11

The Battle Belongs to the Lord

Key References: Joshua 5:13–6:20; *Partiarchs and Prophets*, chap. 45, pp. 487–498; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 3, pp. 85–91; Our Beliefs, nos. 17, 11, 8















power**text**

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Romans 8:37).

power**point**



God has already won the battle for us.

Think of a time a tough situation made you wonder how much God loved you. Maybe it was a hard time at school or in your own home. Joshua faced a rather large problem too.

The proud walled city sat at the edge of a beautiful plain, filled with shady trees and good things to eat. Horse-drawn chariots of war could be seen coming and going through the city gates. Inside the gates stood palaces and temples to the goddess of fertility. Not far away flowed the Jordan River. The Israelites camped near the river God had recently stopped for them to cross.

Joshua, the new commander of the Israelites, slipped from his tent and walked past the rows and rows of similar tents to the edge of the plain. Before Joshua lay the city of Jericho with its mighty walls. It would be impossible to get over the walls or march through the gates. He remembered that God had promised them the victory. Somehow God was going to conquer this land for them, one city at a time. But how?

Suddenly Joshua realized that someone was there with him. He looked up. A man with a drawn sword stood just ahead of him. "Sir," Joshua spoke respectfully, "are you for us or for our enemy?" His hand slid to his sword hilt, just in case.

"Neither," the man's deep, pleasant voice responded. "I have come as the Commander of the army of the Lord." Joshua took his hand off

Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 88.

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Sunday

READ Read Romans 8:37 and this week's story, "The Battle Belongs to the Lord."

CREATE Draw or create a ram's horn trumpet and write your power text, Romans 8:37, on it, or write the text where you can see it all week and begin to learn it.

ASK Ask an adult to tell you about the biggest battle they ever fought and what they learned from it.

PRAY Ask God to show you how He has won the battle for you.

Monday

REVIEW Review the story in Joshua 5 and 6.

THINK What advantage did Joshua and the Israelite army have? What advantages did the enemy have? What might God be trying to tell you about your advantages?

WRITE Record your answer in your Bible study journal.

PRAY Thank God for having won the battle for you.

