

# THE ISLAND

<b>LEADER</b>	<b>DATE (am)</b> 26 October 08
<b>HELPERS</b>	<b>TIME (mins)</b> 40 minutes
<b>PUPPETEER</b>	<b>No. of KIDS (m/f)</b>

- **SERIES / LESSON:** Old Testament Heroes / Joshua
- **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Joshua 1-2, 6
- **CONCEPT:** God helps me

## GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To help kids realise
- To challenge kids to
- To lead kids into a prayer time and help them understand that God listens.

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ DVD player / laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Song DVD
- ✓ Treasure Chest – with the walking stick inside (from last week's story)
- ✓ Map or globe
- ✓ Joshua graphic
- ✓ A length of red rope or something similar (I used a red nylon dog leash)
- ✓ Plastic play sword
- ✓ A few small cardboard boxes, e.g. boxes of tea
- ✓ Prayer Net
- ✓ Prayer cards and pen
- ✓ Name tag box

<p><b>A. Worship through Music (with puppets) 10 minutes</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing.</li> <li>2. Sing 2 songs together. (<b><i>Supernatural / Everyday</i></b>)</li> <li>3. Open in prayer.</li> <li>4. Ask kids to lift a mat each and sit down.</li> </ol>	<p><b>You'll need ...</b>  <i>DVD player / projector</i>  <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Supernatural)</i></p>
<p><b>B. Message 15 minutes</b></p> <p><b>1. Recap (2-3 minutes)</b>  Ask a child to help you open the treasure chest and take out Aaron and Moses' walking stick which you placed there last week. Ask for someone to explain the significance of the stick and how it was used by God. Recap last week's story of the plagues of Egypt by asking a few follow-up questions. Finish by eliciting the Bible concept: God helps me be patient.</p> <p><i>You could also ask if anyone remembers last week's memory verse and have them recite it, individually and as a group. Or refer kids to the verse if you displayed it following the last session – "Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord." Psalm 27:14</i></p> <p><b>2. Set the scene</b>  Moses was dead. The new leader of the Israelites (the people who Moses and Aaron had led out of Egypt after the plagues) was a man called Joshua. Here he is (<i>show Joshua on screen</i>). God promised to be with Joshua and the Israelite people as long as they obeyed Him. God promised to lead the people to a new place called Canaan. They would have to fight many battles when they got there, but God told Joshua to be strong and brave and not be frightened because He would be with them wherever they would go and whatever they would face. So Joshua told the Israelite people to get all their things together because in three days' time they would cross the River Jordan and attack the land of Canaan which God had promised to them.</p> <p><b>3. Tell the story</b>  (<i>Go and stand by a door in your room</i>) Knock, knock (<i>bang on a door</i>). Rahab went to open her door. She was a lady who lived in a big city called Jericho. Jericho was in the land of Canaan, the place the Israelites were getting ready to attack. Rahab opened the door and saw two men standing there. She invited them to come into her house and chatted with them. She knew that these two men were not from Jericho – her city – and as she chatted with them, she realised that they were God's people! In fact, they were spies! Joshua had sent the two men to check out Jericho and find out about the city and the people there before they would attack it!</p> <p>Rahab was scared. She had heard the story of how God had opened up the waters of the Red Sea and led the Israelite people across on dry land while the Egyptians drowned. She believed that God was strong and powerful, but she also knew that there were a lot of bad things going on in her city of Jericho, and that the people of Jericho were very afraid of the Israelites because they knew that God was on their side. Rahab told the two spies</p>	<p><b>You'll need ...</b></p> <p><i>Treasure chest with the walking stick inside (from last week's story)</i></p> <p><i>Graphic – Joshua portrait</i></p>

that they could hide in her house. She found a secret hiding place for them on her roof, underneath the flax (something like wheat or crops that grow in the fields – the flax was laid out on the roof to dry, and then made into yarn or thread which was used to make linen cloth), so that no one would see them.

The door knocked again. *Knock, knock! (bang a door)* This time, it was soldiers sent from the king of Jericho! They had come to find out where the spies were staying. Rahab told the king's soldiers that the two men had already gone and she didn't know where they were. But where were they? Yes, they were hiding on the roof. The king's soldiers ran away quickly to try and catch up with the spies, and they didn't discover them on Rahab's roof. Rahab breathed a sigh of relief!

