

## Lesson 4

# Entering the Promised Land



**Theme:** Obedience – Following God’s commands carefully

## Sunday Morning Lesson

### Pre-Class Activity

**Bible Facts:** Operation Bible Facts

**Memory Verse:** Give each student an opportunity to say the Memory Verse for the class. When each one completes it, the students may show their approval as directed by the teacher. Help students who struggle with the memory work to be successful. Begin a display, such as the sample on page 9 of this Guide, that will eventually feature all three Memory Verses for the quarter. Print the names of the students on starbursts to be placed around the Memory Verse display when each has recited it.

### Prayer

### Teaching Today’s Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read Joshua 6:13-16, 20. Have reading students find and mark Joshua 6:13 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible Story Bunker.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking a student to point to the place on the time line when today’s events took place.
4. Further establish the setting by asking a student to show the city of Jericho on a map.
5. Introduce *Lesson Graphics* using the Lord’s Army Ammo Box as described on page 8 of this Guide.
6. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students’ ages:
  - Israel crossed the Jordan River and entered the Promised Land. The Canaanites heard how Israel crossed the river, and they were afraid.
  - Now that Israel was in the Promised Land, the manna stopped coming down. People ate food from the land of Canaan.
  - The Captain of the Lord’s Army appeared to Joshua to assure him that God would be with Israel as they went into the land.

- God told Joshua how the nation of Israel should take the city of Jericho. He wanted everything to be destroyed to protect His people from participating in the evil practices of the Canaanites.
- The people did what God said and the walls of Jericho fell. The men who had spied out Jericho took care of Rahab.
- The Lord was with Joshua as he led the army of Israel.

 7. Use a shoe box to represent the city of Jericho. Make four cuts, one in each corner so that your “walls” can fall down. Once cut, bend them back and forth to make them loose. Use one piece of tape to re-connect each corner. Lead the students to march around your “city” just as the Israelites did. Then at the appropriate time, have them “knock down” the walls. Use this activity to illustrate and reinforce the details about the Israelites’ march.

8. Read Joshua 6:13-16, 20.

**Things to Get or Do  
for Sunday Morning**

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Lesson 4

## Entering the Promised Land



**Theme:** Obedience – Following God’s commands carefully

### Wednesday Evening Lesson

#### Pre-Class Activity

**Bible Facts:** Operation Bible Facts

**Memory Verse:** Repeat the Sunday morning memory work activity for any students who were not present. Talk with the students about what the Memory Verse tells us about God.

#### Prayer

#### Starter

Maybe you made good grades on your last report card. Or maybe you did well at some sport or other activity you enjoy. When we do well and are rewarded, it is easy to forget how we got to this point. We may forget about our parents who provide so many things for us. We may forget our teachers or coaches. We can get what is called the “big head,” and not think about anyone but ourselves.

Our head can “swell up” with pride when we think we have done so well or worked so hard. Having the “big head” is not good. This is to be proud instead of humble. It is to focus all attention on ourselves. We forget to be thankful for what others have done to help us.

When Israel entered the land of promise, God didn’t want the people to get the “big head.” He didn’t want the people to start thinking they were so great and mighty that they took the land by themselves. God caused some things to happen as Israel took Jericho so that His people would know He was in control.

Briefly review the lesson from Sunday morning and read Joshua 6:13-16, 20.

#### Illustrations and Applications

1. *Objective: Help students understand the need to follow God’s instructions whether or not we understand why He made them.*

Give one student a set of instructions that may seem silly to them. You may use the suggestions in the left hand column of the table below. Repeat the second and third actions six times alternately. From the students’ point of view, they likely cannot make any sense of

the instructions. After they follow the instructions, you explain your logic – that the actions were symbolic of what Israel did at Jericho, as indicated in the right hand column.

<i>Instructions</i>	<i>Logic</i>
Walk around the table once	Israel went around the walls of Jericho one time
Tap on the table six times slowly	Israel circled Jericho once a day for six days in a row
Walk to the corner, close your eyes, count to eight	Israel returned to the camp each night and slept
Return to desk and tap seven times quickly	Israel came on the seventh day and circled seven times

Talk with the students about how circling the walls of Jericho must have seemed to Israel. We may not always understand why God commands what He does. But He is God, and we can trust Him. He knows what He is doing.

2. *Objective: To impress students with the power of God as He took people into the Promised Land.*

Turn chairs so the backs will face outward to use as the walls of the city of Jericho. Set them up in a rough circle in the middle of the room. Provide a paper sword for the captain of the Lord's army. Select a student to be Joshua, another to be the captain of the Lord's army, and a third to be Rahab. The rest of the students will be the people of Israel. Don't forget to designate Rahab's house and to attach a red cord coming from it. Provide a box to represent the ark of the covenant, and roll a piece of heavy paper into a cone shape to represent a ram's horn. Place Rahab inside the city watching what happens around the city walls. Read Joshua 5:13-15 and have the students reenact Joshua's seeing the captain of the Lord's army, assuring him for battle. Read Joshua 6:6-14 and have the students reenact the people of Israel circling Jericho six times. Read Joshua 6:15-21 while the students reenact the events of the seventh day. They turn over the chairs to represent the walls falling down. Once the walls fall, Rahab is rescued.

This activity is designed to make an impression on the students about the unusual yet powerful way God fought for Israel at Jericho. It also provides an opportunity to discuss following God's will carefully. After the reenactment, allow the students to discuss how they felt in the various roles and what impressed them about the events. Talk about how important it was to do just what God said and that we must do this, too.

**Things to Get or Do  
for Wednesday Night**

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3. *Objective: Demonstrate how character can influence others for good and help them know God.*

The spies promised Rahab they would return and take care of her. They did what they said they would do. Rahab learned about God and came to believe in Him. Write both good and bad behaviors on cards, such as lying, keeping our promises, cheating, stealing, respecting adults, being kind, and sharing. Have students divide cards into those that will and will not have a good influence on others. Lead students to discuss how these behaviors may lead others to or away from God.