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LESSON 1

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

Moses has seen the Promised Land from Mount Nebo, but does not enter it. Instead, before he dies, he tells the people that Joshua will be their new leader. The 40 years of wandering in the wilderness are at an end, and the Israelites may now enter into Canaan. And so, The Rise of Israel begins here, just outside of the borders of Canaan, near the southeast side of the Jordan River.

At this time in history, Canaan was an area in the Middle East with many powerful cities and kingdoms. Joshua and the Israelites had to face these Canaanite peoples in order to win the Promised Land. The first city and kingdom to conquer was Jericho. The story of Jericho's Fall follows this basic order of events:

- Joshua sends two spies to the land.
- The spies lodge at Rahab's house.
- Jericho's king is aware of the spies, and commands Rahab to bring them out, but Rahab hides them.
- The spies promise to spare Rahab and her family because of her help.
- Joshua crosses the Jordan River and marches with the Ark around the city 7 days; on the last day, at the sound of shouts and horns, the walls fall and Jericho is taken.
- Rahab and her family are spared.

VOCABULARY AND EXPRESSIONS

1. **"our hearts melted"**: This is not a romantic expression; rather, it describes utter fright and terror. When they heard what God was doing for the Israelites, the Canaanites had faint hearts.
2. **parapet**: a wall, rampart, or elevation to protect soldiers (from Latin *parare* + *pectus*, "breast-high defense")
3. **spoils**: goods and riches taken in war

GEOGRAPHY (FOR ALL LESSONS)

To orient students to the locations listed, first help them find the Eastern Hemisphere, Mediterranean Sea, and Israel on both a globe and a world map. Always go back and forth between a globe, world map, and smaller local map, so that students learn the specific locations for each lesson in relationship to the surrounding area.

LESSON 1: The Invasion of Canaan | The Fall of Jericho

Golden Children's Bible: pp. 178-185 (Joshua 1-6)

FACTS TO KNOW

1. **Joshua**: followed after Moses to lead the Israelites in the Conquest of Canaan
2. **Canaan**: Promised Land of Israelites; also known as Israel, Palestine, or the Holy Land
3. **Jordan River**: river that Israel crossed through to enter the Promised Land
4. **Rahab the harlot**: hid the spies sent into Jericho
5. **Jericho**: first city to be conquered by Israel in Canaan
6. **flax**: plant; produces linseed oil; linen fabric made from fibers

MEMORY VERSE

JOSHUA 1:9

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

1. What does it mean to be "of a good courage"?
to be brave and show no fear
2. What does "whithersoever thou goest" mean?
wherever they would go
3. What reason do the Israelites have to not be afraid?
God had promised to be with them always.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the arrangement Rahab made with the spies? Rahab promised not to tell the king about the spies if they would save her family. (p. 179)

2. How did Rahab mark her father's house? She tied a piece of scarlet cord in the window. (p. 181)

3. What does "faint with fear" mean? It means extremely afraid, weak with fear. (p. 181)

4. Why were the people of Jericho so afraid of Israel? The people of Jericho had received word about how God had brought Israel out of Egypt with mighty acts of power. (p. 179)

5. What orders did Joshua give the priests? Describe their procession around the city. "Take up the ark of the covenant and let seven priests carrying seven trumpets of rams' horns march before the ark of the Lord." The priests were guarded by armed men in front and behind. (p. 183)

6. What orders did Joshua give the Israelites? How many days did they march? "Surround the city, and let those that are armed march before the ark of the Lord." They marched for seven days. (p. 183)

GEOGRAPHY

1. Locate on your map and memorize:
 - Mt. Nebo
 - Jordan River
 - Jericho

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BIG PICTURE OF THE BIBLE

Read the following verses and then pose the discussion questions to your students.

- **Deuteronomy 7:17-26:** How does Moses say the Lord will lead the conquest of Canaan?
- **Mark 1:9:** What is the significance of the Jordan River in Jesus' earthly ministry? How does it relate to the story?
- **Hebrews 11:30:** What is the role that Israel's faith played in the conquest of Jericho?
- **Matthew 1:5:** Whose name do you recognize in this list? Why is it significant, and what does it tell us about Jesus?

MEMORY WORK

Use a chalk or dry-erase board to help the students start to memorize the first five books of the Bible, or Pentateuch.

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy

GEOGRAPHY

Invasion of Canaan / Fall of Jericho:

- **Mt. Nebo** is where Moses died.
- Joshua sent spies to **Jericho** from the east side of the **Jordan** near **Mt. Nebo**.

ACTIVITIES

- p. 180: Identify the spies. Who is helping them down from the roof? Rahab
- p. 182: In which city does the story take place? Find it on the map. Jericho
- p. 183: Describe what is happening in the picture. What are the men carrying? What are their trumpets made of? The Levites are carrying rams' horns as they march around the city.
- pp. 184-185: Who is standing before the Israelite army? What has happened to the walls of Jericho? Joshua. They fell at the sound of the trumpets and horns blowing and the people shouting.
- pp. 140-143: Review the Ark of the Covenant and the articles of Old Testament worship.
- Draw a picture of the Israelites marching around the city with their horns.