

## Activity Instructions

Today we are thinking about the story of Joshua and the walls of Jericho and how God was with him.

### Activity 1: Building a wall

Build a wall and then have fun knocking it down!

You could build your wall with cardboard boxes of any size, wooden blocks, Lego or Duplo (if using Lego or Duplo you might like to just stack them rather than click them into place so they can be knocked down easily), Jenga blocks, pillows, cushions and soft toys, or anything else you have around...

Talk about how amazing it must have been for the Israelites to see the wall come crashing down when they shouted.

*When the people heard the sound of the horns, they shouted as loud as they could. Suddenly, the walls of Jericho collapsed, and the Israelites charged straight into the city from every side and captured it. Joshua 6:20*

### Activity 2: Make a horn

There are two ways you could do this. (1) Take a piece of light card and roll it to make a cone shape and tape it in place. Then you can decorate it with markers or stickers. (2) Take an ice-cream cone and cover it with icing and decorate with small sweets or cake decorations. (You can make up some icing with a little water added to icing sugar to make a thick paste or alternatively, there are tubes and tubs of icing available in supermarkets which you could use instead)

Talk about how the Israelites had to be very quiet as they walked around the city walls and listen carefully for the long blast of the horn. Do you think the horns would have sounded very loud?

*When you hear the priests give one long blast on the horns, have all the people give a mighty shout. Then the wall of the city will collapse, and the people can charge straight into the city. Joshua 6:5*

### Activity 3: Silence!

So here is your chance to practise being really quiet. Set a timer for 1 minute (or maybe 30 seconds for really young children) and then have everyone sit silently until the timer goes off and then everyone could give a great big shout.

You could talk afterwards about what it was like to sit quietly and say nothing. How difficult was it? Or did you find it easy? Did it make you listen more carefully to what was going on around you? What did you hear that you might not have heard if you hadn't been quiet?

*'Do not shout; do not even talk.' Joshua commanded. 'Not a single word from any of you until I tell you to shout. The shout!' Joshua 6:10*

#### **Activity 4: Footprints!**

There are lots of parts to this activity! (1) Draw lots of footprints and cut them out and then write one or maybe two words of the Bible verse below on each footprint. (2) Make a list of all the things that frighten you. Each person could do this separately, or you could do it together as a family. Then read the verse together. (3) March around saying the verse together so that you learn it. You could put the footprints on the ground to help you.

Extra activity: When you know the verse, you could mix up all the footprints and then see how long it takes you to get them back in order. That will test how well you know the verse.

This verse is a really great verse to help us remember that God is always there with us and helping us.

*Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1: 9*

#### **Activity 5: Make a sword**

Using cardboard from cereal boxes and or tubes from kitchen or wrapping paper, make a large 'sword' and then cover it with tinfoil (optional) and then play with it to remind you of today's story and how God was with the Israelites. Or you might like to make a smaller one that you could use as a book marker. You could write either or both of the Bible verses below onto it and use it as a reminder of today's story.

Learning Bible verses is a great way to be reminded of God's truth. When we know a Bible verse, God can use it to remind us of whatever we need to be reminded of at that particular time.

*As Joshua approached the city of Jericho, he looked up and saw a man facing him with a sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, 'Are you friend or foe?' 'Neither one.' He replied. 'I am the commander of the Lord's army.' Joshua 5: 13&14a*

*Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:17b*

#### **Activity 6: Handprints!**

Practise saying 'God is always with me' pointing first to your thumb and then each finger in turn as you say it. Make handprints and cut them out and write 'God is always with me' one word on each finger, starting with 'God' on the thumb.

Place these around your house, and/or in the car, your school-bag, hand-bag or anywhere else you can think of, so that when you see them you will be reminded of how God is always with you.

*For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1: 9b*