Rahab ran up to the roof to talk to the spies who were hiding there. She told them that she and the people in Jericho were afraid of the Israelites because God was with them. She told them that they were frightened of the day coming when Joshua's men would come and attack their city. Rahab asked the spies to be kind to her and her family, and save their lives when they would attack Jericho, because she had been kind to them in saving them from the king's soldiers. The spies agreed to this. They promised to be kind and save Rahab and her family.

Rahab's house was built on the wall that went around the city of Jericho. She led the spies from the roof to a window, and she let them climb down a red rope to the ground. *(Show the kids a length of red rope (I used a red nylon dog leash) and hang it from a window in your room if possible.)*

The spies hid in the hills for three days so that the king's soldiers wouldn't find them. Then they went back to Joshua and told him what had happened. They told Joshua, "all the people are melting in fear because of us." (Joshua 2:24) The people of Jericho were so scared of the Israelites that they shut the gates tightly. The gates were attached to a big high wall that went right around the city (where Rahab's house was). That meant that no one went out and no one came into the city of Jericho at that time. How would Joshua and the Israelites get in to capture it?

Joshua and the Israelites were on the move. God had brought them across the River Jordan, and they were getting closer to Jericho. Joshua was planning how he would lead his army to take Jericho. When he looked up, he saw a man standing in front of him with a sword in his hand *(hold the sword in your hand as you relate God's message)*. It was actually an angel! The captain of God's army of angels! This angel had come to give Joshua a message from God – it was a plan of attack for Joshua and the Israelite army to get into the city of Jericho. This is what the angel of God told Joshua:

*March around the city once, blowing the trumpets. Do this for six days. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, blowing the trumpets. When you hear the trumpets blast, give a loud shout; then the walls of the city will collapse.*

Red rope

Play Sword

What a strange plan! Joshua had not been thinking along those lines! But he believed that this was a message from God. He trusted God to help him and the Israelites. Joshua believed that God knew the best way to break down the walls of Jericho. (*Set out a few small cardboard boxes built up like a wall.*) So, just like God's message said, Joshua told the people to march around the city of Jericho once a day (*walk your fingers around the boxes once*), blowing their trumpets (*ask kids to make a noise like a trumpet horn by blowing through their open fists*). They did this for six days. I'm sure the people of Jericho, inside the city walls, were laughing at these silly Israelites who marched around their city every day. What were they doing? Huh! Then, on the seventh day, they marched around Jericho *seven times*, blowing their trumpets again (*allow kids, or choose a few kids, to march around the room seven times, making trumpet noises*). When Joshua gave the signal (*raise your arm, wait for a couple of seconds, lower your arm quickly*), all the people shouted (*have kids shout and cheer*), and the walls of Jericho came tumbling down (*knock down your boxes of tea*), just like God said they would! The Israelite army were able to run straight into the city, through the broken-down walls, and they started to destroy Jericho ...

*A few small boxes, e.g. boxes of tea*

But what about Rahab? Rahab had left the red rope tied to her window (*point to the red rope you tied to the window earlier*). When Joshua's spies went back to find her, they saw the red rope and they saved Rahab and her whole family because she had hidden Joshua's spies. Then Joshua's army set the city on fire, and the whole evil city of Jericho was destroyed. Soon, everybody in the land of Canaan heard about how Joshua and the Israelites had destroyed Jericho, and they knew that God was still with His people.

#### **4. Explain**

How amazing that God broke down the walls of Jericho! But what a strange plan He had to do it! He could have chosen a different way to help His people, but He wanted to show the Israelites and the people of Jericho that He is powerful and in control. He gave Joshua and the Israelites very clear instructions – the Israelite people obeyed Him, they did exactly what He said, and everything turned out exactly right in the end. God helped them.

Boys and girls, sometimes we don't get everything we want, and sometimes we have problems and difficult things to go through in life. That's a good time for us to read our Bible. When God gives us instructions in the Bible, and we do what He tells us, then everything will be okay. If we believe in God's plan, and trust Him to take care of us and protect us, then He promises to help us because we are His children.

Let's put the bricks from the walls of Jericho into the treasure chest. We will take them out again next week and see how much you remember about Joshua and the battle of Jericho.

