



GOD'S CREATURES TELL THE STORY

Joshua and the Walls of Jericho

Teacher's Packet

FREE ♦ PHOTOCOPY FREELY FOR YOUR CLASS

Five lesson plans, discussion questions for two age bands, a reproducible Bible Detective worksheet with a full answer key, a ten-question quiz, background notes that sort out what archaeology actually says about Jericho, and projects built around a scarlet cord. Built for readers ages 11–17 from the full narrative of *Joshua and the Walls of Jericho*.

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How to Use This Packet

Three tracks, one book. Pick the one that matches your setting and ignore the other two. Everything here may be photocopied for your own class or family.

Track One — Family Devotions (twelve days)

- Twelve chapters. One a night runs a little over two weeks with weekends off.
- Close each reading with one question from page 4, chosen for the age at your table.
- Assign each family member a reporter to follow — Penny, Professor Hoot, or Dominic — and have them report what their reporter noticed that the others missed.
- Use the devotion starters and prayer on page 6 for the two Sunday evenings.

Track Two — Sunday School (four weeks)

- **Week 1 — The Commander.** Chapters 1–4. A new leader, an old promise, and a man with a drawn sword who answers “neither” when asked whose side he is on.
- **Week 2 — The Cord.** Chapters 5–6. Two spies, a Canaanite woman who has already decided whose God is real, and a rope in a window.
- **Week 3 — The Marching.** Chapters 7–9. Six days of doing something that accomplishes nothing visible, in silence, in front of a watching city.
- **Week 4 — The Shout.** Chapters 10–12. The seventh day, the seventh circuit, and one family carried out of a city that no longer exists.

Track Three — Homeschool (across subjects)

- **History.** Late Bronze Age Canaan, and how a walled city actually functioned.
- **Archaeology.** Jericho is one of the most excavated sites on earth and one of the most disputed. Page 8 sorts out who found what and who disagrees.
- **Science.** Mud-brick construction, resonance, and why a shout does not topple a wall.
- **Geography.** The Jordan crossing, Jericho, Ai, and why this city had to fall first.
- **Writing.** Rahab’s account of the six silent days. See page 7.

A NOTE ON THE AGE BANDS

This packet is banded 11–13 and 14–17. The book’s own appendices still use younger bands from an earlier edition; where the two differ, follow the packet. The destruction of Jericho is total, and older readers will raise it. Page 8 gives you language.

Before the First Session

- Read page 8 before teaching the archaeology chapter. One name in the book’s lecture is attached to the wrong finding, and students who look it up will find the opposite.
- Photocopy pages 5 and 9 — one per student. Everything else is for you.
- A length of red yarn is useful for two of the activities.

Five Lesson Plans

Each lesson names a key verse, the chapters to read, one main point, and one activity that can be done in the room. The lessons require the book; the verses are ones the narrative itself puts on the page.

1. Be Strong and Courageous — Three Times

READ Chapters 1–3 · **KEY VERSE** *Joshua 1:9*

Main point: God tells Joshua to be strong and courageous three separate times in one short speech. Repetition like that is not decoration; it means the man needed hearing it three times. Moses is dead, the river is up, and Joshua is following the most famous leader in his nation’s history.

Activity: Find all three commands in Joshua 1 and note what is attached to each one. Ask what changes when courage is commanded rather than felt.

2. Neither

READ Chapter 4 · **KEY VERSE** *Joshua 5:13–14*

Main point: Joshua meets a man with a drawn sword and asks the obvious question: are you for us or for our enemies? The answer is “neither—as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.” God does not join sides. Joshua falls on his face and asks for orders instead.

Activity: Ask the class to name a dispute where both sides assume God is with them. Then read the answer again. Ask what the right question would have been.

3. A Scarlet Cord

READ Chapters 5–6 · **KEY VERSE** *Joshua 2:11*

Main point: Rahab is a Canaanite, a woman, and an outsider by every measure her culture used — and she gives the clearest confession of faith in the chapter. She had heard about the Red Sea forty years earlier and drew the conclusion nobody else in Jericho drew.

Activity: Read Matthew 1:5 and find Rahab in the genealogy of Jesus. Ask what it means that she is not just spared but grafted in.

4. Six Days of Nothing

READ Chapters 7–9 · **KEY VERSE** *Joshua 6:10*

Main point: For six days an army walks a circle in silence and goes back to camp, watched from the walls the whole time. Nothing happens. Nothing is supposed to happen. The instruction includes not speaking, which means they could not even complain to each other.

Activity: Ask what the soldiers were thinking on day four. Then ask what the people on the walls were saying by day four, and which would have been harder to endure.

5. The Shout and the Rescue

READ Chapters 10–12 · **KEY VERSE** *Joshua 6:20*

Main point: Seven circuits, one shout, and the wall falls. Israel does not breach it, climb it, or burn it. And in the middle of a total destruction, two young men are sent to walk one household out through the rubble because a promise was made and marked.

