

## **JERICHO**

### **Cast:**

Narrator  
Joshua  
Spy 1 (Salmon)  
Spy 2 (Jacob)  
Caleb  
Achan  
Girl  
Guard 1  
Child 1  
Child 2  
Child 3  
Child 4  
Lady of Cloth  
Shopper  
Green Grocer  
King  
Rahab  
Israelites (as many as available)

### **SCENE 1: ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER JORDAN** (*View of Israel projected on screen at the back of the stage*)

**Narrator:** This play is about the first chapters of the book of Joshua. Moses led the Israelites to the border of Canaan. He died and was mourned by the Israelites for 30 days. His service to God and leadership of Israel would never be forgotten. Now Joshua takes over that leadership. He has served under Moses since they left Egypt and is now a wise and faithful leader. God speaks to Joshua and says: “Get ready now, you and all the people of Israel, and cross the Jordan River into the land that I am giving them. As I told Moses, I will give you and all my people the whole land that you will be marching over. No one will be able to defeat you as long as you live. I will always be with you; I will never abandon you. Be determined and confident, for you will be the leader of these people as they occupy this land which I promised their ancestors. Make sure that you obey the whole Law that my servant Moses gave you. Do not neglect any part of it and you will succeed wherever you go.”

*(Enter Israel led by Joshua to the edge of the Jordan River.)*

**Joshua:** (*Speaking to the Israelites*): **At last we have arrived at the Jordan River. Look into the distance. What a wonderful country. This is the land that God promised so many years ago to Abraham and to his descendants.**

**Spy 1:** (Salmon) **You went into the land, Joshua, many years ago. Is it as good as it looks?**

**Joshua:** Yes it is. When Caleb and I were asked to help spy out the land all those years ago...

**Caleb:** It's going on 40 years now Joshua!

**Joshua:** Your right, Caleb. When we went through the country 40 years ago the soil was rich and fertile. Plenty of water for the animals and crops. Springs, rivers and rain. Nothing like Egypt where it was such hard work irrigating the land.

**Caleb:** And the crops. So big and juicy! Huge bunches of grapes and olives and figs.

**Achan:** When can we go in? When will we be crossing the River, Joshua?

**Joshua:** You sound like you're in a hurry Achan.

**Achan:** You can say that again, Joshua. I just want a few good things for me and my family. We are so tired of eating Manna and wearing the same clothes every day. We can't wait to get into the land.

**Joshua:** We will be crossing the River right here in three days time.

**Achan:** Right here! How do we do that! We need to go to somewhere there are boats. Or perhaps Joshua will give us all swimming lessons?

**Joshua:** That's enough Achan! God will see us through - just as he saw our fathers through the Red Sea. Don't let Achan frighten you. There is nothing to fear. *(Pause)*. Now, remember that the tribes of Reuben and Gad and half the tribe of Manasseh will be living on this side of the river, so their women and children and flocks will be staying here. Only the soldiers of those tribes will be crossing over with us. Now I need two volunteers for a spying job. Who'll go?

*(Everyone puts their hand up for the job.)*

**Joshua:** No. No. Only two! Perhaps two of you with no wives and family? Two single men?

**Spy 1 (Salmon):** I'm sure I could do it.

**Spy 2 (Jacob):** Me too.

**Joshua:** Good. Salmon and Jacob, I want you to spy out as much of the land as possible in the next few days, especially the city of Jericho. I want you to find out all about the people who live there and its size and strength. I know it won't be easy, but remember - be strong and courageous because the Lord has promised to be with us wherever we go.

**Song: “Be Strong”**

*(Spies move in the direction of Canaan and the Israelites file off the other way.)*

**Curtain**

**SCENE 2: JERICHO.** *(A guard is sitting at the front gate. The two spies are on the side of the stage.)*

**Spy 1:** Well, so far we've managed to spy out the countryside around here without being seen but getting into Jericho isn't going to be easy. Those walls look pretty thick. How high would you say?

**Spy 2:** Much too high to climb, that's for sure. Looks like we will have to get in by the front gate.

**Spy 1:** No! No! That's far too dangerous. That guard will know we don't belong around here!

**Spy 2:** We could bribe him. How much silver do you have on you?

*(The guard at this stage closes his eyes.)*

**Spy 1:** Silver! Your joking! No, I think we'll have to divert his attention somehow.

**Spy 2:** Or we could wait 'til he's taking a nap! Look at him now. Come on, let's go in.

*(They creep past the guard)*

**Girl:** *(Enters just as the spies go past the guard. She goes up to the guard and shouts).* Hello, Uri.

**Guard 1:** *(Startled)* What?

**Girl:** Poor Uri, is your new baby keeping you awake at night! Who were those two men I just saw creeping into the city?

**Guard 1:** *(Jumps up.)* What two men? I must have dozed off. What did they look like? We're on the lookout for those Israelites. They might be heading this way.

**Girl:** I don't know about Israelites Uri, but I know I've never seen those two before.

**Guard 1:** OK. Off you go. I'll go and investigate. The king should know about this. Israelites are definitely not welcome here.

