

God Gives Victory Over Jericho

Joshua 6:1-27



Worship Theme:



God always wins.

Weaving Faith Into Life:



Children will praise God for using his winning power in their lives.

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<p>1 Let's Praise God! (up to 25 minutes)</p>	<p>Sing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Power!" • "There's Power in the Blood" • "Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) • "My God Is" • "It Is Well With My Soul" • "God Is Good" 	<p>KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>KidsOwn Worship DVD</i></p> <p>Classroom Supplies: Video equipment, straight-back chair, chalkboard or whiteboard</p>

Preschool

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<p>2 Let's Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes)</p>	<p>The Wall Came Down Dramatize the story of Joshua and the wall of Jericho.</p>	
	<p>* Winning Words Build a wall with scary things; then praise God, and knock the wall down.</p>	<p>Classroom Supplies: Package of plastic foam cups</p>
	<p>God Always Wins Parade March around chairs singing and pretending to blow trumpets.</p>	<p>Classroom Supplies: Blocks</p>

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
2 Let's Learn the Point! <i>(up to 25 minutes)</i>	* The Great Adventure of Jericho: A Slide Show Make a human slide show, and discuss the lesson of Jericho.	Classroom Supplies: Large-beam flashlight
	Always a Winner Learn a winning math trick, and talk about how God always wins without tricks.	Classroom Supplies: Monthly calendar, marker, calculators, paper, pencils
	* Personal Walls Write on a "wall" things they need God's help with.	KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>KidsOwn Worship DVD</i> Classroom Supplies: 1 index card per child, tape, markers, video equipment

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
3 Let's Pray! <i>(up to 10 minutes)</i>	The Offering Offer their gifts to God, and give their situations to him.	KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>KidsOwn Worship DVD</i> Classroom Supplies: Offering bowls, "Personal Walls" cards, video equipment
	Praise Waves Cheer God with waves of praise.	
	Confetti Praise Tear their cards to make confetti as they thank God.	Classroom Supplies: Cards from "Personal Walls"

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together. Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Section 2. Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.

God Gives Victory Over Jericho

Joshua 6:1-27

This story is probably one of the best-known stories in the Old Testament. Certainly it is one of the most dramatic because of the way God chose to claim the city for the Israelites.

Archaeologists have found the site of ancient Jericho but are still uncertain which city is the one delivered into the hands of the Israelites because it has been destroyed so many times. In light of the curse put upon Jericho in Joshua 6:26, the archaeological findings are interesting indeed.

While scouting out the city, Joshua was no doubt surprised to see a man with a drawn sword in front of him (Joshua 5:13). We don't know if this was an appearance of God himself, a preincarnate appearance of Jesus, or an angel; however, we do know that he was someone sent from God. Notice how the messenger responds to Joshua's question "Are you for us or for our enemies?" The messenger was the commander of the Lord's army. It was up to Joshua and Israel to be on the Lord's side, not for the commander to be on Joshua's side! In Joshua 5:15 we are reminded once again of one of Moses' encounters with God: the time at the burning bush when Moses was asked to remove his sandals because the place on which he stood was holy ground (Exodus 3:5).

In the middle of God's message to Joshua, the writer stops to mention a very important fact in Joshua 6:1: The people of Jericho had closed up their city, counting on its strong fortifications to protect them. It was so firmly sealed that no one could go in or out. This meant that no one from Jericho would get in the way as the Israelites marched around the city walls!

Notice that God not only told Joshua what to do, but also told him precisely what would happen (Joshua 6:5). Assuming that the word from God spread among the Israelites, imagine their increasing anticipation as the army marched silently around the city day after day and then seven times on the seventh day. The people knew that God was about to do something spectacular!

Just as promised, Rahab and her family were spared because of the faith she had shown in hiding the Hebrew spies. God's power worked to save her and the Israelites, while at the same time it was working to destroy the inhabitants of Jericho for their idolatry and immorality.

Devotion for Leaders

A relationship with Jesus allows us to walk in confidence, as his power of forgiveness has given us freedom. His love for us provides us with what we need to be clean in his perfect eyes.

Weaving Faith Into Your Life: Take a few minutes to write down as many words as you can that show the character of God: *powerful, patient, creative, and faithful*, to name a few. After the list is complete, save it and use it as a devotional tool. Each day, meditate on one of these characteristics and how God has shown that characteristic in your life. Give God praise, and acknowledge his mighty work in your life.

