

Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho

Joshua 2:1-24

Preschoolers are very trusting by nature and will believe in God because you tell them God is real. Your words have a great impact on them. Use this lesson to help children become confident in their faith in God.



► Bible Point

Believe in God.

Key Verse

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:6-7).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will believe in God in daily life and will express their belief to others.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p> <p><i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p>Welcome and Celebrate</p> <p>Welcome each other, and praise God through music.</p>	<p>CD player</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>2</p> <p>Key Verse Activity</p> <p><i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p>Strong Hands</p> <p>Decorate and protect paper dolls.</p>	<p>Bible, scissors, markers, fan, “Paper Doll” page (at the end of the lesson)</p>	<p>Copy and cut out the “Paper Doll” page, 1 per child.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p> <p><i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p>Puppy Pointers</p> <p>Hear how Theo finds out that God cares for him.</p>	<p>CD player, Theo puppet, string or tape</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD, straw</p>	<p>Tie or tape some straw to Theo’s paw.</p>
	<p>Bible Time: Rahab Hides Spies</p> <p>Hide with the spies while hearing how Rahab helped them.</p>	<p>Bible, card stock, scissors, glue, craft sticks, red yarn, blanket</p> <p>Teacher Pack: spy mask pattern, “Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)</p> 	<p>Copy on card stock and cut out the spy mask pattern, 1 mask per child. Glue 1 edge of each mask to a craft stick so children can hold the masks over their eyes. Cut 6 inches of yarn, and cut a second piece that’s a few feet long.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Hide Like a Spy Make a picture of the spies hiding.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs, glue, red yarn Teacher Pack: straw</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.</p>
	<p>Center 2: Spy Snack Make a snack depicting the spies Rahab hid.</p>	<p>tortillas, shredded wheat, bear-shaped crackers, napkins, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	
	<p>Center 3: I Spy Pretend to be spies and look for things.</p>	<p>spy masks from the "Rahab Hides Spies" activity</p>	
	<p>Center 4: I Spy a Spy Make a craft to re-create the Bible passage.</p>	<p>construction paper, scissors, glue sticks, masking tape, 2 large craft sticker per child, glue, 4 craft eyes per child, raffia</p>	<p>Cut one 6-inch square of construction paper per child.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs</p>	
	<p>Action Prayer Tell God they believe in him.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*



Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Worship Our God" (track 19), "Believe in God" (track 20)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate

Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "Worship Our God" (track 19 on the CD) to the tune of "I've Got the Joy." Encourage children to say "What?" as indicated in the lyrics below. Encourage the children to raise their hands, skip in place, or do some other action to worship God when their names are sung.

 **We're here at church to learn and play and worship our God.** (*What?*)
Worship our God. (*What?*)
Worship our God.
We're here at church to learn and play and worship our God,
Worship our God today!

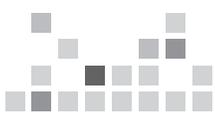
We'll [After the first time, replace "We'll" with the names of children here.] **worship our God.** (*What?*)
Worship our God. (*What?*)
Worship our God.
We'll worship our God. Worship our God today!
 (*Repeat.*)

Say: **We worship God because we ► BELIEVE IN GOD. Let's sing and tell God we believe in him.**

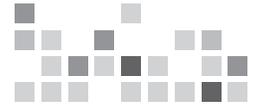
Lead children in singing "Believe in God" (track 20 on the CD) to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **I believe in God.** (*point to self and then to the sky*)
I believe in God. (*point to self and then to the sky*)
Children who believe in God will give a little nod. (*nod head*)
 (*Repeat 2x.*)

Say: **Thank you for worshipping God with me today. God is so great and wonderful. Today we'll hear how he planned to bring his people, the Israelites, into a new**



place to live. And we'll learn that when we ► BELIEVE IN GOD, we see him do great things.



2

**KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY**

Strong Hands

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to 1 Peter 5:6-7, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:6-7). This means that God doesn't want us to worry. He wants us to remember that he's strong and always takes care of us. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **God's mighty hand cares for you (1 Peter 5:6-7).**

Say: **Let's make something to help us think about our Key Verse.** Give each child a paper doll. Have children name their dolls and decorate them with markers.

Say: **Let's protect our paper dolls, kind of like our Key Verse says God protects us.** Place a fan on the floor and turn it on high. Explain to the children that the fan will blow their dolls away unless they hold on tightly to them. After a minute, turn off the fan.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like to protect your doll from being blown away?**
- **Why do you like that God protects you with his strong hands?**

Say: **God protects us so well. He's very strong and can always take care of us. He can protect us even better than we protected our paper dolls. Today we'll hear how God protected some spies, and we'll be reminded to ► BELIEVE IN GOD and trust him to take care of us.**

Strong Hands Supplies

- Bible
- scissors
- markers
- fan
- "Paper Doll" page (at the end of the lesson)

Strong Hands Easy Prep

Copy and cut out the "Paper Doll" page, 1 per child.





