walls and difficult times in our lives.**

**Amen.**

### Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None