



Date: _____
Series: Good Kings – Bad Kings
Fall Year 4, Lesson 17

Let God Fight Your Battles for You

Primary Scripture: Joshua 5:13-6:21

Key Verse: Joshua 6:16, “When they went around the seventh time, the priests blew their rams’ horns. Joshua said to the troops, ‘Shout, because the Lord has given you the city!’”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids need to know that God wants to be involved in their lives. As they face struggles now and in the future, they will learn how to make choices and develop skills that help them meet life’s difficulties and battles. Kids need to know that God has given them victory through his Son Jesus on their behalves. In Jesus’ name, they have the power over life’s greatest battles—sin and death itself. But even in small battles, they can call upon Jesus’ name and count on him to see them through their struggles.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, we have victory over our battles against sin, death, and the power of the devil.

Jesus in us: Through God’s Holy Spirit, we have the authority of Jesus in our lives to embody his strength.

Jesus through us: Our greatest mission in life is to share the victory of Jesus with others.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies: soldier helmet and/or other attire/weapons, army bag or box, seven blow horns or loud horns

Put on a soldier helmet or other soldier attire/weapons. Carry a bag, preferably an army bag, or a box that contains several horns.

I'm ready to pass out some weapons. What kinds of weapons do you think I might have in here?

Take guesses from the audience. If their guesses are incorrect, give them this hint.

These weapons are the most powerful in the entire world. They are powerful enough to destroy an entire city.

Take more guesses. Finally give in and show the horns in the bag. Demonstrate a trumpet blast.

This may not seem like a weapon to you, but in the Old Testament, which is the first half of the Bible, seven rams' horns were blasted, and it caused a whole city wall to fall down. Does anyone remember the name of that city? Yes, it was Jericho. It didn't fall because the blast was so loud. It fell because people were following God's command, and God was fighting the battle for them.

Today we have battles that we fight in our lives, too. We will learn that God wants to fight those battles for us. But to do that, he gives us weapons that may not seem like they would work at all. Our greatest weapon is to praise him and call upon him to help us in our times of need. Let's do that as we praise him today.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Supplies: a cross that can fit in the palm of the hand

During World War II, the United States soldiers battled in a city of Italy. Bombs fell all around leaving big holes in the ground. Our soldiers jumped into one hole after another as they tried to miss the bullets and the bombs coming at them. One soldier fell into a hole, and there, lying in the dirt, he saw a cross. He picked it up in his hand and held it tight as another bomb burst nearby.

Hold up the small cross and show it to the audience. Place it in your hand and close a fist around it.

Just then another soldier came diving into his hole with him. The soldier was a chaplain, who is a pastor for soldiers. As they both huddled down in the hole, looking at the cross (open your fist), the soldier exclaimed, "Quick, Chaplain! Show me how to use this thing!"

This must sound funny. A cross isn't something that you can use like a weapon. Or is it?

Hold up the cross.

Certainly, the cross itself is not a good luck charm nor does it have power in itself. But, when we remember what Jesus did for us, we remember the greatest power in the whole world. The Bible says in Romans 1:16, "I'm not ashamed of the Good News. It is God's power to save everyone who believes..." The Good News is Jesus died on the cross for us, and gave us the power to change our lives.

Sometimes when we face battles, we get worried and think that we have to face them on our own. But if we trust Jesus as our Savior

and follow what he wants, he will be with us and help us in every battle we face. Let's pray for that now.

Dear God, thank you for Jesus. When he gave his life for us, he gave us the power of the cross. Now, the devil cannot defeat us because Jesus has defeated the devil. Sin cannot defeat us because Jesus has forgiven our sin. Not even death can defeat us because when we die, we will be with you forever—all because of Jesus.

When we have worried too much while facing struggles or battles in our lives, we may have not trusted you enough. Please forgive us for that, and help us to trust you more. As you forgive our sin, help us to expect you to win the battles for us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Your choice of music.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Use one of the props from the *Attention Grabber* such as the helmet, shield, or horn. Put it on the altar, and let the kids come up and place their offerings on it. While they are bringing their offerings forward, have them sing a worship song. There was great power in the Bible when people worshiped and gave their offerings.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Bowling for Jericho

Supplies: masking tape; 28 empty pop cans, two-liter bottles, or 16-ounce bottles; plastic balls or tennis balls used to knock over the cans or bottles (the more, the better); praise music to be played during the game

In advance, make a ten by ten yard square on the floor with masking tape. Use the pop cans or bottles as targets and set up seven along each side of the square. These bottles will represent the walls of Jericho.

Divide kids into seven teams and give each team a number. Teams one through four begin first. Have each team stand behind a side of the square. Distribute the balls evenly among the teams.

Round one:

When the praise music begins, kids begin to bowl in an attempt to knock over the targets on any of the opponents' three lines. As soon as all of a team's targets have been knocked over, all players from that team must stop bowling and sit down. The other teams continue competing until only one team is standing. That team is the winner. Make a big hoopla over the champions! Turn off the praise music.