*Cardboard boxes  
Treasure chest*

<p><b>C. Prayer Net</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>10 minutes</b></span></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ask a child to explain what it means when we <i>pray</i> – We talk to God and He listens.</li> <li>2. Explain that prayer / talking to God is very important because that's how we get to know Him.</li> <li>3. Choose a child to retrieve the prayer net. Lift out the prayer cards you put there last week. Ask the kids for updates on those situations.</li> <li>4. Explain that when we have worries or things to be thankful for, we need to tell God about those things. Remember that He hears all our prayers and He will answer us – maybe not with the answer we want, but He always knows best.</li> <li>5. Tell kids that we are going to make a note of some special prayers today and put them in the prayer net. Next week they will tell us what happened in those situations.</li> <li>6. Ask a few kids if they have a prayer to put into the net. As they tell you, write their name and the topic of their prayer on a small card. Ask the child to say a prayer aloud (help them to do so) before they place their card into the prayer net.</li> <li>7. Finish by leading a prayer for the whole group.</li> </ol>	<p><b>You'll need ...</b>  <i>Net (with last week's prayer cards)</i>  <i>Small cards / postcards</i>  <i>A pen</i></p>
<p><b>D. Conclusion (with puppets)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>5 minutes</b></span></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Challenge kids to remember to be like Joshua – ready to listen to God's instructions and to obey what He tells us to do. When you think about Joshua, remember that God helps you and me, His children, because He loves us.</li> <li>2. Remind kids to come back this evening.</li> <li>3. Sing a closing song. <b>(Supernatural)</b></li> <li>4. Ask kids to put their mats away and put their name tags in the box before they leave.</li> </ol>	<p><b>You'll need ...</b>  <i>DVD player / projector</i>  <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Supernatural)</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p>

## THE ISLAND cont'd

<b>LEADERS</b>	<b>DATE (pm)</b> 26 October 08
<b>HELPERS</b>	<b>TIME (mins)</b> 40 minutes
<b>PUPPETEER</b>	<b>No. of KIDS (m/f)</b>

### GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To reinforce today's Bible concept by learning a related Scripture verse.
- To internalise today's story and concept by making a memory verse wall hanging.

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / DVD player / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Bible
- ✓ Memory Verse Activity: Slide (Joshua 1:9)  
*Jenga* game
- ✓ Activity: tables  
Pre-made poster brick (see photos below)  
poster brick pages for each child, stuck on the walls (these should have the memory verse printed onto them in an open font, with holes punched around the edges of the pages for lacing. Mark the top centre left and right holes with start and finish for lacing.)  
Blu-tack  
Colouring pens, crayons, etc.  
Lengths of red wool, pre-cut for lacing around the poster bricks (you could put sticky tape around each end of the wool to make threading easier)
- ✓ Small prizes (selection of bookmarks, stickers, pencils, etc.)
- ✓ Name tag box

<p><b>E. Worship through Music (with puppets) 10 minutes</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing.</li> <li>2. Sing 2 songs together. (<i>Supernatural / Everyday</i>)</li> <li>3. Open in prayer.</li> <li>4. Ask kids to get a mat and sit in a circle.</li> </ol>	<p><b>You'll need ...</b>          DVD player / projector          Song DVD (<i>Hillsong Kids – Supernatural</i>)</p>
<p><b>F. Memory Verse (with puppets) 10 minutes</b>  <i>"Do not be afraid ... for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9 NKJ)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ask a few questions:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who was the man in our story today? <i>Joshua</i></li> <li>- What was the name of the great city that Joshua and the Israelites wanted to get to? <i>Jericho</i></li> <li>- How did Joshua secretly find out about the city of Jericho? <i>He sent spies to study the city</i></li> <li>- Who did the spies stay with? <i>Rahab</i></li> <li>- What was God's plan of attack on Jericho? <i>They had to march around the city once a day for six days, and then seven times on the seventh day. Then they were to blow their trumpets and shout, and the city walls would fall.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Encourage kids to imagine how Joshua and the Israelites were feeling – would God's strange plan really work? No swords, no stones, no weapons to attack the walls ... just marching and shouting and blowing trumpets! Even though it was a strange plan, the people obeyed and trusted God to be with them and help them. And God <i>did</i> help them. The walls of the evil city of Jericho fell down, and the people in the land of Canaan knew that the Israelites had God on their side.</li> <li>3. <i>Explain:</i> Maybe you feel like there is a wall in your life – not a real wall made of bricks, but a problem or a worry that always seems to be in the way. Do you find something at school difficult? Do you find it hard to be nice to somebody? Are you worried about something? Those problems and worries are a bit like walls in our minds. Remember the story of Joshua and the wall – talk to God about what's troubling you, and let <i>Him</i> worry about it. Our story shows us that God can break down the walls of a great city – so He can break down our walls of worry and problems and difficulties for sure!</li> <li>4. Our memory verse today is one that you can pray over and over again when you are worried or are facing a 'problem wall'. Look at what God told Joshua when he was getting ready to march around Jericho. Let's read it together. <i>Display the complete verse on screen.</i></li> <li>5. Repeat the verse a few times as a group.</li> <li>6. Tell kids to take a good look at the verse on the screen because it's about to disappear! <i>Move to next blank screen.</i></li> <li>7. Set up a <i>Jenga</i> tower in the middle of the circle of kids. Choose one child to begin – if they say the memory verse correctly, they may take a brick from the <i>Jenga</i> tower and place it on top. Move around the circle of kids, allowing each child to say the verse and move a brick from inside the tower</li> </ol>	<p><b>You'll need ...</b></p> <p><i>Memory verse slide (Joshua 1:9)</i></p> <p><i>Jenga game</i></p>

