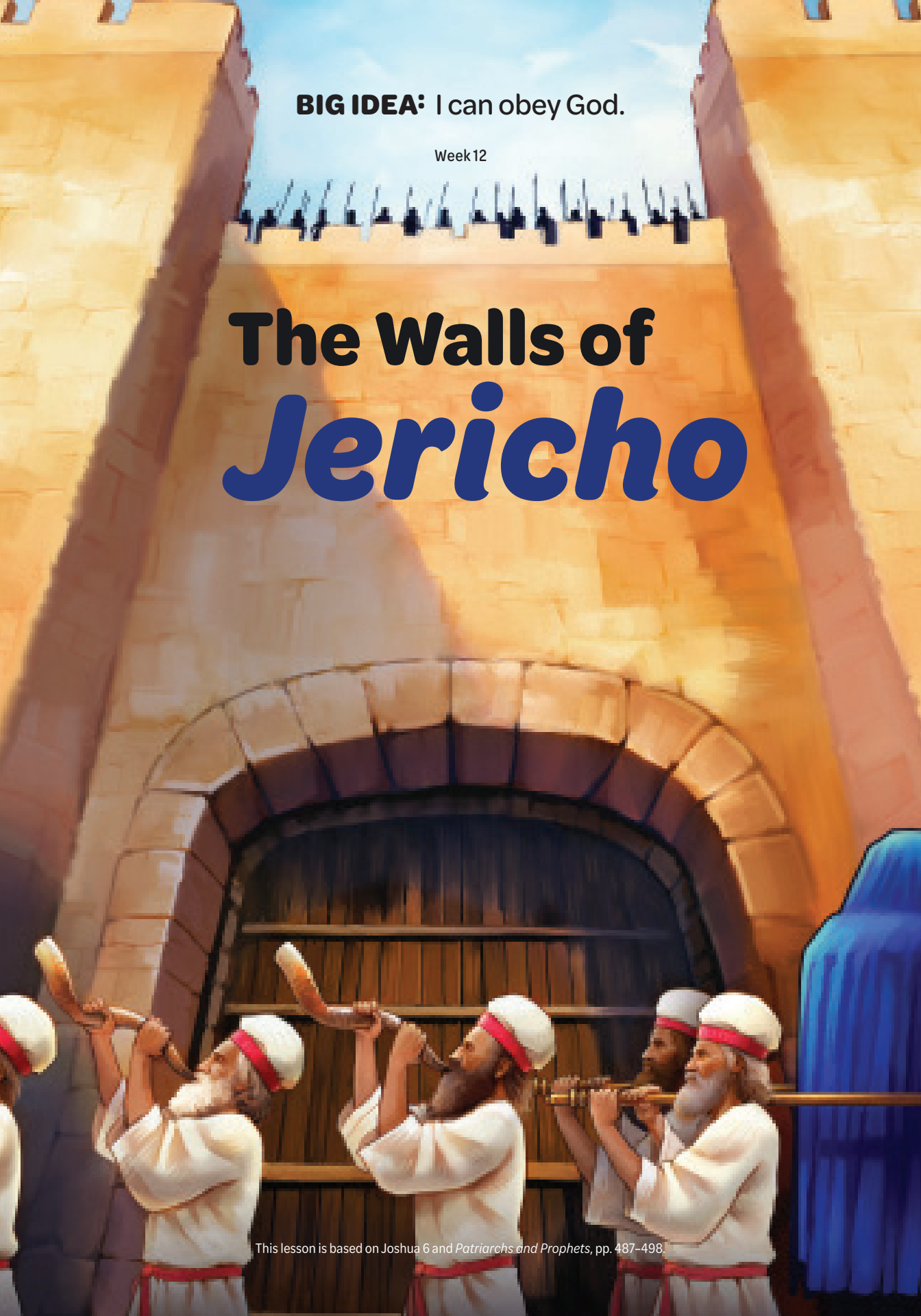