Why We Worship for Leaders

All human beings desire to “win” in life and be successful, even children. But all too often, reality makes us painfully aware of the shortcomings and weaknesses that rise like mighty walls in our hearts, relationships, and lives. God wants us to be victorious, but sometimes we wonder if he really is in control and if he really knows what’s going on! Joshua must have felt the same misgivings as he contemplated God’s order to do battle at Jericho, which was built on a high hill and consisted of walls so thick people built their homes in them. But God’s directions were clear and simple, and all that remained was for Joshua to obey. When he did, the miraculous happened—the mighty walls of Jericho fell to the ground! God’s instructions may sometimes seem odd to us, but he always has a plan. He chose us to be on his team, and, if we choose to play his way, we’ll learn that he is the God of victory, the one who always wins. That’s reason to worship.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Let’s Praise God!

- Make sure your video equipment is ready.
- Set a straight-backed chair at the front of the room.
- Ask a small child and an adult helper to help you. Briefly explain what they’ll do for the demonstration shown in the activity, but don’t have them try it.
- On a chalkboard or whiteboard, write “Enemies =,” “Deep waters =,” so that the phrases are separated. Leave room below each one to write words later.

Always a Winner

- Make several photocopies of a one-month calendar page.
- Secretly enlist the help of one of the older kids who knows the multiplication tables well. Explain the activity. You might want to test the volunteer on a few numbers to make sure he or she can do the trick.

Personal Walls—Tape blank index cards, at least one per child, on a wall in the shape of a brick wall. Set a container of markers or pencils on the floor underneath the wall of cards.

Preschool Activities—Refer to the preschool pages for preparations.

1 Let’s Praise God!

Play the music videos on the *KidsOwn Worship DVD* as children arrive. Ask the first few children who arrive to help you as greeters. Have them greet children by name and give them a high five as they say, “God always wins!”

When everyone has arrived and been greeted, begin worship.

Say Welcome to children’s church, everyone! Someone tell me what your favorite sports team is.



Worship Leader Tip

This is a great experiment for preschoolers to be a part of. It will give them a chance to be involved in worship in a unique way and help them realize that even small children can do *anything* with God on their side.

Ask • **Does your team always win?** (They're winning every game this season; not all the time.)

• **Wouldn't it be great to be on a team that always wins?** (That would be awesome; I'd love to always win.)

Say **I have good news! You are on a team that always wins—God's team! God always wins, no matter what. Sometimes it may not look like he's winning, but in the end, God always wins. That's why we're worshipping him today. Let's stand and sing "The Power!"**

▶ Sing "The Power!"

Call on the small child and the adult you spoke to before the session. Ask them to come to the front and stand by the straight-backed chair.

Ask • **Who would you guess is stronger,** [name of small child] **or** [name of adult helper]?

• **If we had a contest to see if** [child's name] **is strong enough to keep** [name of adult] **from getting out of the chair—using only one or two fingers—do you think** [he or she] **could do it?**

Say **We're going to show that it's possible to win even when it doesn't seem possible.**

Have the adult sit in the chair with feet directly in front with knees together, and head held high, looking up. Have the small child stand directly in front of the chair and press his or her index finger against the middle of the person's forehead. (See the margin illustration.) Tell the adult to try standing up without using his or her hands. It's highly unlikely he or she will be able to get up. Here's why: To stand up, the adult will have to shift his or her weight to the feet by moving his or her head forward—which will be difficult with the child's finger pressing against it. Even if the adult manages to stand up, it'll take a lot of effort!

Say **Looks like** [child's name] **wins! Allow one or two other children to try the trick; then explain why the adult can't get up.**

When we first looked at our two contestants in terms of strength, it didn't seem like [child's name] **could possibly win. But when the instructions were followed, it was easy. It's like that with God. Sometimes what seems to be an impossible situation is not impossible at all. If we follow God's instructions, we'll be winners. He gives us power through Jesus.**

▶ Sing "There's Power in the Blood!"

Say **Psalm 144:7 says, "Reach down from heaven and rescue me; rescue me from deep waters, from the power of my enemies" (NLT). If you were Daniel, David, or Jonah in the Old Testament, your enemies would be lions, giants, and sea creatures. But we don't get thrown into lions' dens or fight giants or get swallowed by sea creatures.**

Ask • **So who are our enemies, and what are "deep waters" in our lives?** (People who don't believe in God; things we're scared of; negative feelings; sin and temptation.)

Say ▶ Our true enemies are not people. We might think the bully at school or people talking about us behind our backs are our enemies. But our true enemies are things that cause people to act like that: anger, envy, jealousy, bitterness, and resentment. When people feel that way, even if it's not toward you, they might take it out on you.

Point to the word "Enemies" on the chalkboard.