<p>to the top. Try not to let the tower fall down until all kids have said their verse.</p> <p>8. Ask kids to remind you one more time, what happened when God's people trusted and obeyed Him by marching around the city of Jericho? <i>The walls fell down!</i> Remind kids, in conclusion, that these <i>Jenga</i> bricks are like our problems and worries – God can break our walls down too. Finish with a group repetition of the verse. Topple down the <i>Jenga</i> tower in illustration of the concept: God helps me.</p> <p>9. Ask kids to put their mats away.</p> <p><b>Idea:</b> After the session, you could write the memory verse onto a sheet of card to make a poster for your room. This will add to your decoration as well as reminding kids of the Bible concept. Then you can also refer to it in later sessions of this series.</p>	
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<p><b>G. Activity</b></p> <p>1. Arrange tables in your room as a workspace and ask kids to stand around them.</p> <p>2. Go to the wall and take off the 'poster brick' you made earlier. Explain to kids that they are going to make their own 'poster bricks' to hang on their bedroom walls at home. It will remind them of our special verse we learnt today, and how God can knock down our brick wall problems and worries if we talk to Him about them and trust Him. Explain that the red wool laced around the edge of the 'poster brick' is to remind us of the red rope that Rahab used to let the spies climb down from her house; the red rope that saved Rahab and her family when Jericho was falling down.</p> <p>3. Ask kids to each go and find a 'poster brick' – there should be one sheet for each child, already stuck onto the walls of your room/building before the session.</p> <p>4. Tell kids to colour in the letters of the memory verse. Encourage them to make it as colourful and eye-catching as possible so it will look pretty on their bedroom wall when they take it home.</p> <p>5. When the colouring is finished, give each child a pre-cut length of red wool. Demonstrate how to lace the wool through the pre-cut holes around the 'poster brick', starting and ending at the top centre left and right holes (<i>mark start and finish holes on the kids' posters</i>) respectively with enough length to tie and make a wall-hanger.</p> <p>6. Hang your 'poster brick' back on the wall to show kids how to display their own when they get home.</p>	<p><b>15 minutes</b></p> <p><b>You'll need ...</b></p> <p><i>Tables</i></p> <p><i>Pre-made 'poster brick' hung on the wall</i></p> <p><i>Poster bricks for each child, stuck onto the walls</i></p> <p><i>Colouring pens, crayons</i></p> <p><i>Lengths of red wool</i></p>
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<p><b>H. Conclusion (with puppets)</b></p> <p>1. Ask one boy and one girl if they can recite the memory verse. The puppets / another leader will judge if they deserve a prize. Award the prizes.</p>	<p><b>5 minutes</b></p> <p><b>You'll need ...</b></p> <p><i>Small prizes – bookmarks, stickers, etc.</i></p>
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2. Ask kids to hold hands and sing *Jesus Loves Me* (first verse and chorus) *a cappella*, or with an instrument if preferred.
3. Close in prayer. Remind kids to come back next week!
4. Make sure kids leave their name tags in the box before they leave.

*Name tag box*