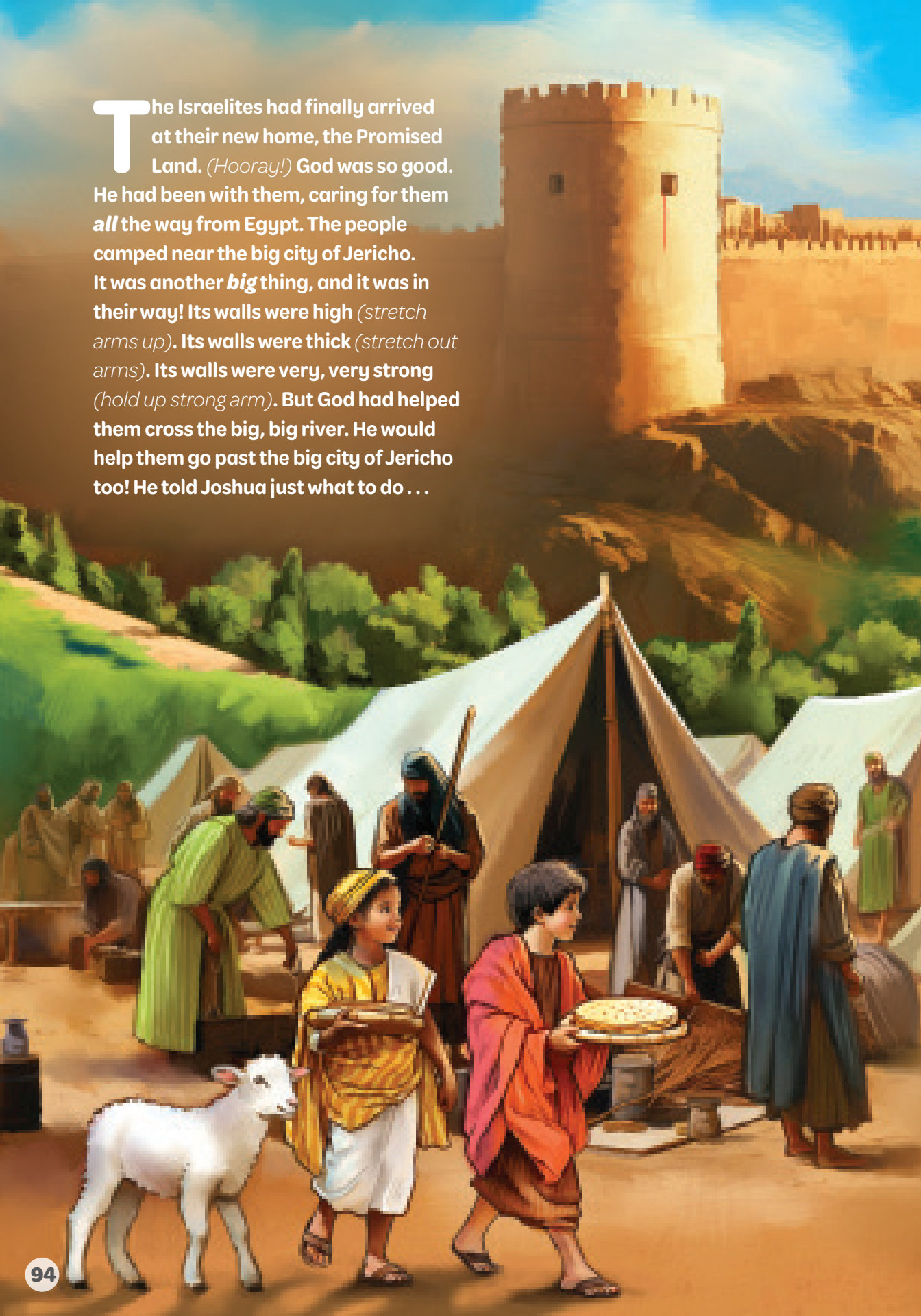
BIG IDEA: I can obey God.