Say ▶ Let's think of our true enemies as sin. Write "sin" next to "Enemies ="

Give children time to respond to the next question. As children respond, write their suggestions below "Enemies."

Ask ▶ • **What are some sins you fight against?** (Arguing with my brother and sister; disobeying my parents; being mean to kids at school.)

Say ▶ Let's think of "deep waters" as our fears and worries. Write "fears and worries" next to "Deep waters =" on the chalkboard. List kids' responses to the next question.

Ask ▶ • **What are some of your fears and worries?** (I'm afraid of what kids will think if they know I'm a Christian; I worry if I'll be OK when I grow up; I'm scared that my parents won't stay together.)

Say ▶ These are our true enemies. And God wants you to know that he is bigger than all of these things. Listen to what 1 John 4:4 says. "The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." God is bigger and stronger than the devil and any of our enemies. God always wins. Sometimes when we face rough times, it's hard to believe that God is there. It's especially at those times that it helps to read God's Word. Then you can hear him tell you he loves you and is in control. He'll help you be strong and have courage for whatever you have to do. As we sing our next song, ask God to help you be strong and courageous in your life.

▶ Sing "Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9).

Say ▶ Let's continue to worship God with our next song. God is the God of creation, and he always wins. And we're on his team!

▶ Sing "My God Is."

Say ▶ I'd like someone to share about a time God helped you overcome an enemy—sin, fear, or worry. Pause.

Thanks for sharing. It's good to know that God always wins! Our next song says, "Make known among the nations what he has done." When you share about victories in your life, you help others be strong. You encourage them to trust God, too. Let's sing "It Is Well With My Soul," and thank God because he always wins even when we feel like we're losing.

▶ Sing "It Is Well With My Soul."

Say We've been talking about areas of our lives where we need God's help. Sometimes we feel weak or that we can't change things by ourselves. That's OK because God wants to do it for us! God is the greatest, wisest, most loving, and most powerful person in the universe. And he's on our side! If we trust him to help us, we'll be winners because God is good and he always wins.

 Sing "God Is Good."

Pray Lord, we praise you because you always win. Thank you for being on our side. Thank you for doing the impossible in us and for helping us in the areas where it seems that we could never win. We love you, Lord, and we trust you. In Jesus' name, amen.

2 Let's Learn the Point!

Preschool Activities, pages 173-174

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let's Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They will work well with both elementary and preschool children.

Elementary Activities

** The Great Adventure of Jericho: A Slide Show*

Say We're going to hear a story today of how God won in an impossible situation. Instead of reading the Bible story, we're going to watch a slide show about Joshua's amazing adventure at Jericho. I need a few volunteers to act out our slides and the rest of you to be the audience.

Choose three or four kids to stand in front of the group. Explain that, when you announce what the next slide will be, they should strike a pose that illustrates that action and hold it. If a scene calls for only one or two actors, the others could stand or sit still in the background. When the "slide" is ready, shine a large flashlight on the actors. Turn it off during the time they're assembling. Remind the actors to stand totally still while the light is on them.

Say Our first slide will show God talking to Joshua.

Wait while the volunteers strike a pose. For example, Joshua could be down on his knees with a hand to an ear, and God could be towering above him, mouth open. The extras could stand still in the background as if they're bystanders talking to each other. Turn the flashlight beam on the group when they're ready.

Say ➤ **God told Joshua that he was to go into the city of Jericho and capture it. That was a hard thing to do because the city had a wall built around it. Our next slide will show the strong wall of Jericho.**

Encourage creativity here! Turn off the flashlight, and pause while the actors assemble themselves into a “wall.” Turn the light on the group when they’re ready.

Say ➤ **The walls around Jericho were so thick that people built their homes in them! Joshua didn’t know how they would get into the city with such a strong wall. But God had a way. He told Joshua to have his army march around the city wall once a day for six days. They were to play trumpets while they marched. Our next slide will show Joshua and his army marching around Jericho with trumpets.**

Wait for the slide to be ready; then continue.

Say ➤ **On the seventh day, God told Joshua to march around the city seven times. The seventh time, the Israelites were to give a long trumpet blast and then give a great, loud, and long shout. Our next slide will show the army shouting. Pause. That was one mighty shout! Though they didn’t know why God told them to march around the city, the Israelites obeyed God. And they won! That wall came tumbling down—which is what our next slide will show—the wall of the city flattened! Pause. Enough of that slide! Our last one shows the army celebrating and cheering because God won the battle. Pause.**

Let’s give our slide show people a big hand before they sit down. Good job!