Activity: Read Hebrews 11:30–31, where the wall and Rahab appear in consecutive verses. Ask why the writer put those two examples of faith next to each other.

Discussion Questions

Choose three or four per session. The second band includes the hardest question in the book, and a class of fifteen-year-olds will get there on their own if you do not.

AGES 11–13

1. God told Joshua to be strong and courageous three times in one speech. Why do you think once was not enough?
2. Joshua asked the commander whose side he was on, and got “neither.” What do you think Joshua expected to hear?
3. Rahab had never met an Israelite, but she believed their God was real. What convinced her?
4. The Israelites marched in silence for six days while people on the walls watched. Which would bother you more — the silence or being watched?
5. Nothing visible happened until the seventh day. Have you ever kept doing something that seemed to be accomplishing nothing?
6. The walls fell after a shout, not after an attack. Why do you think God chose a method that gave the army no credit at all?
7. Two spies went back into a collapsing city to bring out one family. Why was keeping that promise worth the risk?
8. Everyone in Jericho had heard the same stories about Israel’s God. Only Rahab did something about it. Why do you think that is?
9. Joshua had spent forty years as Moses’ assistant before he led anything. Does that make his job easier or harder?

AGES 14–17

1. “Neither” is a startling answer to “are you for us or for our enemies?” What does it correct in Joshua — and what does it correct in us?
2. Rahab lied to the king’s men to protect the spies, and both Hebrews and James commend her faith. How do you hold those together honestly?
3. Jericho was destroyed completely. This is the hardest thing in the book. What does the text actually say about why, and what does it not say?
4. Rahab appears in the genealogy of Jesus. What is Matthew arguing by including her, and the other women he names?
5. Six days of silent marching accomplished nothing measurable. What is obedience worth when it produces no visible result?
6. The instructions came with no explanation and no fallback plan. When is it wise to act on instructions you do not understand, and when is it reckless?
7. Rahab knew about the Red Sea, which had happened forty years earlier. Everyone in Jericho knew. Why did the same information produce faith in one person and terror in everyone else?
8. The scarlet cord marked a household for rescue in the middle of judgment. What other moments in Scripture does that image call to mind, and what do they share?

Bible Detective

“A good reporter always pays attention to details.” — Penny the Squirrel. Answer from the book, then verify against the verse. Answer key on page 10.

NAME _____ DATE _____ SCORE _____ / 9

1. How many days did Israel march around Jericho, and how many circuits did they make on the last one? (*Joshua 6:3–4*)

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2. What did the priests carry, and what instruments did they sound? (*Joshua 6:4–6*)

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3. What color was the cord Rahab hung in her window, and what was it for? (*Joshua 2:18–21*)

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4. Where did Rahab hide the spies when the king’s men came? (*Joshua 2:6*)

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5. What did Joshua command the people *not* to do during the first six days? (*Joshua 6:10*)

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6. Who was saved when Jericho fell, and why? (*Joshua 6:22–25*)

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7. **Challenge.** Joshua asked the commander of the Lord’s army whose side he was on. What was the answer? (*Joshua 5:13–14*)

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8. **Challenge.** What event had Rahab heard about that convinced her the Lord was God? (*Joshua 2:9–11*)

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9. **Super Sleuth.** Find Rahab in the New Testament. Name two books that mention her and what each one says about her.

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Family and At-Home

Five devotion starters, a prayer, and one application to carry into the week. None of these require a craft table or more than fifteen minutes.

DEVOTION STARTERS

One — Told three times. God repeated the same command to Joshua three times in one speech. Ask what each person needs to hear again this week, even though they already know it. Read Joshua 1:6–9.

Two — Neither side. The commander of the Lord’s army would not take sides. Ask where our family has assumed God agrees with us, and what it would look like to ask for orders instead. Read Joshua 5:13–15.

Three — The unlikely believer. Rahab had less information than anyone in Israel and more faith than most. Ask who in our lives has surprised us with what they believe. Read Joshua 2:9–11.

Four — Six days of nothing. They marched a circle and went home, six times, and it looked pointless every single day. Ask what our family is doing faithfully with no visible result. Read Joshua 6:12–14.

Five — Coming back for one family. In the middle of destruction, two men walked back in to keep a promise. Ask what promise this family has made that will cost something to keep. Read Joshua 6:22–23.

MEMORY VERSES

- *Joshua 1:9* — be strong and courageous; do not be afraid.
- *Joshua 2:11* — the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.
- *Joshua 6:20* — the wall collapsed.
- *Hebrews 11:30–31* — by faith the walls fell; by faith Rahab was spared.

