

## Today's Suggested Schedule—June 2021, Week 2

*Note: This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both Large and Small Group time.*

**Today's Bible Story:** Cities in Dust (Israel Captures Jericho) • *Joshua 5:13–6:20*

**Today's Bottom Line:** God's plan is the best plan.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Psalm 27:13 (NIV)*

**Monthly Life App:** Confidence—learning to see yourself the way God sees you

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

### SMALL GROUP (15 minutes)

**SOCIAL:** Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver:

**Opening Activity:** The children will come in and will make trumpets for today's lesson.

We will reenforce the:

**1. Monthly Memory Verse:** *I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Psalm 27:13 (NIV)*

**2. Monthly Life App:** Confidence—learning to see yourself the way God sees you

**3. Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

**1** **Video:** *Countdown (30 second version)*

**2** **Video:** *Theme*

**LINDA: Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

"There are lots of things that can make us feel confident, but do you know where TRUE confidence comes from?"

"THAT'S what gives you the confidence to be your true self. When you know how much God loves you, you can take on anything life throws your way!"

Today we are going to learn about a man named Joshua and how he trusted God and how he had confidence that God would be with him in a special battle.

First, we are going to play a game:

1. **Crossing the Jordan:** Place 2 ropes parallel to each other on the floor. Explain to the students that the space between the ropes is a raging river. Have the children jump across the "river" one at a time or in a group. Continue to widen the area between the ropes until it is impossible to cross. Ask, how are we going to get across the river if we can't jump over it? Tell them Joshua

and the Israelites had to cross a big raging river, just wait till you see what God did so they could cross the river.

**FANNY:**

“That was EPIC! Wow! So much fun!

“Everyone, stay on your feet. Now that we’re warmed up, let’s keep standing while we sing some songs and worship God together!”

First does anyone have a prayer request or a thanksgiving. Lead the children in prayer and collect an offering.

**WORSHIP LEADER:** “It always helps when you can follow along with someone who really knows what they’re doing. That’s true about our relationship with God, too! Remember, God has a good plan for our lives. We can choose to live His way because we know it’s the BEST way. Let’s sing out and tell Jesus that we’ll trust Him, through all the good times and the tough times in life.

**3** **AUDIO:** “Jesus I Will Trust You” / track 2 from This Love

“Listen to what David wrote in Psalm 138:8 (NIRV): *LORD, you will show that I was right to trust you. LORD, your faithful love continues forever. You have done so much for us, so don’t stop now. God is so good to us! Let’s keep praising Him together.*

**4** **AUDIO:** “Trust You with My Heart” / track 9 from This Love

**5** **Video:** Theme

“I’m so glad to know that **[Basic Truth]** I can trust God no matter what! You can all have a seat now.”

**Linda : BIBLE STORY : SETTING UP THE STORY**

**LEADER:** “God’s people, the Israelites, had been slaves in Egypt. God rescued them and set them free . . . and after 40 years of wandering in the desert, they finally reached the land God had promised them.

“The priests carried the ark. This wasn’t like Noah’s ark, but rather a beautiful chest that somehow carried God’s presence. It reminded the Israelites that God was with them.

“The leader of the Israelites was named Joshua. God told Joshua what to do when they arrived at the Jordan River, and Joshua obeyed as he led them to the water’s edge. As soon as the priests stepped into the Jordan, it stopped flowing, just as God had said! The waters parted, and God’s people crossed on dry land—just as God had led them through the Red Sea 40 years before!

“The Amorites and Canaanites living in the land heard what God had done, and they were afraid. They retreated to their towns—including the high-walled city of Jericho. They weren’t brave enough to face God’s people.”

**THE MESSAGE**

**LEADER:** “When Joshua was near Jericho, he spotted a man standing nearby. The man was holding a

sword, ready for battle!

“Joshua went up and asked the man if he was on the Israelites’ side or the side of their enemies. Here’s what the man said.

*“I am not on either side,” he replied. “I have come as the commander of the LORD’s army.”*

“Joshua knelt down with his face to the ground. He asked the commander what message the Lord had for him.

*“The commander of the LORD’s army replied, ‘Take off your sandals. The place you are standing on is holy ground.’*

“Quickly, Joshua tugged off his sandals. Then God gave Joshua an important message—a battle plan unlike any other! Joshua called for the priests and set the plan in motion.”

## THE PLAN

**LEADER:** “Joshua started by giving a job to the priests. Here’s what he told them.

*“Go and get the ark of the covenant of the LORD. I want seven of you to carry trumpets in front of it.*

**Fanny:** “Hand out the trumpets and kazoos to the children and explain Miss Linda will tell them when to blow them. Show them the conductor sign to stop.

“Next, Joshua gathered the army and gave them an order. He said . . .

*“Move out! March around the city. Some of the fighting men must march in front of the ark of the LORD.*

“Now that everyone had their orders, they began to move. Some of the army marched in front to protect the group “Then the seven priests moved forward, blowing the seven trumpets.

“Behind them came the ark of the Lord. The others marched behind the ark to guard it. The entire time they marched, the priests blew the trumpets. *The kids can now blow the kazoos. (Get them to stop with the conductor motion.)*

“But otherwise, they didn’t say a word. That’s because Joshua had told them not to raise their voices or shout—to not even say a word until his command.