Week 12

The Walls of Jericho



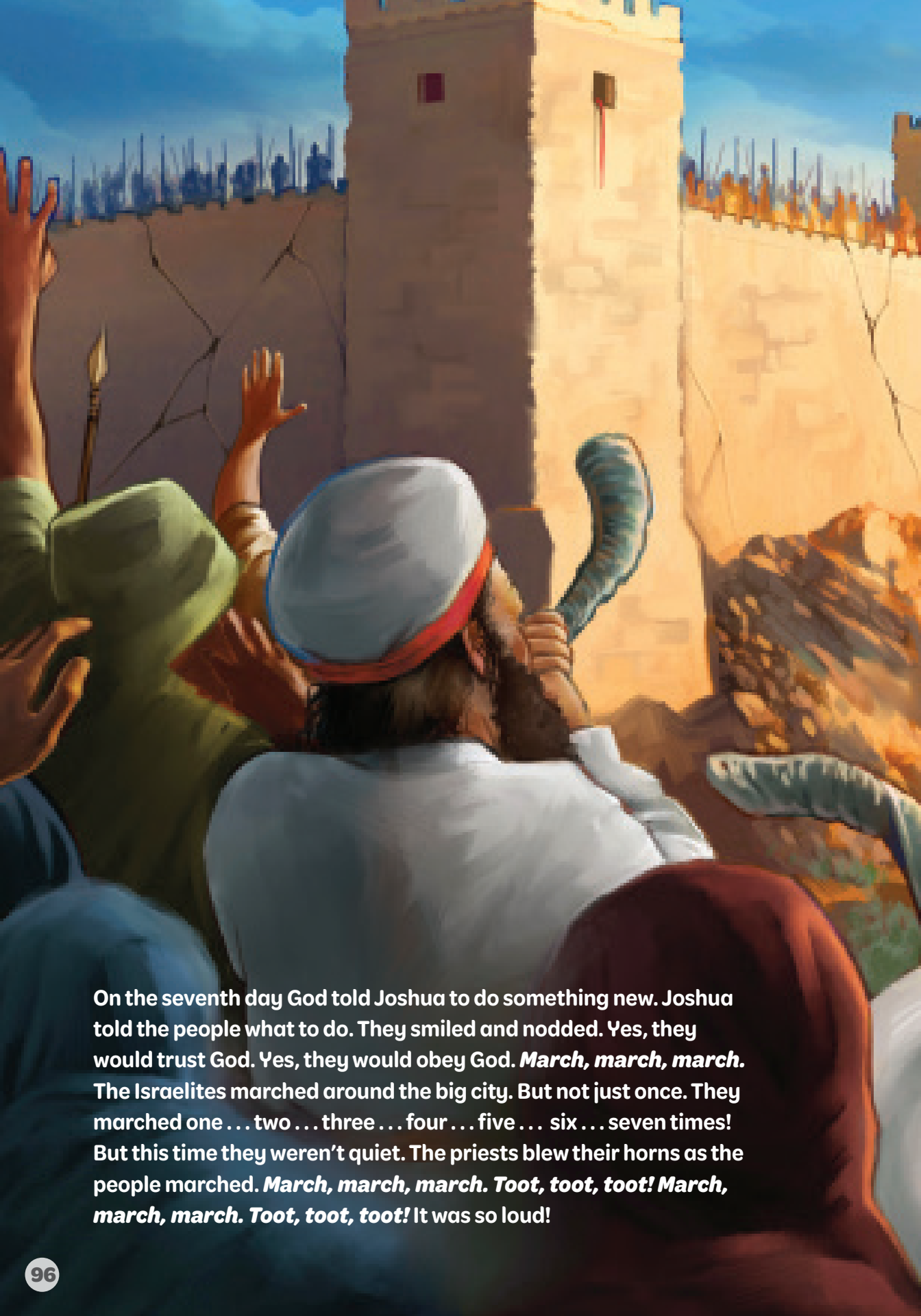
This lesson is based on Joshua 6 and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 487–498.



The Israelites had finally arrived at their new home, the Promised Land. *(Hooray!)* **God was so good. He had been with them, caring for them *all* the way from Egypt. The people camped near the big city of Jericho. It was another *big* thing, and it was in their way! Its walls were high** *(stretch arms up)***. Its walls were thick** *(stretch out arms)***. Its walls were very, very strong** *(hold up strong arm)***. But God had helped them cross the big, big river. He would help them go past the big city of Jericho too! He told Joshua just what to do . . .**



The people woke up early. They left their tents, their sheep, and their warm bread behind. Quickly and quietly they marched around the big walls of Jericho. ***March, march, march.*** Shh! No one said a word. ***March, march, march.*** Then they came back to camp, patted their sheep, and ate their bread. The next day they did it again! They marched once around the city for one . . . two . . . three . . . four . . . five . . . six days! The people didn't know how this marching would help. But they obeyed God.