A FAMILY PRAYER

Lord, You do not take our side; You ask us to take Yours. Forgive us for assuming You already agree with us. Give us the patience to keep walking a circle that seems to accomplish nothing, and the courage to be quiet while others watch. Thank You that You saw one woman on a wall in a doomed city and made room for her in Your own family. Do the same with us. In Jesus’ name, amen.

APPLICATION FOR THE WEEK

The Israelites walked the same circle for six days before anything changed. Choose one small faithful thing — a prayer, a chore, a kindness to someone difficult — and do it every day this week whether or not it appears to work. Do not evaluate it until day seven.

On the seventh day, do one more thing: ask whether anyone in this family has ever been the person on the outside — the one nobody expected to belong. Rahab was, and she ended up in the family line of Jesus. That is the actual point of the story, and it is worth saying out loud at your own table.

Activities and Projects

Ordinary household supplies only — red yarn, sugar cubes, a map, a stopwatch. Nothing here needs a craft store.

AGES 11–13

Build a Wall, Then Test It. *Supplies: sugar cubes or dominoes and a tray.* Build a double wall with a sloped earth ramp between the layers, the way Jericho was built. Then try to knock it down by shouting at it. Nothing will happen. That is the point of the experiment and the point of the story.

Seven Times Around. *Supplies: a stopwatch and a yard.* Walk a circuit around your house seven times without speaking. Time it. Then multiply by seven days and ask what those hours were actually for.

The Scarlet Cord. *Supplies: red yarn.* Tie a length in a window at home for one week. Every time someone notices it, tell them what it meant to one family in a city that was about to fall.

Silent Circuit. *Supplies: nothing.* The whole family walks around the block once without a word. No phones, no talking, no explaining to neighbors. Then come back and talk about how long a single quiet circuit felt, and multiply by thirteen.

The Window in the Wall. *Supplies: paper and pencil.* Draw a cross-section of Jericho's defenses from the description on page 8 — stone footing, mud brick above, a sloped rampart between two walls — and mark where a house with an outward-facing window would have to sit for Joshua 2:15 to work.

AGES 14–17

Rahab's Six Days. *Supplies: paper.* Write eight hundred words as Rahab, watching a silent army circle the city for the fourth time, with a red cord in her window and her whole family crowded into her house. She has staked everything on strangers.

Sort the Archaeology. *Supplies: page 8 and a library.* Garstang, Kenyon, and Wood reached different conclusions about Jericho and the disagreement is real. Chart who claimed what, when, and on what evidence. Then write a page on why the book's own lecture attaches the wrong name to the outward-collapse finding.

The Hard Question. *Supplies: Joshua 6, Deuteronomy 9:4–5, Genesis 15:16.* Read all three and write five hundred words on how Scripture itself frames the destruction of Jericho. Do not resolve it more neatly than the text does.

Three Names for One City. *Supplies: a Bible concordance.* Jericho appears again in 1 Kings 16:34, in the Gospels as the place where Jesus healed a blind man and met Zacchaeus, and in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Trace the city across the whole Bible and write a page on what keeps happening there.

Command the Courage. *Supplies: Joshua 1 and Deuteronomy 31.* God tells Joshua to be strong and courageous; so does Moses, in front of the whole nation. Chart every occurrence in both chapters and note who is speaking and who is listening. Then write five hundred words on whether courage can be commanded, and what that would mean.

Two Verses, Side by Side. *Supplies: Hebrews 11:30–31 and James 2:25.* Hebrews commends Rahab for faith; James commends her for what she did. Write a page on whether those are two claims or one.

For the Teacher

Background you will want before a sharp fourteen-year-old asks. The second box corrects a name in the book's own archaeology lecture.

JERICHO IS GENUINELY ANCIENT

The site holds one of the oldest known permanent settlements anywhere, including a stone tower dating to roughly 8000 BC — older than the pyramids by thousands of years. That part of the book's lecture is accurate and worth the wonder.

WHO FOUND WHAT — A CORRECTION

The book's lecture credits Kathleen Kenyon with discovering that Jericho's walls fell outward. That attribution is backwards.

John Garstang excavated in the 1930s and argued for collapsed walls and a destruction matching the biblical account.

Kathleen Kenyon excavated in the 1950s with better methods and concluded the city was destroyed around 1550 BC — considerably earlier than the usual conquest date, and hers is the leading challenge to the correlation, not support for it. **Bryant Wood** later re-examined the pottery and argued for a later date closer to the biblical chronology. Students who look Kenyon up will find the opposite of what the book says, so say it first.

WHAT IS ACTUALLY AGREED

That Jericho was walled, that it burned, and that storage jars full of grain were found in the destruction layer — which fits a short conquest rather than a long siege and a fall just after harvest. What is disputed is the date. The honest summary for a class: the digging found a burned, walled city with full granaries; scholars disagree about which century.

