

# City SG—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*)

## 1. Opening Activity

**What You Need:** Paper (1 for every 2 kids), markers

### What You Do:

- Divide kids into teams of four.
- Instruct each team to divide themselves into pairs—two kids to be X's and two kids to be O's.
- Explain they'll play tic-tac-toe.
- Give each team a piece of paper and a marker.
- Instruct the kids to let one person draw a tic-tac-toe board on their group's paper.
- Explain that the pairs of kids must work together.
- One partner will write the X or O, but the other partner will tell them what to write. The "writer" must do what the "instructor" instructs them to do.
- Direct the pairs to switch back and forth so everyone has a turn to be the writer and the instructor.
- Provide additional paper for extra games and continue as time and interest allow.

### What You Say:

"That was interesting to watch! You and your partners did a great job giving and following instructions, but would any of you have played the game differently than how your partner told you to? Your plan and your moves would probably have been different. **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we learned about someone we can trust completely and whose plan we can always depend on! JESUS!**"

## 2. Shout! Trumpet! March! Fall!

**What You Need:** No Supplies Needed

### What You Do:

- Give each kid a pump of hand sanitizer.
- Using the questions below, quickly review the story as a group.
- Divide your group into pairs.
- Tell kids they'll play a game called "Shout! Trumpet! March! Fall!" When you give one of the four different directions, the kids do what you direct them to do:
  - Shout: The kids put their hands to their mouths like they're shouting something.
  - Trumpet: The kids form their hands to look like they're playing a trumpet.
  - March: The kids march in place.
  - Fall: The kids try to be the first one to "fall" and lay flat on the ground.
- Call out your action words in random order and quickly.
- Continue to play as time and interest allow.

Review questions:

1. How long did the Israelites wander in the wilderness? (*40 years*)
2. Who was the leader of the Israelites when God told them to conquer Jericho? (*Joshua*)
3. What was the name of the sacred chest where God's presence somehow stayed among His people? (*Ark of the Covenant*)
4. What happened when the priests stepped into the Jordan River? (*God parted the waters just like He parted the waters of the Red Sea.*)
5. Who met Joshua and told him the plan to march around Jericho? (*Commander of the Lord's Army*)
6. How did God instruct His people to attack Jericho? (*by marching around the city and blowing trumpets*)
7. How many days did God's people march around the city? (*seven days*)
8. How many times did they circle the city on the last day? (*seven times*)
9. What happened on the seventh day after they marched the seventh time around the city and everyone shouted? (*the walls came down*)

### What You Say:

"God's plan may not always make sense. Can you imagine how the Israelites felt? Marching around a city and blowing trumpets in order to conquer it? That doesn't really seem like the best plan, does it?"

"The awesome thing is that we can trust God, no matter what. We can be confident in God's plans even when they don't make sense because we know He is always working for good.

***[Make it Personal] (Tell kids about a time when you had to trust God's plan even when it didn't make sense.)***

"Maybe this past year you had to do online school or not see your friends and family as much as you'd like. No matter what God's plans look like in our own unique worlds, we can have confidence that ***[Bottom Line] God's plan is the best plan.*** The next time you have a hard time believing, just open the Bible to the story of Joshua and know that even the craziest of plans work out when you have God as your Director!"

### 3. What's Next?

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

#### What You Do:

- Divide your group into teams of three.
- Explain that you're going to assign each group a scenario and they will act-out their response in front of the larger group.
- Give an example: There's a friend at school who's having a hard time at home. You know God's plan is for you to treat others like you want to be treated. What should you do?
  - Your group could act-out someone inviting that friend over to play after school and letting them know you are there for them if they need someone to talk to.
- Go around to each group and quietly tell them their scenario so the other teams can't hear.

- Give the groups time to think through how they will act-out their response. (For more reserved kids who might get hung up on the “act-out” part, give them the option of explaining their scenario to the group and describing what their response should be.)
- Call on each group one at a time, read the scenario you have assigned them, and ask them to act-out their response.
- Continue until all scenarios have been acted out.

#### Scenarios:

1. You're nervous about your piano recital. You want to quit before you have to play in front of everyone. But you know God's plan is for you to work hard at everything you do. What's next?
2. You're having a hard time getting along with one of your classmates while working on your group project. They do the project very differently than you would. But you know God's plan is to show His love to everyone even if they're different from you. What's next?
3. You really want to play at your friend's house, but you can tell your dad could use some help getting chores done around the house so he can focus on a project for work. You know God's plan is for us to serve others and be a helper when we can. What's next?
4. You've never received a good grade on a math test, and you have a big one coming up tomorrow. You don't see the big deal of even trying to study when you've worked hard before and still didn't do well. You know God is with you and wants you to ask Him for help. But you don't see how anything could help with a problem as big as math. What's next?
5. All of your neighbors are playing together outside. You and your friend decided it's a good idea to keep all the basketballs to yourself. The others are getting upset. You and your friend come up with a super-cool game that requires all of the basketballs, so you want to play just the two of you. But you know God's plan is for you to treat others the way you would want to be treated. What's next?

#### What You Say:

“It can be easy to ignore the times we need to think about God's plan and just do our own plan instead. Like give up piano and just pick up a new hobby or ignore the kid who's different from you and not listen to his ideas.

“Going with God's plan isn't just about doing what is right. We go with God's plan because we also know that it will lead to the best end result. We may not see what God is trying to teach us or what His plan is leading us towards, but we can have confidence that it will be better than we could imagine. Maybe by not giving up piano, you'll face your fears, gain even more experience, get stronger, and become a better piano player. Perhaps by taking time to learn and listen to someone who is different than you, you will learn something new and gain a new friend. Choosing God's way may require us to do something challenging or maybe even awkward, but we can have confidence that we're following the best plan. No matter what you face this week, remember that **[Bottom Line] God's plan is the best plan.**”

## 4. The Cup Song

**What You Need:** Bibles, sturdy plastic cups

**What You Do:**

- Look up and read the memory verse together as a group.
- Divide your group into teams of three.
- Provide each kid with one cup.
- Encourage teams to come up with their own rhythm and song to the memory verse by tapping their cups on the floor and clapping their hands.
- Allow the groups to perform their cup songs in front of the group.

**What You Say:**

“We have such a talented group! I loved hearing all the different ideas everyone came up with. I especially enjoyed seeing you all gain confidence to perform in front of others. The writer of Psalm 27 said that he would remain confident. One way we can show confidence is by remembering that **[Bottom Line] God’s plan is the best plan.** This week, don’t forget to boldly show confidence in God’s plans for you!”

## 5. Pray and Dismiss

**What You Need:** Cups from “The Cup Song” activity

**What You Do:**

- Pass out a cup to each kid.
- Ask the kids to hold the cups and think about a situation where they know they need to follow God’s plan. It could be that they have a hard time obeying a parent at home or they need help treating a friend like they want to be treated.
- Encourage kids to imagine that the cup is full of strength to do God’s plan instead of going their own way.
- Pray with your kids.

**What You Say:**

“Dear God, in a time when we may not feel confident in much, we are so thankful that we can always be confident in You! Thank You for always working for good. When our own plans don’t work out or look how we thought, help us remember that **[Bottom Line] God’s plan is the best plan.** Thank You for loving us and always wanting what’s best for us. Thank You that we can trust You, no matter what. This week, please show us all of the opportunities we have to follow Your plans. We pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen!”