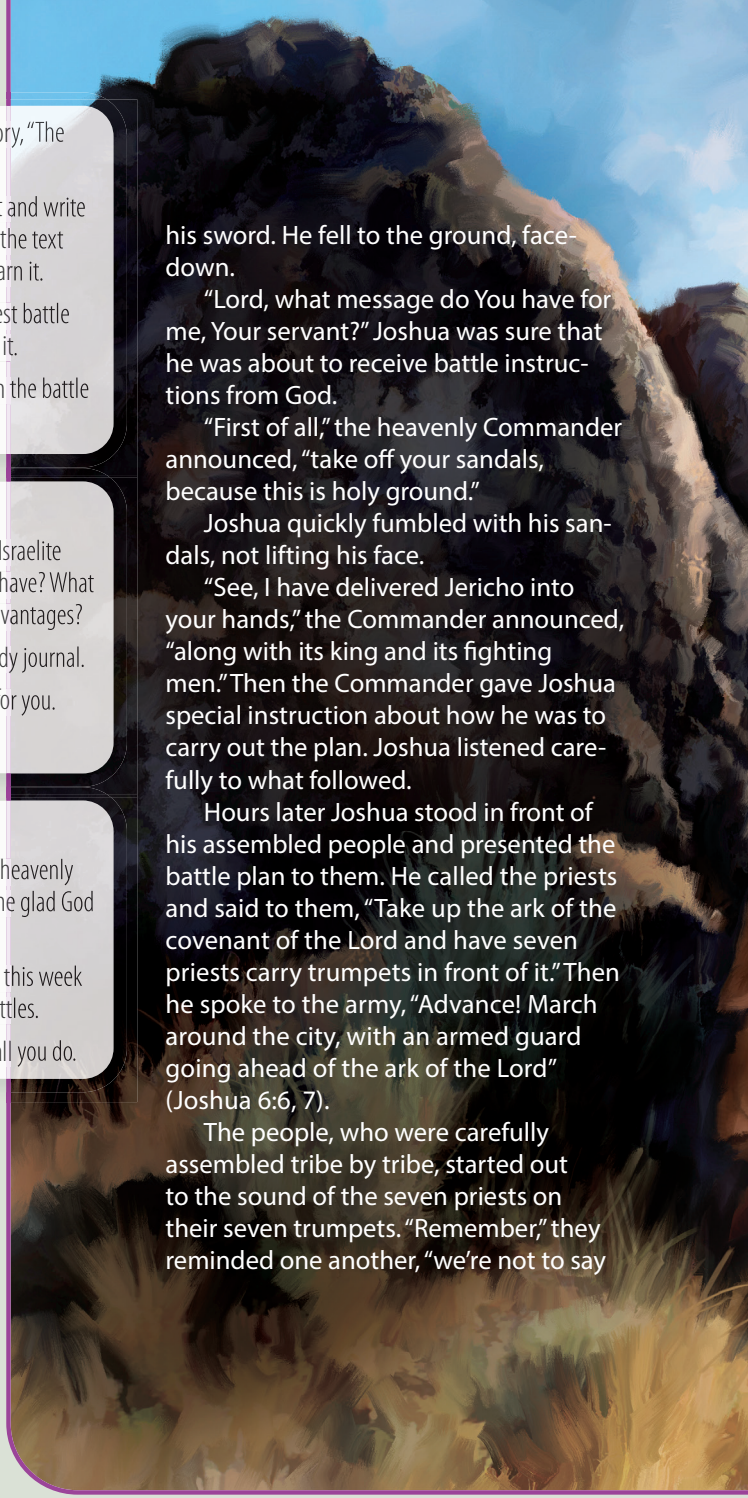
Tuesday

READ Read Joshua 5:13-15 again.

THINK How did Joshua show respect to the heavenly Commander? As leader of the Israelites, was he glad God was the real leader?

PLAN Plan how you will show more respect this week to God, the commander in chief of all your battles.

PRAY Ask God to help you to honor Him in all you do.



his sword. He fell to the ground, face-down.

"Lord, what message do You have for me, Your servant?" Joshua was sure that he was about to receive battle instructions from God.

"First of all," the heavenly Commander announced, "take off your sandals, because this is holy ground."

Joshua quickly fumbled with his sandals, not lifting his face.

"See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands," the Commander announced, "along with its king and its fighting men." Then the Commander gave Joshua special instruction about how he was to carry out the plan. Joshua listened carefully to what followed.

Hours later Joshua stood in front of his assembled people and presented the battle plan to them. He called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it." Then he spoke to the army, "Advance! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the Lord" (Joshua 6:6, 7).

The people, who were carefully assembled tribe by tribe, started out to the sound of the seven priests on their seven trumpets. "Remember," they reminded one another, "we're not to say



Wednesday

READ Read Romans 8:37-39 and 1 John 3:8.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write how you think these verses relate to the story of God's winning the battle of Jericho for the Israelites.

DRAW Draw a picture of your biggest battle with something this week.

PRAY Thank God for having already won the battle for you.

Thursday

READ Read Joshua 6:3-5.

THINK Why do you think Joshua was given these instructions for the battle?

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write a conversation between God and Joshua regarding these instructions.

PRAY Ask God to show you the instructions He has for you in His Word.

Friday

READ Read Hebrews 2:14, 15.

WRITE Create a song, poem, or prayer of thanksgiving and praise to God, the winner of your battles.

SHARE Share it with your family at worship. Place it in your Bible to share at Sabbath School tomorrow.

