



Seven
Rivers
Kids!



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Schedule September 28th

- Activity: Play with Toys in the room. (15 minutes)
- Transition into Worship Time (5 minutes)
- Worship Time in the room (15 minutes)
- Transition to sitting on the carpet for Teaching (3 minutes)
- Teaching (10 minutes)
- Transition into your small group (3 minutes)
- Small Groups (25 minutes)
 - Craft: 15 minutes (Look at example.)
 - Coloring sheet if you have time.
 - Prayer: 5 minutes
 - What do you need to confess to God?
 - What do you need prayer for?
 - Who do you know needs prayer?
 - Reward Bin (5 minutes)
 - Bringing their bible
 - Memorize their bible verse

MEMORY VERSE: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9



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Good morning, friends! Today we are going to hear another story about Joshua. Do you remember how God promised to be with Joshua just like He was with Moses? Well, in today's story, God shows His people that His plans are always the best. Even when the plan sounds a little strange, God's way is always right. Let's learn more about what happened in Jericho.

The gates of Jericho were securely barred. The city had huge walls. Nobody could get in or out. Have you ever seen a really big wall? God said to Joshua, "I have given you Jericho march around the city for six days. On the seventh day march around seven times and then shout." What an odd plan? You would think that a plan for battle would include swords, horses, shields and arrows, but instead God's plan involves marching and shouting? What is God doing?

But Joshua trusts God and obeys. He told the priests and army what to do. The priests carried the ark (the place where God's presence dwell) and everyone followed God's instructions carefully. God's instructions may seem strange, but they always work. God is in control of everything. So they marched around the city for six days. Every day, they walked once around the city. Can you imagine walking around the city? That's a lot of steps! On the seventh day, they marched seven times. When the trumpets blew, the people shouted, and do you know what happened? The walls fell down. Do you know who made the walls fall down? God made the walls fall down. The Israelites could go into the city. Who gave the Israelites victory? God did! Who defeated Jericho? God.

Did everyone in Jericho die? No. Do you remember Rahab? She was the sinful woman who helped the Israelite spies. She believed that God was the one true God. She asked the spies to show her and her family mercy when God destroys Jericho. Well did you know what happened? Because she belonged to God, God did not destroy her or her family. This is a common theme we see throughout the Bible. Those who belong to God even though they are sinful are given grace. Are you a sinner? Will God still save you? Why? Because you belong to God.

After God defeated Jericho, the Israelites tried to take a city called Ai, but they lost! Joshua asked God, "What happened?" Joshua said, "God we will never be able to defeat the Canaanites if you do not fight for us!" Then God revealed to Joshua that someone in his camp had disobeyed Him. A man named Achan stole gifts that were supposed to be given to God after God defeated Jericho. He hid those gifts underneath his tent. God showed Joshua what happened. Achan came to Joshua and told him what

he did. He admitted his sin. He had to die for his sin. This is why sin is sad. The punishment for sin is God's wrath and death. This is why we die, because we have sinned against God. This is why one day I will die and this is why one day you will die because of sin.