On the seventh day God told Joshua to do something new. Joshua told the people what to do. They smiled and nodded. Yes, they would trust God. Yes, they would obey God. ***March, march, march.*** The Israelites marched around the big city. But not just once. They marched one . . . two . . . three . . . four . . . five . . . six . . . seven times! But this time they weren't quiet. The priests blew their horns as the people marched. ***March, march, march. Toot, toot, toot! March, march, march. Toot, toot, toot!*** It was so loud!



After seven marches around the city, the priests gave one long blow on their trumpets. *T-o-o-t!* Then Joshua told all the people, "Now shout!" (Joshua 6:16, ICB)**. The people shouted! The trumpets blew! Then a different sound came. Rumble, rumble, CRASH! God brought the walls of Jericho tumbling down!**



Nothing is too big or too hard for God! We can trust Him to be our leader. When God tells us in the Bible to be loving and kind to others, we can obey—even when it's hard. When God tells us in the Bible to help others, we can obey—even when we'd rather be playing. When God tells us in the Bible to tell others about His love, we can obey—even if we feel shy. God wants the very best for us. He will help us. He crashed down the big walls of Jericho. He can do anything!

Thank You, God. You are mighty! *(Say together)* **I want to trust and obey You!**

play throughout the day

Create

Build a little city of Jericho using blocks, dominos, paper cups, or empty boxes. Pretend to be the Israelites and march around it. Count seven times and then bring the walls down with a great big CRASH!

Explore

Share how the Israelites had to trust God and obey Him, even though they didn't know what was going to happen. Blindfold your child and take their hand. Walk them around the room, going around obstacles, and talk about how they can trust you because you are leading them. Let go of their hand and give instructions. Ask your child to obey. Take the blindfold off. Share how we can trust God and know that when we obey Him, He'll always lead us in the best way.

Learn

Practice counting to seven. Go outside and count seven things that are alike (leaves, flowers, rocks), or find seven items inside that are alike (toys, cutlery, socks). This was the special number. God had asked His people to walk around the city seven times on the seventh day.

Make

Decorate a piece of paper with crayons, paint, or glitter. Roll the paper to make a trumpet and tape together. Let your child walk around the room pretending to blow on their trumpet.

Pray

Act out the story of the Israelites marching around the city of Jericho for worship. After the "walls come down," kneel together as a family and thank God for always being with us.



Extension weekly memory verse: Extend last week's extension memory verse. "Do not be afraid . . . for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

The battle of Jericho was indeed a test of faith for the Israelites. The Commander of the Lord's army appeared to Joshua alone and told him the plan to take the city. It was up to the Israelites to fully trust and obey the commands given to Joshua by God Himself.

Imagine walking around the walls of the city of Jericho thinking, *How are we seriously going to take this city?* They had to fully put their trust in God. The miracle wasn't instant. It took a whole week! A whole week of walking, following, and obeying. A whole week of being ridiculed by the enemy. "But the very plan of continuing this ceremony through so long a time prior to the final overthrow of the walls afforded opportunity for the development of faith among the Israelites. It was to be impressed upon their minds that their strength was not in the wisdom of man, nor in his might, but only in the God of their salvation. They were thus to become accustomed to relying wholly upon their divine Leader" (Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 493).

God wants us to rely upon Him too. We can choose to put our trust in Him, and obey Him, even when it seems as if He isn't working, or it seems as if it's taking a long time for our prayers to be answered. We can trust that He is always at work, even when we can't see it! This is how our faith grows. "It was by faith that the walls of Jericho fell. They fell after the people had marched around the walls of Jericho for seven days" (Hebrews 11:30).

Will you place your confidence in God today? Will you follow His lead?