“Joshua led the army around the city one time like this. Then he led them back to the camp. That was the first day.

*Hold up the Day 1 sign and drop it.*

“The next day, they did the same thing.

*Hold up the Day 2 sign and drop it.*

“And the next.

*Hold up the Day 3 sign and drop it.*

“In fact, they did the same thing for six days in a row—just blowing their trumpets as they carried the ark once around the city. Let me hear you blow those trumpets and march.”

*As the kids stomp and play their kazoos, hold up and drop the*

*Day 4,  
Day 5,  
and Day 6 signs.*

*(Get them to stop with the conductor motion.)*

## THE GRAND FINALE

**LEADER:** “Then, at dawn on the seventh day, the army and priests formed their parade once more.

*Hold up the Day 7 sign and drop it.*

“This time, though, they marched around the city seven times. When they finished, the priests blew a long blast on their trumpets—just as God had told Joshua. Okay, priests, let’s hear that long blast. *(Hold your hand by your ear.)*

*The kids will blow the kazoos. (Get them to stop with the conductor motion.)*

“Then, Joshua told the army to shout, just as God had told him to do. Let me hear that battle cry! *(Hold your hand by your ear.)*

*Everyone shouts. (Get them to stop with the conductor motion.)*

“When they shouted, the walls of the city of Jericho fell down—just as God said they would! Do you think you can make that sound? *(Hold your hand by your ear.)*

*Everyone makes “walls falling” sounds. (Get them to stop with the conductor motion.)*

“As the air cleared, the Israelites stared in amazement. The city was wide open! With nothing to stand in their way, the Israelites charged right in. And that day, they completely defeated the city of Jericho!

“Great job with the sound effects, everyone. Now let’s watch the video....

**6** **Video: Bible Story**

**7** **Graphic: Press Play**

## FANNY: WRAPPING UP THE STORY

**LEADER:** “God was with Joshua, and Joshua became well-known everywhere in the land—all because he chose to trust God. He knew that God is trustworthy, and that meant God’s plan was trustworthy, too.

**8** **SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line]** “God’s plan is the best plan.

“The battle plan God gave to Joshua might have seemed strange to others, and maybe even to Joshua. But because Joshua trusted God and did what God said, the Israelites were victorious!

“We need to always talk to God about the plans He has for our lives.”

## 9 **SLIDE: Theme Background**

**Linda: CLOSER LEADER:** “We can’t always see how things will work out in God’s plan. Think about what it was like for Joshua and the Israelites when they looked up at the big city walls of Jericho. They had to trust God’s plan in order to win the battle and live in the land God had promised for them.

“Or think about what it was like for Jesus’ disciples when Jesus died on the cross. They must have been so confused about how such a sad, awful thing could be part of God’s plan. But everything made sense later when they saw how Jesus came back to life—and when Jesus explained why everything had happened the way it did.

“Sometimes you can’t see exactly how things will turn out. But you can keep following God and choosing to live His way. You can have confidence in Him. You can trust that His plan is always best.

**Fanny: PRAY LEADER:** “Dear God, it’s so good to know that we can always trust You. Sometimes, it’s hard for us to see the full picture of what You’re doing in our lives. But we can see from the story of Joshua and the battle of Jericho that Your plan is the BEST plan. Help us keep trusting You, even when we don’t understand. Help us keep living Your way. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

## 10 **SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line]** “God’s plan is the best plan. Say that with me.”

**Fanny and KIDS: [Bottom Line]** “God’s plan is the best plan.” **LEADER:** “You might not always know what God has planned for your life or for your family. Sometimes things happen that are confusing and just don’t make sense. But through it all, **[Basic Truth]** you can trust God no matter what. You can know that His plan is the best plan.

## 11 **Video: LifeApp\_Transition**

### **Game: Holy Ground: DIM THE LIGHTS**

Divide the children into 2 or more teams for a relay race. Remind students of how the angel told Joshua to take off his shoes because he was standing on Holy Ground. Dim the lights. Tell the children that when you shine the flashlight on them and call their name, they have to stop whatever they are doing and take their shoes off before they continue. You can even shine your light on kids who are standing in line for their turn. The first team to have all of the runners complete the race wins.

Afterward, say I had you take off your shoes just like the angel told Joshua to take off his shoes. Does anyone know why the angel would tell Joshua to take off his shoes?

We have to remember how special God is and we need to show Him respect. In those days, the people took off their shoes to show respect. Today we can show respect to God by stopping what we're doing and listening to God when He wants to talk to us. We can show respect by paying attention in church. We can show show respect by listening when someone is praying or reading the Bible or teaching us about God. We can remember to bring our offering to church to show God that we trust Him and want to help others. Those are all the ways that we can show God that we understand how special He is.

*Discovery*—Listen to God's words (HEAR)

**12** *Dear God*—Dialogue with God (PRAY)

*One Thing*—Articulate your faith (TALK)

*Live Loud*—Worship with your life (LIVE)

**13** *Video: Theme*

**Fanny:** Two jump ropes or two pieces of rope for our first game  
Flashlight

**Linda:** I will bring in the supplies for the trumpets.  
I will get the kazoos.  
I will bring in my version of the Ark of the Covenant.

Let me know if we need to change anything....