

God Gives His People a New Land

God's people, the Israelites, had been slaves in Egypt. But God had helped them escape, and now God was ready to give them a new homeland called Canaan. The people of Canaan did not worship God. They worshipped imaginary gods called idols. Because of this, God was going to take Canaan away from them and give it to Israel.

The first city the Israelites needed to take control of in Canaan was Jericho. Joshua, the Israelites' leader, sent two men to check out the city. These two spies found a hiding place in the house of a woman named Rahab.

Rahab told the men, "We are afraid of you, for we know that your God is the God of the heavens and the earth. He has given you this land. Please promise that you will spare my life and my family's life when you take over Jericho."

The two spies promised that Rahab and her family would be safe. Rahab's house was built on the thick wall that went all the way around Jericho. From one of her windows, she let down a rope so the men could slide down to the ground and escape.

The men told Rahab, "When our army comes, hang this red rope from your window so we can see it. If you and your family are in your house, we will save you."

The spies returned to Joshua with the news that the people in Jericho were afraid of the Israelites. "Surely God has given us the land," they said.

But Joshua had a problem. Jericho was on the other side of the Jordan River. The river was flooded and there was no bridge. How could the people get across?

God told Joshua what to do. In the morning, all the Israelites marched to the river like God said. When the people in the front of the line stepped into the water at the edge, the river stopped flowing. On the right, the water piled up in a heap. On the left, the water drained away to the sea. God dried up the riverbed, and the Israelites walked across on the path God had made for them.

God gave the Israelites a plan for attacking Jericho. Following God's plan, Joshua and the people walked around the city one time each day for six days. They didn't say one word.

On the seventh day, the people of Israel marched around Jericho seven times. Finally Joshua ordered, "Shout, for the Lord has given you the city!"

The trumpeters blew a loud blast and the people shouted. The huge walls of Jericho crashed down. The Israelites ran into the city and set it on fire, while the two spies helped Rahab and her family get out safely.

Although Rahab had not been part of God's people, God saved her. Rahab believed in God and wanted to obey Him. She joined the Israelites and lived with them.

From that point on, Joshua and his people spread out over Canaan, living in the land God had given them.

**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
Romans 10:13**

God Gives His People a New Land

Bible Background: Joshua 2, 3, 6

Lesson Aims

To teach that we are sure to win if we do things God's way.

To teach that God saves those who call upon Him.

Object Lesson

Hold up a piece of red string. Tell the children that a string like this was used to save an entire family.

Additional idea: Bring to the children's attention some big wall they will all know about—the wall around the park, a school wall, a retaining wall along the highway, or the wall leading up to a bridge. Ask them if they could remove that wall in just a few days. How? Could they do it just by shouting? Read today's story about the walls of Jericho.

Or, let the students try to knock down the walls of the building by shouting as loud as they can.

Or, show pictures of buildings shaken by an earthquake. In today's lesson, God made large stone wall crumble to pieces even worse than this.

Read or tell the lesson story to the students.

Worksheet 8-A

Do You Remember?

Use the exercise to review today's lesson story. Answers: 1. Joshua, 2. Rahab, 3. Jericho, 4. red, 5. God, 6. river (or water), 7. path, 8. seven, 9. trumpet.

On the Seventh Day

God's instructions to the Israelites must have seemed strange. But when the Israelites trusted God and obeyed, they won. Answer: *Shout, for the Lord has given you the city.*

Discuss how obeying God's instructions always works out best in the long run. Should we disobey God if instructions in the Bible seem strange?

Worksheet 8-B

Added to God's People

Use this exercise to show God's willingness to save anyone no matter their age, race, or background. Answer: *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

Discuss: What does it mean to "call upon the name of the Lord?" What did God save Rahab from? What can God save us from?

Verse to Remember

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:13

Do You Remember?

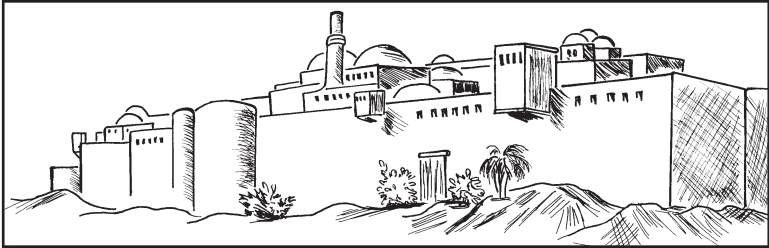
Write the missing word from each sentence in the boxes.

1. ? was the Israelites' leader.
2. A woman named ? hid God's two spies.
3. The spies checked out the city of ? .
4. The spies told Rahab to tie a ? rope in her window.
5. The spies said that ? had surely given them the land.
6. When their feet touched the ? it stopped flowing.
7. God made a ? right through the river.
8. God's people marched around Jericho ? days.
9. When the people shouted and the ? were blown, the walls of Jericho crashed down.

