

GOD GIVES EXTRAORDINARY STRENGTH

CROSSOVER
FROM EVERYDAY TO EXTRAORDINARY

Week 2 – Elementary Additional Resources for Parents

ACTIVITY: **Strong Arm**

You guys seem to be a pretty strong. Who here thinks they can beat me in arm wrestling? Oh, you do? You do? Okay, come on up here and show me whatcha got!

INSTRUCTIONS: Invite the kids to try to beat you in an arm wrestling match.

Don't let them win unless they actually really do win.

Okay, we've demonstrated our strength a bit. Today's story is about a leader who was going to defeat someone. But instead of using physical strength, he used a very strange weapon.

ACTIVITY: **Strong Animals**

INSTRUCTIONS: Make two large signs, labeled A and B. Tape them up on different sides of the room. The kids will move back and forth depending on which one they think is correct.

Okay, I'm going to ask you to pick a side in a few animal showdowns. I want you to choose which animal – A or B – is more physically strong. Not necessarily who would win in a showdown, just which one has more physical strength.

Okay? First one: **Who's stronger, elephant or hippo?** If you think it's elephant, go to A. If you think it's hippo, go to B. (Repeat with all the examples and then tell them the real answers and why.)

A) Elephant or B) Hippo? (B-A hippo's jaw is so strong, it could take one bite and cut a person in half.)

A) Grizzly bear or B) Tiger (B-A tiger can carry about twice its body weight up a tree)

A) Eagle or B) Falcon (A-An eagle can lift about four times its body weight and fly with it.)

A) Dung beetle or B) Rhinoceros beetle (A-A Dung beetle can pull 1,141 times its own body weight. This is the equivalent of an average person pulling six double-decker buses full of people.)

Those animals have some pretty impressive strength. Today we are going to learn a little more about strength. Now, that might not be super, ultra physical strength like some of these animals. But God does give us strength to do things we would never be able to do without God at our side.

SCRIPTURE : **Joshua 6**

INSTRUCTIONS: Summarize the Bible story from Joshua 6. You can also ask the kids to participate by reenacting parts of the story, such as walking around the city with trumpets, etc.

Here is one way to summarize the story:

This story comes from the Book of Joshua, chapter six. Some time after God rescued the Israelites from Egypt, the people were camped out near a city called Jericho. Jericho was an unfriendly place, so much so that they had a huge wall around their city and would not allow the Israelites to come inside the city gates. But God told Joshua the city of Jericho would be theirs. God told Joshua to be strong and courageous because God would be with the Israelites wherever they went. All Joshua had to do was follow God's plan.

Do you want to know what the plan was? Seven priests – not soldiers – each carrying a trumpet – not weapons! – slowly began walking around the walls of the city. (You may choose to ask kids to act this out with props. You could even have everyone stand up and follow you around the room in a circle.) The rest of the Israelites marched, too, around the walls of the city. Day after day after day. For six days they marched around the walls of Jericho. Then, on the seventh day, they were to march seven times and on the seventh time around, the priests were going to blow their trumpets and all of the people were going to yell.

Well, they did exactly as God said, and guess what happened? The walls of Jericho fell down! These huge walls just crumbled to the ground from just the sound of trumpets and people yelling (Tell the kids to yell and cheer as loudly as they can)! A little bit of a side story: **do any of you remember who Rahab is?** She's the one who took a risk by hiding the Israelite spies, right? When they left, they told her to tie a scarlet rope in her

window so they could protect her when Jericho fell. And guess what? Rahab and her family were indeed saved when the walls fell!

Joshua probably wondered how marching and yelling could make walls fall, but he did not question God. And when the walls of Jericho fell, Joshua knew God had given him extraordinary strength to do something amazing.

6 Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in.

² Then the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. ³ March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. ⁴ Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. ⁵ When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in."

⁶ So Joshua son of Nun 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." ⁷ And he ordered the army, "Advance! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the LORD."

⁸ When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the LORD went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the LORD's covenant followed them. ⁹ The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding. ¹⁰ But Joshua had commanded the army, "Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!" ¹¹ So he had the ark of the LORD carried around the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent the night there.

¹² Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. ¹³ The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the LORD and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets kept sounding. ¹⁴ So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days.

¹⁵ On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. ¹⁶ The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city! ¹⁷ The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. ¹⁸ But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. ¹⁹ All the

silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury.”

²⁰ When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city. ²¹ They devoted the city to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys.

²² Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, “Go into the prostitute’s house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her.” ²³ So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother, her brothers and sisters and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel.

²⁴ Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the LORD’s house. ²⁵ But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—and she lives among the Israelites to this day.

²⁶ At that time Joshua pronounced this solemn oath: “Cursed before the LORD is the one who undertakes to rebuild this city, Jericho:

*“At the cost of his firstborn son
he will lay its foundations;
at the cost of his youngest
he will set up its gates.”*

²⁷ So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.

RESPONSE: Extraordinary Strength

INSTRUCTIONS: Pass out index cards and something the kids can write or draw with. Ask each kid to write or draw on an index card something or some situation in which they need extraordinary strength. Once every kid has their card written, tape them up, making a wall out of their cards.

On this index card, write or draw some situation where you need extraordinary strength, just like Joshua did. You probably don’t need to conquer a city. But maybe you need help being brave at a new school, or maybe you need help saying sorry for hurting someone, or maybe you need some help focusing on and studying for a big test at school. Think about the things you need to do, pick one, and then draw or write it down.