Round two:

The losing teams move off the playing field, and teams five through seven come forward to replace them and compete against the defending champions. Each team sets up its targets along its line. The teams stand behind the line and bowl when the praise music begins. The winning team is praised, and the teams on the sidelines replace the three losing teams. Turn off the praise music.

Round three:

Secretly tell one of the teams who lost in round one to set up their targets behind them. When this round is played, this team has the advantage of protecting its targets.

Learning Point:

How is this like the battle of Jericho? The targets were like the walls of Jericho, and they came tumbling down. Also, there were seven teams, and as we will see in today's Bible event, seven was an important number.

Something different happened in our last round. What was different? That's right, one team got to protect its wall by standing in front of it. That reminds us that we can be winners because God goes in front of us to fight our battles for us.

In the battle of Jericho, God's presence was announced with the trumpets and then the walls of Jericho came tumbling down. We will learn more about this in today's Bible event!

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

The Fall of Jericho

Storytelling (*Joshua 5:13-6:21*)

Supplies: seven horns from the Attention Grabber, a cross or a pretend cardboard Ark of the Covenant

This is the story about the fall of Jericho. The people of Israel had been traveling for 40 years through the wilderness after being freed from Egypt. They were waiting to arrive at their promised homeland. God had promised this to them ever since he gave his word to their ancestor Abraham. When they arrived in the Promised Land, they were given one strict order from God. They were to drive out those who worshiped false gods. God knew that if they didn't, soon they, too, would worship false gods. Above all, God knew that the most important thing for them was to remain faithful to him and never forget him as their God.

The first big city was Jericho. Its name means "moon city" because they worshiped the moon god there. All of the people worshiped this Canaanite false god.

When Joshua was near Jericho, scouting the city, an angel appeared before him. The angel had a sword in his hand, but he looked much like a man. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"

“Neither,” he said. “I am the commander of the army of the Lord. I have come to give you a message.”

Joshua fell face down. “What does the Lord have for me?” he asked.

The commander of the Lord’s armies told him, “Take off your sandals. You are standing on holy ground.”

You see, the angel was setting apart Joshua as God’s special leader to command his army. He gave him these special instructions that Joshua followed. “The Lord has already won the battle for you. He will give you complete victory over this city and everyone in it. But this is how you must fight. Gather seven priests, and give each one a ram’s trumpet. Have them march in front of the Ark of the Covenant. This reminds all of the people that the Lord God is their God, and he is the one whom they serve.

“Put a royal guard around these priests so all will know that this is a kingly procession. It is just as if God himself were marching around the city. Have all the armed men follow behind. March around the city one time every day for six days. As you march, have the seven priests with the seven trumpets blow their horns. After you have marched for the day, return to camp.

“On the seventh day, march around the city seven times with all seven priests blowing their seven horns. Remember that the number seven is a special number. It is a reminder of completeness and how God created everything in seven days. And now he is completely beginning a new work with you, his people. On the seventh day after the seventh march as the seven priests blow the seven horns, let there be a great battle cry from all your men. At that time, the Lord God will knock down the walls of the city. Then your armed soldiers can come in. Then everyone will know that the Lord God is the God who rules and destroys and has given you the mighty victory.”

And that is what happened. When the walls broke in, they went in and took the entire city. They devoted it to the Lord, just like it was an offering – a sacrifice to God.

Now who would have thought that the way to win a battle like this was to blow horns and shout? God was not really teaching about blowing horns and marching. He was teaching his people to obey and trust him. He was teaching them that he is the one who wins the battle. But if God tells us what to do, we should obey him and he will give us the victory.

What battles do you face? Think about that today when we give all of our battles to the Lord in prayer.

Let's see what it must have felt like to march around the city of Jericho. We will all go outside of this building and have a processional march. We will have seven people blowing seven horns. We don't have the Ark of the Covenant like they did, but we do have this.

Point out the cross or the pretend ark.

This is a symbol of the presence of God with his people.

If the weather is nice, go to the parking lot and march around. Ask each of the kids to think about a problem or battle they may have. As they march around, ask them to imagine God marching around their problems or battles and giving them the victory.



Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Let's talk about some of the battles that you were thinking about as we were marching. Can I have four volunteers who would like to share your difficulties or battles with the group?

Have the volunteers sit in chairs in the front. Have at least four more people, preferably eight, come forward to lay hands on the volunteers and pray for them. After each person describes a battle, have the designated person or people pray for him or her.

After dismissing the volunteers, feel free to bring four more kids forward with prayer partners. Repeat this as time allows.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees, and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- soldier helmet and/or other attire/weapons
- army bag or box
- seven blow horns or loud horns

Power of the Cross:

- a cross that can fit in the palm of the hand

Learning Game:

- masking tape
- 28 empty pop cans, two-liter bottles, or 16-ounce bottles
- plastic balls or tennis balls used to knock over the cans or bottles (the more, the better)
- praise music that is played during the game

Bible Presentation:

- seven horns from the *Attention Grabber*
- a cross or a pretend cardboard Ark of the Covenant