On the Seventh Day

Find what Joshua told the people to do, and why. Circle every other letter.

The first one is done for you.

U	L	T	P	F	Q	O	S	R	X	T	B	H	J	E	A	L					
F																R					
O	S	O	H	U	W	T	C	H	Z	E	S	C	O	I	M	O					
K																W					
H																N	X	Y	F	R	I
M																E	K	V	L	I	T
S																I					

Start

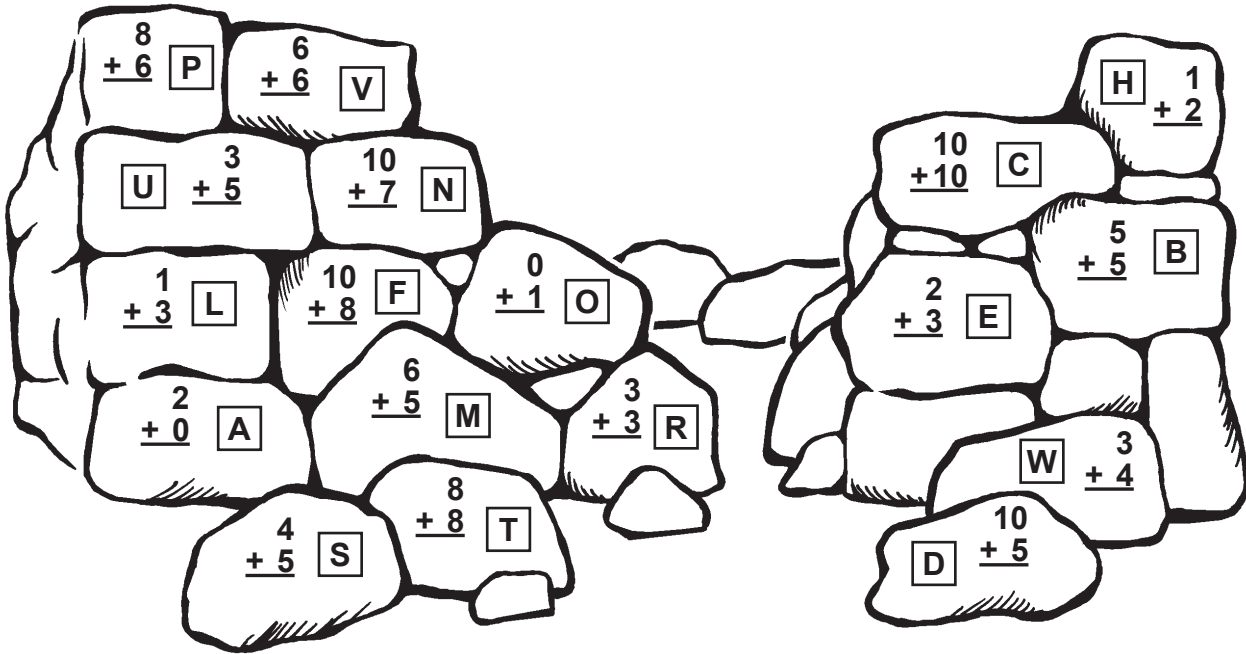
Write the letters in the order you circled them.

“ _____ , _____ .”

Added to God's People

Though Rahab's city and her people were destroyed, God saved her. Why?

Do the math in each rock. Write the correct letter on each line below.



$$\overline{18} \quad \overline{1} \quad \overline{6} \quad \overline{7} \quad \overline{3} \quad \overline{1} \quad \overline{9} \quad \overline{1} \quad \overline{5} \quad \overline{12} \quad \overline{5} \quad \overline{6} \quad \overline{9} \quad \overline{3} \quad \overline{2} \quad \overline{4} \quad \overline{4}$$

$$\overline{20} \quad \overline{2} \quad \overline{4} \quad \overline{4} \quad \overline{8} \quad \overline{14} \quad \overline{1} \quad \overline{17} \quad \overline{16} \quad \overline{3} \quad \overline{5} \quad \overline{17} \quad \overline{2} \quad \overline{11} \quad \overline{5}$$

$$\overline{1} \quad \overline{18} \quad \overline{16} \quad \overline{3} \quad \overline{5} \quad \overline{4} \quad \overline{1} \quad \overline{6} \quad \overline{15} \quad \overline{9} \quad \overline{3} \quad \overline{2} \quad \overline{4} \quad \overline{4}$$

$$\overline{10} \quad \overline{5} \quad \overline{9} \quad \overline{2} \quad \overline{12} \quad \overline{5} \quad \overline{15} \quad \text{Romans 10:13}$$

ANSWER KEY

8 – A

Do You Remember?