DID THE SHOUT KNOCK THE WALLS DOWN?

No, and it is worth being straight about this. Human voices do not carry enough energy to collapse mud-brick on a stone footing, and resonance requires a sustained matched frequency, not a single shout. The book hedges toward “God works through natural principles,” which is fine as far as it goes — but the text presents the collapse as an act of God, not as acoustics, and students respect that answer more than a strained one.

HOW THE WALLS WERE BUILT

A stone footing carrying sun-dried mud brick, with a sloped earthen rampart between an outer and an inner wall. Houses were built into the wall system itself, which is exactly how Rahab could have a window facing outward for the spies to climb down (Joshua 2:15).

RAHAB, IN FOUR BOOKS

Joshua 6 records her rescue. Matthew 1:5 places her in the genealogy of Jesus. Hebrews 11:31 lists her among the faithful. James 2:25 points to what she did. A Canaanite woman with a disreputable trade is commended by name in both Testaments — that is the argument the story is making, and it is not a small one.

IF A STUDENT ASKS ABOUT THE DESTRUCTION

They will. Answer plainly and without embellishment: Jericho was destroyed completely, and the text says so. Then give them what Scripture itself gives — Genesis 15:16, where God tells Abraham the judgment must wait four hundred years because the sin of that people is not yet complete, and Deuteronomy 9:4–5, where Israel is told bluntly that this is not a reward for their own righteousness. Rahab shows the door was open to anyone who walked through it. That is the fullest honest answer, and it will not settle everyone. It should not.

Professor Hoot's Quiz

Ten questions. Circle one answer for each. Scoring guide and answer key on page 10.

NAME _____ DATE _____ SCORE _____ / 10

1. Who led Israel after Moses died?
a) Aaron b) Joshua c) Caleb
2. How many spies did Joshua send into Jericho?
a) Twelve b) Seven c) Two
3. Who hid the spies?
a) The king's steward b) Rahab c) A gate guard
4. What did Rahab hang from her window?
a) A scarlet cord b) A white flag c) A golden bell
5. How many circuits did they march on each of the first six days?
a) Once b) Twice c) Seven times
6. How many circuits on the seventh day?
a) Once b) Three c) Seven
7. What were the people forbidden to do until the final day?
a) Eat b) Make any sound c) Look at the walls
8. When Joshua asked the commander whose side he was on, what was the answer?
a) "For you" b) "For your enemies" c) "Neither"
9. Who was saved from the destruction?
a) The king's family b) Rahab and her household c) All the children
10. Where does Rahab appear in the New Testament?
a) Nowhere b) Only in Hebrews c) In Matthew's genealogy, Hebrews, and James

Bonus. Israel marched for six days with no visible result. Write one sentence on what those six days were for.

Answer Keys and Where to Go Next

QUIZ ANSWER KEY — PAGE 9

1	b — Joshua	6	c — seven
2	c — two	7	b — make any sound
3	b — Rahab	8	c — “Neither”
4	a — a scarlet cord	9	b — Rahab and her household
5	a — once each day	10	c — all three

Bonus. Accept any answer that notices the six days produced no military advantage. The strongest responses see that obedience was the assignment and the wall was God’s part.

BIBLE DETECTIVE ANSWER KEY — PAGE 5

- Seven days; once daily for six, then seven circuits on the seventh (6:3–4).
- The ark of the covenant, with seven priests sounding rams’-horn trumpets (6:4–6).
- Scarlet — it marked her house so her household would be spared (2:18–21).
- Under stalks of flax laid out on her roof (2:6).
- Make any sound — no shouting, no word from their mouths (6:10).
- Rahab and everyone in her father’s house, because she had hidden the spies and the promise was kept (6:22–25).
- “Neither” — he came as commander of the army of the Lord (5:13–14).
- The drying up of the Red Sea when Israel came out of Egypt, forty years earlier (2:9–11).
- Any two of: Matthew 1:5, in the genealogy of Jesus; Hebrews 11:31, among the faithful; James 2:25, commended for what she did.

SCORING GUIDE

9–10 correct — Senior Correspondent. Reading at the level of detail Penny would sign off on.

7–8 correct — Field Reporter. Solid. Send them back for the two they missed and let them find the verse themselves.

5–6 correct — Cub Reporter. The wall landed; the details did not. Re-read chapters 5 and 9.

Under 5 — Back to the Newsroom. Not a failing grade. Read the book together rather than assigning it.

WHERE TO GO NEXT — MORE FREE DOWNLOADS

- **The Six Sacred Rules of Divine Reporting** — one-page classroom poster.
- **Meet the Divine News Team** — one page, four character cards.
- Teacher’s Packets for the other titles in the series.
- **52 Questions: A Year of Family Bible Conversations** — one a week, from across the series. Coming soon.

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