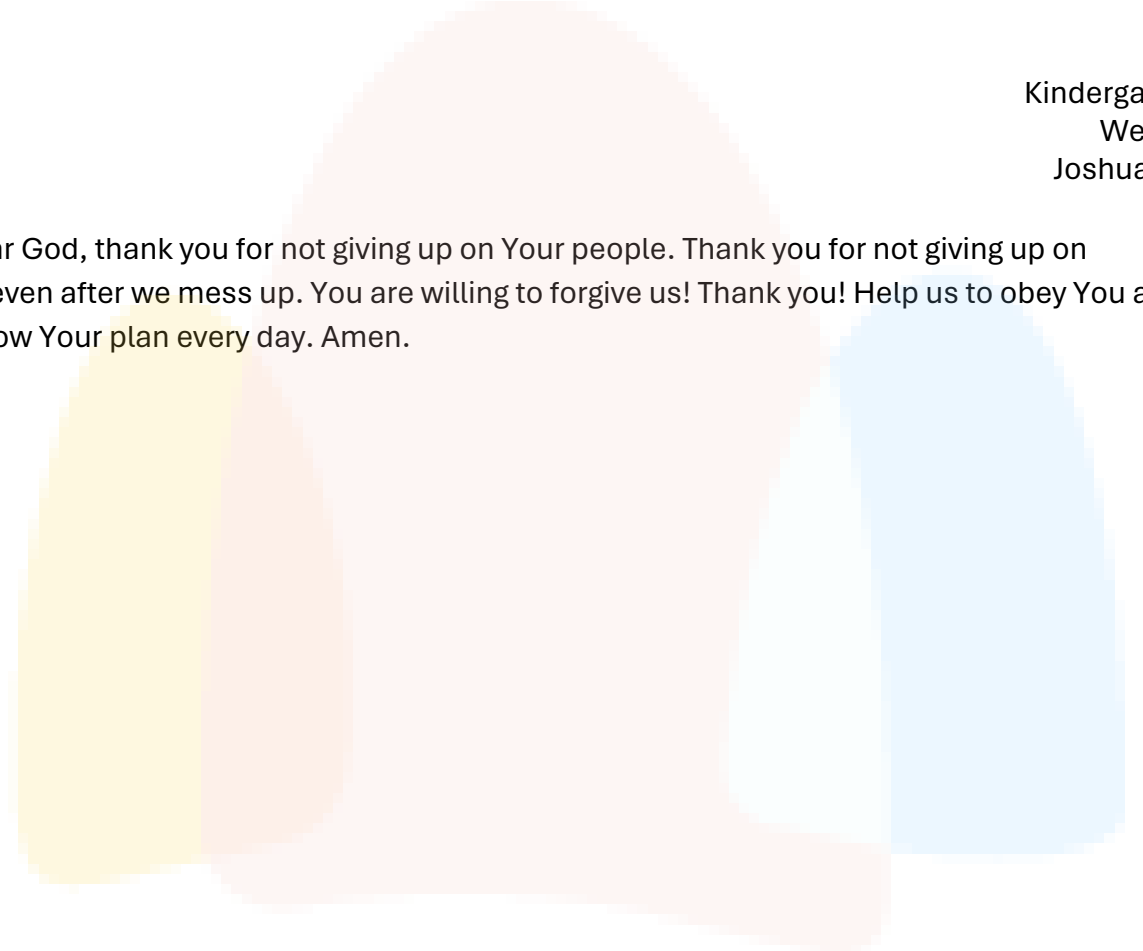
But is death the end of the story? Not for those who belong to God. If you belong to God then you will live forever. But how do you belong to God? It is simple, you need to trust in God's Son, Jesus. God sent His Son Jesus who never sinned therefore Jesus deserved to live forever. But instead Jesus chose to die for you. This would be like you getting in trouble with your parents for stealing cookies from the cookie jar without asking. Your punishment for stealing the cookies is that you can't have a cookie after dinner for a whole week! You are sad. But let's say one of your siblings told your parents this: "Mom and Dad I know that my brother/sister disobeyed you, but I will take their punishment and I will give up my cookie after dinner this week so that they can have it." That would be amazing right? This is exactly what Jesus had done for you. Jesus is your older brother who dies for His sinful little brothers and sisters so that they can have cookies after dinner... just kidding... it is better than that... so that you can have life forever with God even after you die!

Okay, back to the story. After Achan died, God gave a new plan to attack Ai. Joshua listened to God. God told Joshua to use an ambush. Joshua obeyed exactly what God said. The Israelites trapped Ai and took the city. They followed God's instructions and won. Afterwards, Joshua built an altar to worship God and read God's law to remind everyone to obey Him.

We learned something very important today. God fights for us. God saves us and in Jesus God washes our sins away and gives us eternal life therefore how should we act when God gives us commands? We should obey right! In the story we see the Israelites listen to God and follow His plan and then the walls of Jericho came down, and they won the battle. But what happens when they disobey God? They lost and many people died. It is sad. But did God abandon His children? No. He stayed with them and God gave them a plan to defeat Ai. God is always with us when we obey or disobey but there is blessing in this life when we listen to God and do what He says. Remember God fights for you, God saves you and God is with you therefore let's listen to what He says and do what He says.

Kids!

Dear God, thank you for not giving up on Your people. Thank you for not giving up on us even after we mess up. You are willing to forgive us! Thank you! Help us to obey You and follow Your plan every day. Amen.



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