- Ask** ➤
- **What does the story of Jericho teach us about God?** (God can help us win; God wins every battle.)
 - **How can we apply what happened at Jericho to our lives?** (We can trust God to help us defeat our enemies; God will help us.)

Say ➤ **It’s important to obey God. Then we’ll be winners because he always wins! When we have situations in our lives that seem too big to overcome, we need to trust God and know that he’s on our side. Let’s get ready to see how some of us have walls in our lives and what God wants us to do about it.**

Always a Winner

Say ➤ **I talked to [name of child] before we began today, and [he or she] said [he or she] is good at math. I have a lot of confidence in [name of child’s] ability, so I decided to have a contest between [him or her] and the rest of you. In fact, I have so much confidence in [child’s name] that I’m absolutely sure [he or she] will always get the right answer first.** Hand out calculators, paper, and pencils to a few kids. Hold up one of the calendar pages you copied earlier.

I'm going to circle a group of nine numbers on this calendar. Whoever figures out the sum of those nine numbers first—to find the sum, add them together—is our winner! We'll see if any of you can beat our math whiz here. [He or she] does not know which numbers I'm going to circle.

While everyone is busy adding the numbers, have the math whiz use a calculator to multiply the number in the very center of the group by nine. That will be the total of all the numbers! Just remember to group the numbers in 3x3 boxes, as shown in the illustration. In the illustration, the center number is 10. Ten times nine equals 90. If you add up all nine numbers, they equal 90. (The secret to this trick is in the consecutive order of the numbers.)

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

After the trick has been played several times and the kids are duly impressed, explain the trick to them.

Say [Child's name] **won every time because** [he or she] **knew the secret.** [He or she] **knew that if** [he or she] **took the center number and multiplied it by nine,** [he or she] **would get the total of all the numbers. You can try it at home with your family and see what it feels like to always win. But first, here's another secret: God always wins without any tricks! It's just because he is the smartest, wisest, most powerful being in the universe. When you love God and are on his team, you'll always be a winner, no matter what.**

(continued on page 175)

God Gives Victory Over Jericho

Joshua 6:1-27

Worship Theme:



God always wins.

Easy Prep for Leaders

None is necessary.

Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

- Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
- Have Theo lead the parade in the "God Always Wins Parade" activity.
- See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today's worship session.



The Wall Came Down

Say God always wins—even when things seem very hard. The Bible tells us that Joshua was supposed to go to the city of Jericho and capture it. But Jericho had a big strong wall around it and lots of enemies inside. It seemed impossible to capture that city. Let's build a wall like Jericho's wall. Then we'll hear what happened to Joshua when he went to Jericho.

Help children form two groups. Have one group be the wall (Group 1), and have them stand in a circle facing out. The other group will be the army (Group 2).

Say God told Joshua to march around the wall with his army once a day for six days. (To Group 2, say) Let's be like Joshua and march around the wall. March around the wall one time.

They did that for six days, just as God told them. Then God told them to march around

the city seven times on the seventh day. He told them to blow trumpets while they marched. Then the trumpets were to give one long blast, the people were to shout really loud, and then the wall of the city would come tumbling down! And that's just what Joshua and his army did. Let's try that now.

Show the children in Group 2 how to make a "trumpet" with their hands by blowing on their thumbs and holding their fingers straight out. March around the wall seven times, give a long blast, and then tell the children to shout, "God always wins!" Then have "the wall" fall down.

Say Wow! The wall came tumbling down! Joshua worshipped the Lord. He was happy because he was on God's side. And God always wins! Have the groups trade places, and tell the story again.

Let's get ready to play another game to learn how God helps us just as he helped Joshua and his men.

Preschool Activities

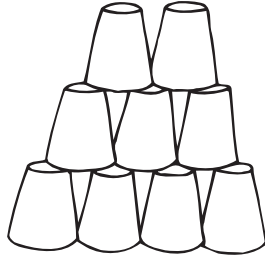
* *Winning Words*

Gather the children around you on the floor with a pile of plastic foam cups in the center of your circle.

Say God told Joshua what to do to make the walls of Jericho fall down. Jesus wants to help us, too, just as he helped Joshua.

- Ask**
- What did God tell Joshua to do?
 - What are some things that scare you?
 - What are some things that make you worry?

As the children are sharing, start to build a wall with the plastic foam cups (see diagram). Each time the children mention something, have them add a cup to the wall. Encourage them to build the wall as high as possible without it falling down. As children build the wall, continue the discussion.