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
string or tape
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 3)
straw

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tie or tape some straw
to Theo's paw.

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! It's so good to see you at church with us today. What did you bring to show us?

Theo: I brought some straw.

Teacher: Straw? Why would you bring straw, Theo?

Theo: I think it's really fun to jump into straw and hide under it.

Teacher: That's so funny, Theo. I bet that's lots of fun! And do you know what? We're learning in the Bible today about some people who hid under straw.

Theo: Seriously? Were they playing?

Teacher: No, they weren't playing. They were really hiding from some people who might have hurt them.

Theo: Oh, that's kind of scary.

Teacher: Yeah, but they were safe because they believed in God. They knew God would take care of them. Actually, friends, can you tell Theo our Bible Point for today? (*Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo:* ► **BELIEVE IN GOD.**)

Theo: I'm glad God protected them under the straw.

Teacher: Me too, Theo. Are you ready to hear all about what happened?

Theo: Yes. But first I'm going to run home to put my straw in my room.

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Where are some fun places you like to hide like Theo?
- Tell about a time you wanted to hide because you were scared.
- What do you believe about God's protection?

Say: **It's so funny that Theo likes to hide under straw, since today we're learning about some people hiding under straw. Sometimes we hide for fun, and other times we might want to hide because we're scared. But we can remember that we** ► **BELIEVE IN GOD** and he'll always take care of us.

Bible Time: Rahab Hides Spies

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Joshua 2:1-24, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we're learning that we ► BELIEVE IN GOD. And we'll hear how God protected some of his people in a city called Jericho.** Show the "Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho" poster.

Say: **Let's make some pretend walls like Jericho had.** Have children help you arrange chairs in a circle to represent the walled city of Jericho.

Say: **Now let's pretend to be spies like the people we're reading about in the Bible today.** Give each child a spy mask, and show children how to use them.

Say: **It all started when the spies were outside the walls of Jericho.** Have children sit outside "Jericho."

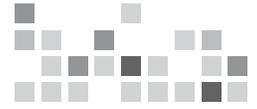
Say: **God's people, the Israelites, had walked in the desert for a very, very long time when God told them it was time for them to move into the Promised Land, Jericho.** Point to your pretend Jericho. **Joshua, the Israelites' leader, wanted to see what the land was like and who lived there.**

Have the children put the masks in front of their faces, and then say: **So Joshua sent two spies to check it out. The city had huge stone walls surrounding it, and the people who lived in Jericho didn't ► BELIEVE IN GOD. If the people of Jericho knew why the spies were there, they wouldn't be very nice to the spies. So the spies had to be very careful and sneaky.** Invite children to pretend to sneak around the city wall with their spy masks. Then have them sneak into the center of the circle as if they're going into the city.

Say: **In Jericho, the spies stayed with a woman named Rahab. Even though Rahab wasn't an Israelite, she believed in God. Rahab knew that the spies were in danger, and she wanted to help them because they believed in God. So Rahab hid the spies by covering them with flax, which is like tall grass or straw.** Have the children lie down as if they're hiding. Partially cover them with a blanket. Then make a loud knocking noise.

Say: **The king sent a message to Rahab, telling her to bring the spies out of her house. Even though Rahab believed in God, she was very scared. But because she believed in God, she said the spies had left.** Take the blanket off the children.

The spies thanked Rahab for letting them hide in her house. Before they left, they told her they would help her when the Israelites came to Jericho. They told her to tie a red rope in her window so all the Israelites would know to help her.

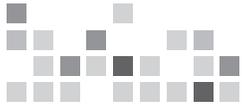


Bible Time: Rahab Hides Spies Supplies

- Bible
- card stock
- scissors
- glue
- craft sticks
- red yarn
- blanket
- Teacher Pack**
- spy mask pattern
- "Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Bible Time: Rahab Hides Spies Easy Prep

- Copy on card stock and cut out the spy mask pattern, 1 mask per child. Glue 1 edge of each mask to a craft stick so children can hold the masks over their eyes. Cut 6 inches of yarn, and cut a second piece that's a few feet long.



Say: **Then Rahab used a rope to help the men climb out of her window, down the walls of the city, and back to safety.** Hold one end of the long piece of red yarn. One at a time, have the children hold on to the other end of the yarn and crawl between two chairs. As each child leaves Jericho, have him or her repeat, “I believe in God.”

