Group Activity

Breaking Down the Wall of Sin

Lesson 5
The Fall of Jericho
Joshua 6

Key Point
Through His servant Joshua, God gave the Israelites victory over Jericho by causing its fortress walls to fall. Through Jesus Christ, God gives us victory, causing the fortress of sin and death to fall and assuring us that we are His people.

Purpose
Help kids see how God and God alone can break down the walls of sin that distance us from Him and others.

You Need
Boxes or large building blocks
Kazoos, drums, or other small musical instruments

Do This
Use blocks to represent things that distance us from God; build them into a city wall. Make sure boxes or blocks are stacked evenly, so the wall doesn’t fall down.

Give kids musical instruments. Have them walk around the wall they built to see if they can make it fall down just by walking around it (they should not bump it).

Make the Point
Before kids build a wall using the boxes or blocks, introduce the topic.

Say In today’s lesson, the people of Jericho thought they were hidden away and protected behind their fortress wall. In our lives, because of sin, we build walls to hide behind too. Some of us hide behind insecurities, and others hide behind great accomplishments. We can use those things to distance ourselves from other people and from God. Sometimes, we trust in our own works and good deeds to save us. Sometimes, we get used to our sins and build them up like walls around us. We place our trust in these false walls of security, but they only separate us from God.

Have kids list different insecurities, fears, and sins that distance people from God and from others. For each one, use a box or building block to represent the sin, building a sturdy wall enclosure that won’t fall down. (This will represent the city wall that went around Jericho.) Build a strong, secure fortress.

Say God told Joshua to march around the city, make music, and shout to bring the walls down. Do you think this was a scientifically reasonable plan? Answers may vary. Vibrations can be powerful, and some may think it is possible.

Let’s try it. Have kids march around the structure, playing their instruments, and singing, shouting, or chanting. Sing “Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho,” “Onward Christian Soldiers,” or another song related to the theme.

Did the wall fall down? No. Why did this work for Joshua and his army but not for us? Because, ultimately, God is the one who broke down the walls of Jericho.

God is the only one who can break down the walls of sin that keep us from Him and from others. How did He do this? Let kids answer, then summarize: Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, God reached into our world and demolished the fortress wall of sin and death so we might be His people. He continues to break down our walls through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. What does the Holy Spirit do? Discuss, pointing out how the Holy Spirit works through God’s Word to convict us of our sin so we repent and receive God’s forgiveness, and also how He gives us power to live and grow as God’s chil-
In the same way that God worked through Joshua in today’s lesson, He also works through Christians in their lives. What are some ways God uses us to break down one another’s walls? For each idea presented, take one block away until all are gone.

God knows us and works through real people to break down our walls so He can reach us. But God is always the one behind these things. They are not coincidence or chance. He works through people, who speak His Word to us in ways we can understand.