Say Joshua and his men could have been worried about fighting a battle against the people of Jericho. But they weren't worried or scared because they knew that God had a plan. They trusted God, and they knew that God always wins. We can count on God, too. We can know that God will help us in our situations just as he helped Joshua and his men at Jericho. Let's give a shout like Joshua's army did, only we'll say, "God always wins." Then we'll knock down our wall.

Have children shout, "God always wins!" and then knock down the wall. Repeat the activity one or two more times, each time having them shout "God always wins!"

God Always Wins Parade

Say After the walls of Jericho fell down, Joshua and his army were happy! They wanted to celebrate because they were learning that God always wins. We're learning that, too—God never loses; he always wins! Let's celebrate! First, let's use chairs to make a big circle.

Help children make a circle with the chairs, leaving enough space between the chairs for the children to walk through. Have all the children sit with you inside the circle.

Say In a minute, we'll have a parade to celebrate that God always wins. But first we need a song.

Teach children the following song to the tune of "The Mulberry Bush."

God is good; he always wins!

He always wins; he always wins!

God is good; he always wins!

Yes, he does!

Say Good singing everybody! In our parade, we need singers and some trumpet blowers and rhythm instruments.

Choose a few children to blow their thumb "trumpets," and have a few children tap two building blocks together for rhythm instruments. Practice the song with the instruments; then assemble the parade in a line. Weave in and out around the circle of chairs. After singing the song a few times, stop the parade and give other children a turn being trumpet blowers and using the blocks. If you want, arrange the chairs in a different configuration, such as in a squiggly line.

(continued from page 172)

* *Personal Walls*

Have kids scatter around the room so that each one is standing alone.

Say We've talked about how God always wins. However, you might have a situation that seems impossible to overcome. Maybe someone you love is very sick. Maybe you're worried about family members that aren't getting along. Maybe you know about something that's going on at school that you know is wrong but you're not sure what to do about it. Those are like walls because it's something big that we need God's help with.

Stand still with your eyes closed now while I play "There's Power in the Blood." Ask God to help you overcome the thing in your life that you need help with, whether it's a wall or something impossible in your life. When you finish praying, come to the wall here and write on one of the cards one or two words that represent what you're asking God to take care of. Then go back to your spot, and sit down.

 Play "There's Power in the Blood."

When everyone has written on a card, have kids gather in front of the cards. Have them form a human wall by putting their arms around the shoulders of the person on each side of them. Ask several volunteers to pray for the needs on the cards and to ask God to work on their behalf.

Say After I pray now, let's all shout, "God always wins!" Then we'll each take one of the cards off the wall and keep it until we take our offering. It doesn't have to be your card.

Pray Lord, thank you because you always win! Thank you for being on our side. We give these situations to you now and thank you in advance for the ways you will work in our lives. We love you, Lord. In Jesus' name, amen.

God always wins!

3 *Let's Pray!*

The Offering

Say God really does always win! Because he always wins, we can trust him to help us as he helped Joshua. As you bring your offerings today, place your card from the wall in the offering bowl. Offer your situation up to God, and ask him to bring down any walls that are there. While we do that, we're going to listen to the song "God Is Good." As you listen, think about how good God is to you.

 Play "God Is Good."

Take the offering.

Worship Leader Tip

You may want to give the preschool children each a blank card so they have something to put in the offering plate. Tell the preschoolers that they can pretend all the cards in the offering plate are the fallen wall of Jericho.

Praise Waves

Have the children sit in chairs in one or more rows across the room.

Say ▶ **Let's praise God in "waves" today for being a God who always wins! I need someone to be a praise leader to lead us with two- or three-syllable praises such as, "Praise him," "God is good," or "Bless the Lord." The leader will say the praise; then the rest of us will do "the wave" by standing up quickly one after the other, raising our arms in the air as we stand, and echoing the praise.**

Choose a praise leader. Encourage your leader to vary the volume and intensity by praising loudly, softly, reverently, exuberantly, and so on.

Confetti Praise

Have each child take one card from the offering bowls.

Say ▶ **Let's praise God because he always wins! We're going to take turns thanking God or asking him for his help. Each time one of us prays, we'll tear our card one time. Hang on to all the pieces until we're finished. I'll start. Lord, help us say we're sorry when we hurt someone.** Have everyone tear the card in half. **Jesus, thank you for having the power to change things in our life.** Have everyone tear the halves in half. Have children pray and tear the cards until everyone has had a turn or until their cards are in small pieces.

Our cards represented things in our lives that we need God's help with. Look what happened to them—they're nothing but little scraps. God loves to bring walls tumbling down! He always wins! So let's use our paper pieces like confetti to praise God. On the count of three, let's shout, "God always wins!" and then throw the confetti. One, two, three—God always wins!