

City LG—June 19-21, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Cities in Dust (Israel Captures Jericho) • *Joshua 5:13–6:20*

Today's Bottom Line: God's plan is the best plan.

Monthly Memory Verse: Here is something I am still sure of. I will see the Lord's goodness while I'm still alive. Psalm 27:13 (*NirV*)

OPENER: Emoji Madness

BEGIN 5-7 Minutes before your Start Time

"Hello, friends! I'm so glad you're here! All summer, we're finding out what it means to have true confidence.

SLIDE: Confidence

"Confidence is learning to see yourself the way God sees you.

"When you know how much God loves you, you feel like you can take on any challenge life throws your way. You can 'press play' and live with confidence, every day!

"Let's play a game and see just how confident we are. This one has to do with emojis—three emojis in particular. I call it 'Praise, Stomp, Shrug!' Everyone stand up, and I'll show you how to play.

"When an emoji appears on the screen, we'll all do that motion together. For example, if we see the 'praise hands' emoji . . .

SLIDE: Praise hands emoji

". . . we do praise hands.

Do the "praise hands" or "raise the roof" motion.

"If we see a foot . . .

SLIDE: Foot emoji

". . . we stomp!

Stomp your foot.

"If we see a shrug . . .

SLIDE: Shrug emoji

". . . we shrug.

Shrug your shoulders, holding your hands out.

“Easy enough, right? Well, here’s where the confidence part comes in. We need to be confident enough to do the motions along with a beat!

AUDIO: “We Will Rock You (Instrumental)” by Queen—keep playing (on loop, if possible)

“Whatever comes on the screen, we’ll do the motion on the offbeat—like this!

Do the shrug motion on the offbeat—i.e. the “clap” part of the beat. Do this a few times so the kids understand.

“If there are two emojis on the screen, we’ll do one motion then the other. Got it? All right—you look confident. Let’s see how we do!

SLIDE: Sequence 1

“1-2-3-4!

Lead everyone in doing the actions of the emojis in the order they’re on screen. Keep the music playing so everyone stays on rhythm. Make sure that you’re forceful in doing each emoji on the offbeat. (You may want to get the Worship Leaders to help.)

Cheer for the kids after you complete each sequence. Then, when you put up the next sequence, give them a count-off to start (“1-2-3-4!”).

The sequences will get more and more complex, finishing one that has 10 emojis in a row.

SLIDE: Sequence 2

SLIDE: Sequence 3

SLIDE: Sequence 4

SLIDE: Sequence 5

SLIDE: Sequence 6

“That was super-fun! You can definitely be confident in your rhythm skills. You all did a great job following the directions AND staying on the beat.

“Let’s keep the music going, shall we? Everyone stay on your feet. Let’s get ready to sing and worship God together!”

WORSHIP: Not the Same and Fireblazin’

“Today’s story is absolutely amazing! (*Hold up Bible.*) I mean, talk about action and adventure! But, to really tell it well, I need some help from all of you. I need you to be God’s people, the Israelites. So, when I tell the story, you’ll do whatever the Israelites did. Give me a thumbs-up if you’re with me. (*Pause.*) Great! Let’s get started!

“God had brought His people out of slavery in Egypt, then He led them through the desert for 40 years! Okay, everyone up. Let’s walk in place.

Pause while the kids walk in place.

“Good. After all that time wandering in the desert, God’s people reached the land God had promised them. The priests carried the ark of the covenant—the chest that reminded them that God was right there with them. Everyone hold out your arms like you’re helping carry the ark.

Pause while the kids pretend to carry the ark.

“The waters of the Jordan River parted, and the people were able to go across the river on dry ground! Everyone, show me the look of shock and amazement that must have been on their faces.

Pause while the kids look shocked.

“The Amorites and Canaanites already lived in that area during that time. They had heard about the amazing things God had done for His people, and they were afraid. So they hid behind the large wall that surrounded their city, Jericho.”

Here’s where the story gets even more interesting. The leader of the Israelites was named Joshua, and God gave Joshua an unusual battle plan. Listen to this!

Open the Bible to Joshua 5:13-14 (NIRV) and read.

“When Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him. The man was holding a sword. He was ready for battle. Joshua went up to him. He asked, ‘Are you on our side? Or are you on the side of our enemies?’ ‘I am not on either side,’ he replied. ‘I have come as the commander of the LORD’s army.’

“Whoa. The commander of the Lord’s army! Joshua fell down with his face toward the ground.

“This warrior had an important message from God. It was a plan for how Joshua and the Israelites could defeat the city of Jericho. This was God’s message to Joshua.

Open the Bible to Joshua 6:2-5 (NIRV) and read.

“I have handed Jericho over to you . . . March around the city once with all your fighting men. In fact, do it for six days. Have seven priests get trumpets made out of rams’ horns. They must carry them in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times. Tell the priests to blow the trumpets as you march. You will hear them blow a long blast on the trumpets. When you do, tell the whole army to give a loud shout. The wall of the city will fall down. Then the whole army will march up to the city. Everyone will go straight in.

“Okay! This plan must have sounded a little unusual to Joshua. I mean, he and his men were ready for a fight! They were ready to use weapons and battle their way into the city. But God was telling them to do nothing but march and play trumpets . . . for six whole days!

“Still, Joshua and the Israelites chose to trust God and follow His plan. Let’s find out what happened next with the help of this week’s video!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 9:00)

“God was with Joshua and the Israelites. He had given Joshua a good plan, and Joshua trusted God enough to do exactly what He said to do.

“I mean, think about it. Joshua could have decided that God’s plan didn’t make any sense. He could have decided to ignore God’s plan and make his own. But he didn’t! He followed God’s plan, because he knew that **[Bottom Line] God’s plan is the best plan.**”

“Let’s say that together.”

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “God’s plan is the best plan.”

“That’s right! Let’s pray and ask God to help us trust Him.”

PRAY: “Dear God, thank You for the story of Joshua. Thank You for all that it teaches us about You. Your plans are always good. Your way is the best way! Please help us be like Joshua and trust Your plan for OUR lives, too. Help us remember to trust You and follow You—even when it’s not easy. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“We can’t always see how things will work out in God’s plan. Think about what it was like for Jesus’ friends, the disciples, when Jesus died on the cross. They must have been so sad. They must have felt like it was all over. But everything made sense later, when they saw and heard that Jesus had come back to life!

“Sometimes we can’t see how things will turn out. But it’s important that we choose to keep following God and keep living His way. We can always have confidence in Him.

OFFERING:

Here in Parkview Kids, we bring our offering each week to help support (your Campus Child) learn more about Jesus just like we do here in Parkview Kids. Here’s a picture of (your Campus Child)! If you brought your offering, you can bring it up now as we dismiss to Small Groups.

Orland Park: Michael and Valeri
New Lenox: Daniel
Homer Glen: Victor

Dismiss kids to their small groups.