LESSON 3: JOSHUA

AIM: To show that trusting God and His Word brings miracles into our lives and changes impossible situations.

MEMORY VERSE: Behold the Lord your God is with you wherever you go (Joshua 1:9).

STORY: JOSHUA CHAPTER 6

Ask the children if they know the meaning of their name. You may like to take along a name book and read out some definitions. Today we usually choose names because we like the sound of them, rather than for their meaning. However, many years ago, people were given names because of their meaning. Joshua was a special man of God, his name means, ‘God is my salvation’, which actually means ‘God is the one who saves me’.

Joshua was chosen by God to be the leader of the Israelites after Moses. (Briefly remind the children of the Israelites’ slavery in Egypt, etc.) Because the people didn’t trust God as they should, they wandered around in the desert for 40 years without ever having a proper place to live.

God had chosen a country called Canaan (show on map, if possible), and He had chosen Joshua to lead the people into their new country. But Canaan had giants living in it, and all the people were wicked and did not love God. So the Israelites were very frightened about living in Canaan. God understood how they felt, and He told Joshua not to be afraid, but to trust Him because He was with them and would look after them (refer to memory verse).

God told Joshua that He would make it possible for them to conquer the city called Jericho. Joshua knew that the city had huge walls surrounding it. In fact, there were two walls running parallel to each other around the entire city. They were ten metres high, the inner wall was four metres thick and the outer wall, two meters thick. Joshua must have wondered how they were going to get inside the city with walls like that.
But more than all, he trusted God and listened and obeyed God’s plan. On the first six days the Israelite soldiers marched around the city once each day, followed by seven priests blowing trumpets made of rams’ horns, and behind them was the Ark of the Covenant (a special golden box with the Ten Commandments written on stone slabs inside). On the seventh day, they all marched around the city, not once, but seven times. I wonder what the people inside the city of Jericho thought about these strange people marching around their city!

As the Israelites marched around Jericho on the seventh time, blowing their horns, Joshua told the soldiers, ‘Shout out loudly! For the Lord has given this city to you’, and as they did, the huge walls fell to the ground and the Israelite soldiers entered the city and easily captured it – just like God said they would.

Like Joshua, we need to listen and obey what God says to us as we read the Bible and come to church and remember that God is the One who is always with us.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES:
1. Make a trumpet.
2. Make a Joshua Pop-up Mini Book – photocopy onto heavy card. Cut along heavy solid lines, fold along dotted lines. Color the pictures.
3. Worksheet
4. Puzzles.
Joshua 6:3-5

The Battle of Jericho

He marched his people close to the walls of Jericho. First came the soldiers followed by seven priests carrying the Ten Commandments and trumpets made of rams' horns. They marched around the city for six days. On the seventh day they marched seven times.

The priests blew their trumpets and the people shouted. The walls of Jericho began to shake and then they fell down.
SPOT THE MISTAKES  

There are at least 7.

The people of Israel march around the walls of Jericho.  
For how many days did they march round Jericho?  
This story comes in Joshua 5:13–6:20.
Join up the dots. After the soldiers marched, the trumpets sounded. Then what happened?

You can find this story in Joshua chapter 6, verses 1–20.
What made Joshua a Hero of the Bible. Colour in the picture.

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What made Joshua a Hero of the Bible. Colour in the picture.
Start at the red arrow and write every second letter on the lines below to find out what God said to Joshua.

Joshua 1:9