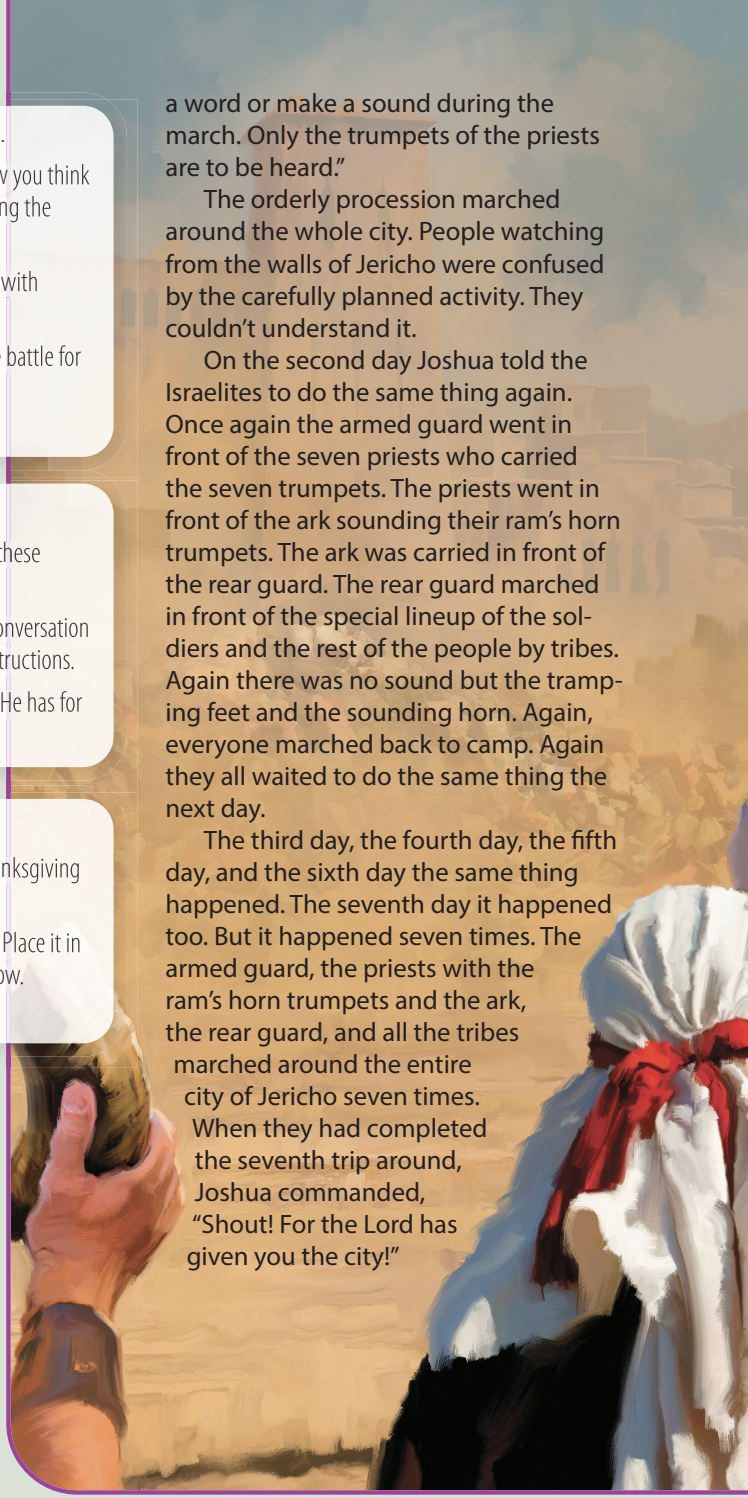
PRAY Thank God for giving you the victory.

a word or make a sound during the march. Only the trumpets of the priests are to be heard."