Write the missing word from each sentence in the boxes.

1. ? was the Israelites' leader.
2. A woman named ? hid God's two spies.
3. The spies checked out the city of ?.
4. The spies told Rahab to tie a ? rope in her window.
5. The spies said that ? had surely given them the land.
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J	O	S	H	U	A		
	R	A	H	A	B		
J	E	R	I	C	H	O	
				R	E	D	
				G	O	D	
	R	I	V	E	R		
		P	A	T	H		
		S	E	V	E	N	
T	R	U	M	P	E	T	S

On the Seventh Day

Find what Joshua told the people to do, and why. Circle every other letter. The first one is done for you.

Start

Write the letters in the order you circled them.

"S H O U T, F O R T H E L O R D H A S
G I V E N Y O U T H E C I T Y."

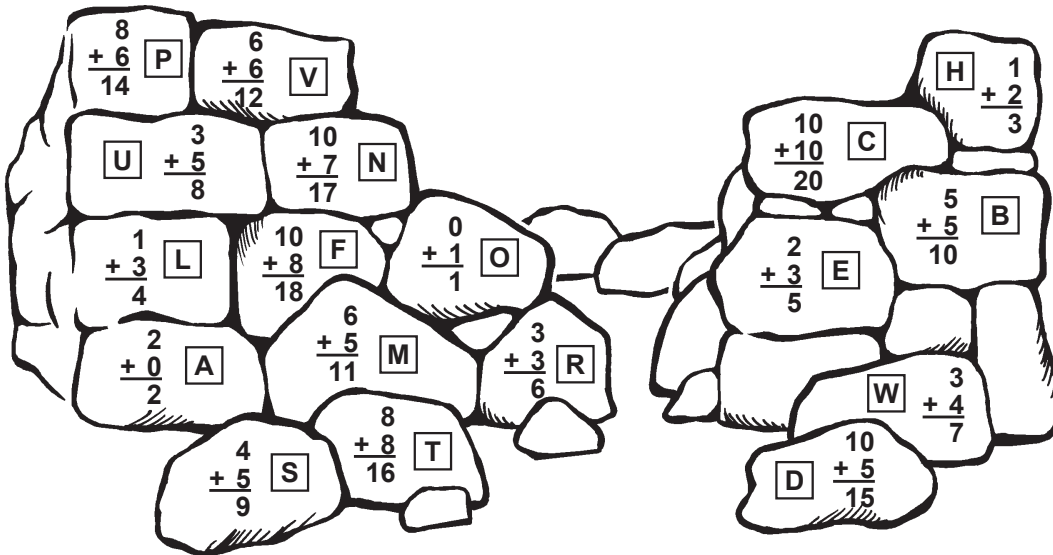
ANSWER KEY

8 – B

Added to God's People

Though Rahab's city and her people were destroyed, God saved her. Why?

Do the math in each rock. Write the correct letter on each line below.



F O R W H O S O E V E R S H A L L
 18 1 6 7 3 1 9 1 5 12 5 6 9 3 2 4 4

C A L L U P O N T H E N A M E
 20 2 4 4 8 14 1 17 16 3 5 17 2 11 5

O F T H E L O R D S H A L L
 1 18 16 3 5 4 1 6 15 9 3 2 4 4

B E S A V E D . Romans 10:13
 10 5 9 2 12 5 15

Jesus' Sermon on the Mountain

Jesus traveled from town to town, teaching people and healing those who were sick. He became famous, and many people came to see Him and listen to Him. One day Jesus and His listeners sat on the side of a mountain. Jesus taught the crowd how God wanted them to live. We often call this The Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus told about the kingdom of Heaven and how to be part of it. The things Jesus taught were new to everyone.

Jesus said the people in the kingdom of Heaven are like lights to the rest of the world. "Let your light shine before others so they may see you and praise God," Jesus said. He taught that doing good things was being a light, while doing wrong was like walking in the dark.

Jesus taught the people how to get along with each other. The crowd learned that not only was it wrong to kill someone, it was also wrong to hate them.

This was something new. Jesus didn't talk only about things people do; He also talked about how our attitudes and thoughts can be right or wrong. Jesus taught that the way we think about other people is important to God.

Jesus said the right thing for us to do is to love people who hurt us instead of hate them. He pointed out that God is kind to people who don't like Him, so we should be kind to everyone too. God sends sunshine and rain to people who love Him and people who don't.

Instead of being angry at someone, Jesus showed that we should forgive. He said that if we don't forgive those who hurt us, God will not forgive us either. Jesus said, "Treat others the way you would like them to treat you."

Jesus also talked about money. "Don't store up treasures and wealth on earth," He told His followers. He reminded them that money can be lost or stolen. "God will give you treasures in Heaven that will never be stolen," Jesus said.