When all the children are outside Jericho, tie the yarn to one of the chairs and have children remove their spy masks. Point out the “Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho” poster. Let children work together to glue the small piece of red yarn to the cord hanging from the window.

Say: **Rahab tied the red rope in her window. Because she and the spies believed in God, they helped each other.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to sneak and hide in our activity?
- What are some ways God protects you like he did the spies?
- What can you do to show you ► BELIEVE IN GOD?

Say: **The spies and Rahab were in danger, but they did the right thing because they believed in God. When we ► BELIEVE IN GOD, we can do the right thing, too! We can know God will protect us and take care of us like Rahab and the spies.**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today’s Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you’re ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they’d like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center’s description.

■ CENTER 1:

Hide Like a Spy

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 11 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Today we heard how God protected Rahab and the spies. They all believed in God, and we ► BELIEVE IN GOD. Let’s make something to remind us of this.**

Center 1: Hide Like a Spy Supplies

My Bible Hugs
glue
red yarn

Teacher Pack
straw

Center 1: Hide Like a Spy Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 11 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children’s names on them.

Have the children pretend to be Rahab and hide the two spies with straw. Make sure each child gets a little bit of straw. Show kids how to dab glue on their pages and then press down the straw. Also have each child glue a piece of red yarn to the window in the picture.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **The Bible says God’s mighty hand cares for us. Rahab and the spies believed and remembered God cared for them. You please God when you ► BELIEVE IN GOD, too!**

■ CENTER 2:

Spy Snack

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **We ► BELIEVE IN GOD, and so did Rahab. That’s why she decided to hide the spies. Let’s make a snack as we think about how God always loves and protects us.**

Give each child half a tortilla, a handful of shredded wheat, and a couple of bear-shaped crackers on a napkin. Show children how to place two bear-shaped crackers on their tortillas to represent the two spies. Then hide the “spies” as Rahab did by crumbling a piece of shredded wheat over them. Finally, have children roll up their tortillas and eat the snack.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Rahab and the spies did the right thing because they believed in God. We ► BELIEVE IN GOD, too. We can do the right thing, and God will help us like he helped Rahab and the spies. Let’s thank God for helping us believe in him and for providing our snack.** Invite a child to pray for the snack.

■ CENTER 3:

I Spy

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: **Today we heard how God protected some spies. Let’s put our spy masks on for a game of “I Spy.”**

Have children put the spy masks in front of their faces. Then explain the rules: One child should find something in the room to “spy” and then tell something about it. For example, if a child spies a clock, he or she could say, “I spy something with numbers.” Then the rest of the children should guess what the child spies. Continue until each child has a chance to spy something.



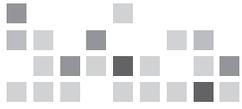
Center 2: Spy Snack Supplies

-
- tortillas
 - shredded wheat
 - bear-shaped crackers
 - napkins
 - antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 3: I Spy Supplies

-
- spy masks from the “Rahab Hides Spies” activity



Center 4: I Spy a Spy Supplies

construction paper
scissors
masking tape
2 large craft sticks per child
glue sticks
4 craft eyes per child
raffia

Center 4: I Spy a Spy Easy Prep

Cut one 6-inch square of construction paper per child.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like spying in this game?
- What are some ways you can spy God in your life?

Say: **Just as you know that all the things you spied in this room are real, you can know that God is real, too. You can spy or see ways he helps you and shows himself to you all the time. You can ► BELIEVE IN GOD and you'll see him do great things like he did for Rahab and the spies.**

■ CENTER 4:

I Spy a Spy

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that Rahab hid the spies because she believed in God. Let's help Rahab hide the spies.** Give each child a construction paper square and two craft sticks. Help children glue two craft eyes to each craft stick. Then have them glue the craft sticks to the construction paper.



Say: **These are the spies. They need to hide so they don't get caught.** Lay a 12-inch strip of masking tape, sticky-side up, in front of each child. Then give each child a handful of raffia, and have each child stick one end of each piece of his or her raffia to the center of the tape, working outward. The goal is to have most of the raffia in the center 6 inches so it partially hides the craft sticks. Then help children place their tape strips along the bottom of the construction paper squares so the raffia covers the spies. Wrap the ends of the tape around the back of the paper.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Just like Rahab, we ► BELIEVE IN GOD. Because she believed in God, God helped Rahab do the right thing.**

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that we ► BELIEVE IN GOD. I would like each of you to choose a way to show you believe in God this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **Draw a picture of something that scares you. Give it to a friend, and tell your friend that you don't need to be afraid anymore because you can trust and believe in God to take care of you like he did Rahab and the spies.**
- ■ **Call your grandma or grandpa and tell her or him about believing in Jesus.**

Say: **If you want to draw a picture, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to talk to your grandparents, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Action Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

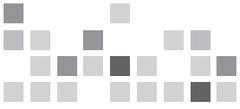
Form a standing circle. Invite children to pray one at a time. Ask them to insert the name of something God created, such as the sun, my friend, or the trees.