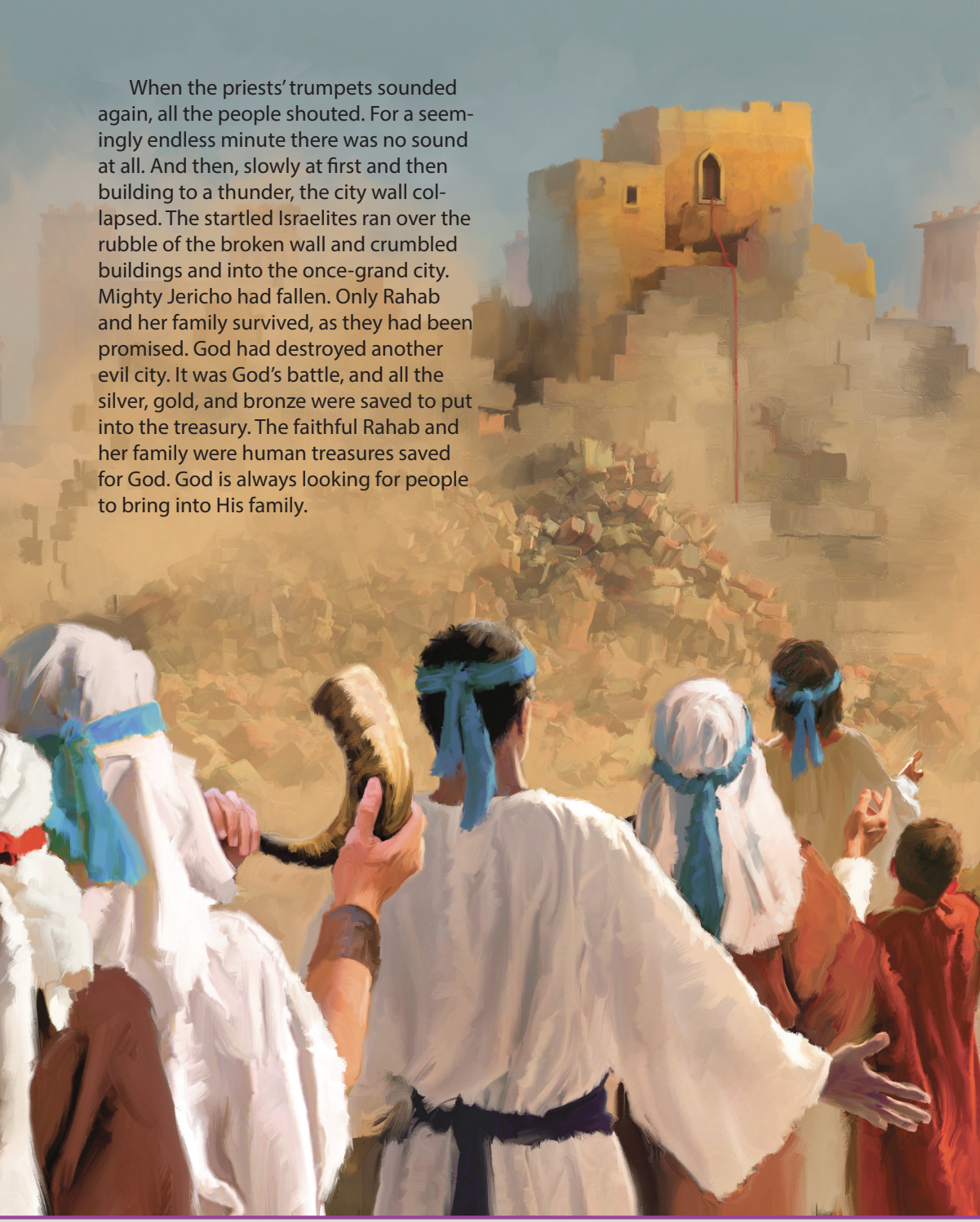
The orderly procession marched around the whole city. People watching from the walls of Jericho were confused by the carefully planned activity. They couldn't understand it.

On the second day Joshua told the Israelites to do the same thing again. Once again the armed guard went in front of the seven priests who carried the seven trumpets. The priests went in front of the ark sounding their ram's horn trumpets. The ark was carried in front of the rear guard. The rear guard marched in front of the special lineup of the soldiers and the rest of the people by tribes. Again there was no sound but the tramping feet and the sounding horn. Again, everyone marched back to camp. Again they all waited to do the same thing the next day.

The third day, the fourth day, the fifth day, and the sixth day the same thing happened. The seventh day it happened too. But it happened seven times. The armed guard, the priests with the ram's horn trumpets and the ark, the rear guard, and all the tribes marched around the entire city of Jericho seven times. When they had completed the seventh trip around, Joshua commanded, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city!"



When the priests' trumpets sounded again, all the people shouted. For a seemingly endless minute there was no sound at all. And then, slowly at first and then building to a thunder, the city wall collapsed. The startled Israelites ran over the rubble of the broken wall and crumbled buildings and into the once-grand city. Mighty Jericho had fallen. Only Rahab and her family survived, as they had been promised. God had destroyed another evil city. It was God's battle, and all the silver, gold, and bronze were saved to put into the treasury. The faithful Rahab and her family were human treasures saved for God. God is always looking for people to bring into His family.



PUZZLE
11

THE WAR IS WON

Instructions: Why worry about the battles if the war is already won? Jesus defeated Satan on the cross; the war is won, as this rebus of a Bible verse illustrates.



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HAVE
COME

3-RE