Jesus said that if we are in God's kingdom, we become God's children—part of His family. We can pray to God anytime and God will hear and answer our prayers. Jesus taught that God is good and kind and enjoys giving good things to His children.

Jesus ended his sermon with a story. In the story, two men built houses. One of the men was foolish. He built his house on sandy soil with no foundation. The other man was wise; he built his house on a rock.

After the houses were finished, a storm blew in. The rain and wind beat on the two houses. The foolish man's house collapsed on the sand, but the wise man's house stood firm on the rock.

"If you hear what I say, and obey the rules of My kingdom, then you are like the wise man who built his house on the rock," Jesus told the people.

The people were surprised at the things Jesus taught. They knew He taught with more authority than their own religious leaders.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Matthew 7:2

Jesus' Sermon on the Mountain

Bible Background: Matthew 5—7

Lesson Aims

To introduce Jesus' rules for living in the kingdom of Heaven as given in the Sermon on the Mount.

To teach that God is the one who sets the standard for who will go to Heaven.

Object Lesson

Turn out the lights and light a candle. Remark on what can be seen in its light. Cover the candle with something such as a metal mixing bowl. The candle is no longer serving its purpose of giving light. In today's lesson, we learn that our lives can be a lot like that candle.

Additional idea: Discuss some features of nature such as rain and sunshine that everyone receives. These are gifts from God, and He gives them even to those who don't believe in Him. Is it fair that God allows these people to enjoy these gifts? In our lesson today, we learn that God wants us to be kind even to those who hate us.

Read or tell the lesson story to the students.

Worksheet 26-A

Living in God's Kingdom

You may wish to do this exercise as a group, discussing Kingdom principles as you do. Answers: 1. light, wrong, 2. kill, hate, 3. attitudes, actions, 4. love, 5. forgive, forgive, 6. wealth, 7. worry, take care, 8. kingdom, children, 9. hear, answer, 10. wise, Jesus, obey.

Discuss: Are the rules Jesus explained easy or hard to obey? Why does God care about our attitudes and thoughts, not only what we do and say?

Worksheet 26-B

Old Ways and Kingdom Ways

Everyone in the kingdom of Heaven has experienced a heart change that shows up in their responses to life. Answers: 1. promises, 2. imitate Jesus, 3. never hate, 4. give, poor, 5. angry; 6. tell, Jesus, 7. strong, 8. good, 9. mercy, forgive, 10. love, enemies, 11 enjoy, care, 12. Jesus.

Discuss: Do you have any enemies? What are some ways you can be kind to (love) them this week?

Verse to Remember

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 7:2

Living in God's Kingdom

Jesus taught that living in the kingdom of Heaven means living unselfishly and caring about others. **Unscramble the words** so that these sentences make sense. The first letter of each word is underlined.

1. Doing good things is like being a (GILTH) _____ while doing (GWORN) _____ is like walking in the dark.
2. It's not only wrong to (LKLI) _____ people, but it's also wrong to (TEAH) _____ them.
3. Our (ITUTASETD) _____ matter to God as much as our (CSOTIAN) _____ do.
4. (VELO) _____ your enemies.
5. If we don't (OGVRIEE) _____ people who hurt us, God won't (EFGORVI) _____ us, either.
6. Don't store up a lot of (HAWTLE) _____ here on earth.
7. Don't (OYRWR) _____, because God will (KEAT) (RACE) _____ of you.
8. People in the (NMKGOID) _____ of God become His (NHLERDIC) _____.
9. God will (ERAH) _____ and (RENSAW) _____ the prayers of His children.
10. (EIWS) _____ people will listen to (SEUSJ) _____ and (YBEO) _____ His teachings.

Old Ways and Kingdom Ways

Jesus taught a new set of rules for His followers to live by.

On the left are some ways people act before they enter God's kingdom. On the right, fill in the blanks to show Jesus' new way of living.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Break your word if you need to. | K | Keep your p_____. |
| 2. Act good outwardly. | I | mi_____ J_____ from your heart. |
| 3. Hate mean people. | N | e_____ h_____ anyone. |
| 4. Store up your wealth on earth. | G | i_____ to the p_____. |
| 5. Want to kill those who deserve to die. | D | on 't even be a_____ with others. |
| 6. Keep quiet about your faith. | O | penly t_____ people you follow J_____. |
| 7. Be like a house built on sand. | M | ake your life s_____; build on a rock. |
| | | |
| 8. Get even when someone hurts you. | R | espond with something g_____ instead evil. |
| 9. Remember the wrongs people do. | U | se mer_____; f_____ them. |
| 10. Love only those who treat you well. | L | _____ your e_____. |
| 11. Worry about having what you need. | E | nj_____ trusting God to take c_____ of you. |
| 12. Do good things so people notice you. | S | hine for J_____ so God receives credit. |