Pray: **Dear God,
When I see [the sun],
I believe in you.
In Jesus' name, amen.**



Daily Challenges Supplies

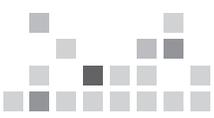
My Bible Hugs



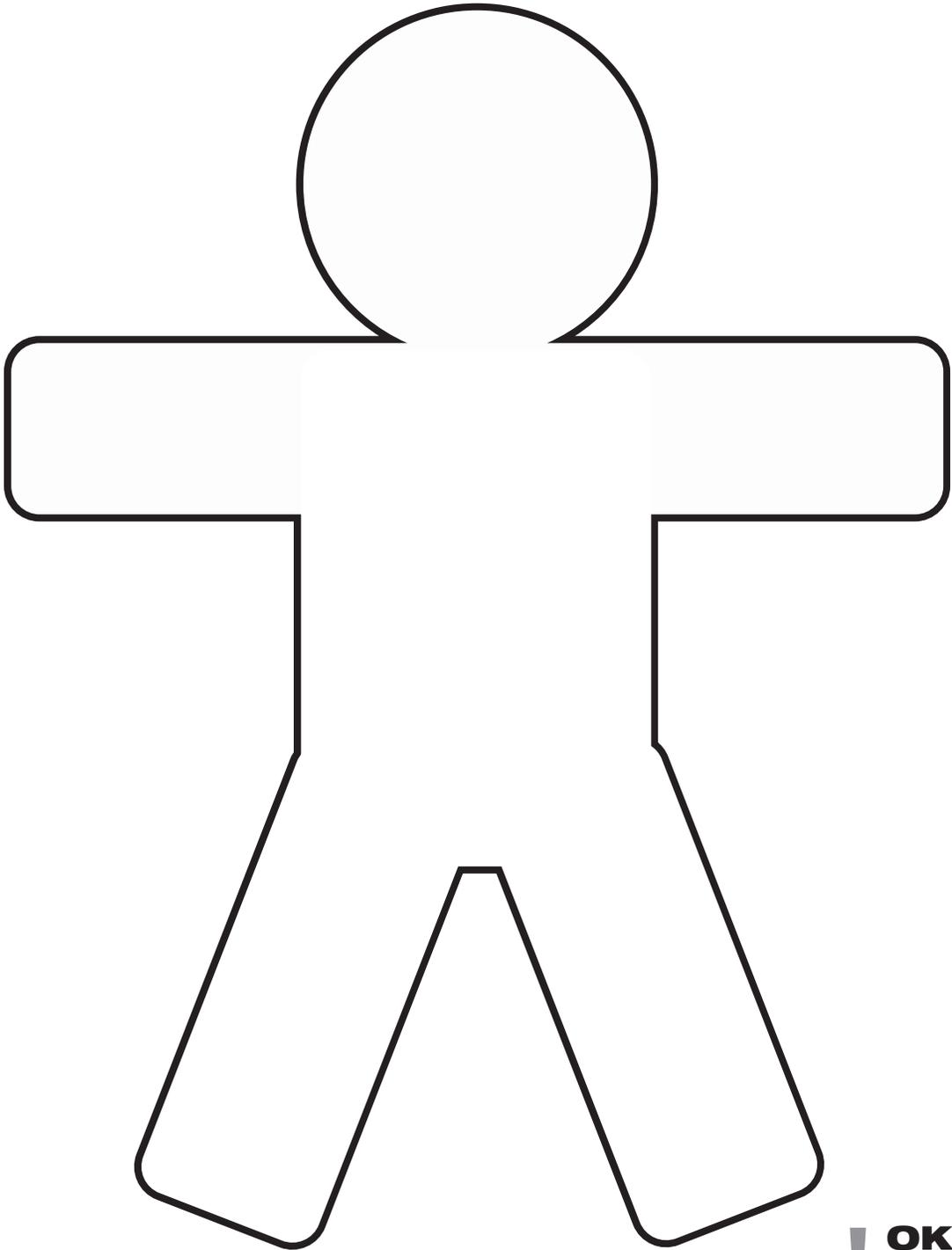
Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.



Paper Doll



OK
TO COPY