*(Both exit into the city.)*

**Curtain**

**SCENE 3: INSIDE JERICHO** (*Children playing hopscotch; lady folding cloth on a market table; greengrocer calling out to shoppers; Rahab standing on a balcony position watching the square; the King on the other side of the stage at the door of the palace balcony. Two spies enter and sneak around.*)

**Child 1:** (*Jumps up*) **My turn.**

**Children together:** **One, two, three, four.**

**Child 2:** **Good throw. My tummy says I'm hungry.**

**Child 3:** **Dinner time! Race you home. Mumma is cooking goat burgers and Egyptian fries for dinner.**

**Child 4:** **Yippee!**

(*Two spies sneak around the back of the stage. Rahab spots them.*)

**Lady of Cloth:** **Have you heard about those Israelites? My brother's friends' cousin said they were seen on the Western side of Jordan two days ago, hundreds of them, thousands, maybe millions - far too many to count - coming like locusts.**

**Shopper:** **I heard they already attacked the Amorites, and the Red Sea just dried up before them so they could cross.**

**Lady of Cloth:** **Yes sure enough they will come to Jericho next and destroy us all, and take our homes. We're doomed, doomed I say, doooooomed.**

**Shopper:** (*In disbelief*): **How could they ever get through these walls? No, if we stay in here we'll be safe.**

**Lady of Cloth:** **They're coming I tell you, they're coming. Just you mark my words. We'll all be ruined! Ruined, I say, ruuuuuuuuuuuined!**  
(*Hands thrown up in the air in dismay.*)

**Girl:** (*Speaking to Shopper and Lady of Cloth*). **I've just been speaking to Uri the guard - he fell asleep on the job again. Luckily I was watching because I saw two Israelite spies come into the city, but don't worry because he has gone to tell the king.**

**Green Grocer:** **Apples! Apples! Fresh from the plains of Jordan. Honey extracted from the cedars of Lebanon, smuggled all the way to the river, and brought to you today only at the special price of 3 silver pieces. Today's special, only a few pots left! Hurry, hurry, hurry! Don't miss this once in a lifetime special.**

*(The guards have entered the scene, and have been talking to the King. The spies stop at the green grocer and look at the apples. The spies notice Rahab at the same time the king starts speaking.)*

**King:**        **Bring those spies to me! Who do those Israelites think they are, coming into my city (*wringing his hands*)? Rabble from the desert they are, just rabble. Born slaves, always slaves! Think they can beat these solid walls do they? Well think again. No one gets into Jericho!! Bring me those spies!!**

*(Rahab beckons to the spies and pulls them inside, watching the door and looking out for the guards. The guards approach each on the sellers, who each in turn point towards Rahab's house.)*

**(Curtain)**

**SCENE 4: RAHAB' HOUSE** (*Inside Rahab's house in Jericho. Tables with tablecloth, chairs, cushions etc. Rahab is tidying up the room. There is a loud knock at the door and two guards come in).*)

**Guard 1:** OK, Rahab, we have it on good authority that there are two Israelite spies in your house . Here is a warrant to search and arrest them and take them straight to the King for questioning. What do you have to say.

**Guard 2:** Yes, what do you have to say.

**Guard 1:** We also have it on good authority that they entered the front gates of this city when it was late afternoon and that they were seen entering your house by that door. (*points*)

**Guard 2:** Yes, by that door. (*points*)

**Rahab:** All right, all right, I'll tell you what happened. Yes, some men did come to my house, but no, they're not here now. I don't know where they came from and I don't know where they went. All I know is that they left just as the sun was going down and just before the city gates were closed.

**Guard 2:** (*To Guard 1*): How do we know she's telling the truth?

**Guard 1:** We give the house a quick search - that's how we'll know. (*Points to anti-room*). What's in that room?

**Rahab:** That's just a spare room. And there are stairs in there that lead to the roof. But there's nothing up there - that's where I spread my flax to dry. If you go looking on the roof you'll have to be careful - the stairs are slippery and the flax is wet.

**Guard 1:** Oooo slippery stairs and wet flax!. Yes, well... (*To Guard 2*) Look, you dash up to the roof and have a look around while I search down here. Be quick - we can't waste time. (*He starts searching the room - under the tablecloth and cushions and behind chairs.*)

**Guard 2:** (*Exits into anti-room*).

**Guard 1:** (*Searches room making a mess*) Nothing here. We'll have to hurry. (*Shouts to other guard*): Hurry up!

**Guard 2:** (*Enters slipping then rubbing his bruises.*) Nobody up there.

**Rahab:** (*Starts fixing up mess*) I already told you, they left just before the city gates closed. If you get after them now you might just catch them. Off you go! (*Exit guards. Rahab closes door after them and goes over to anti-room and calls out*): It's clear to come down now.

*(Enter two spies).*

**Rahab:** You can see it's no longer safe for you in Jericho. When they can't find you outside, they'll be back for a bigger and better search.

**Spy 1:** There's something we don't understand. You know we're Israelites, and yet you are trying to save our lives. Why?

**Spy 2:** Yes, why are you taking such a great risk?

**Rahab:** I have been kind to you because I want you to treat me and my family with the same kindness. I want you to save our lives when you come to fight against Jericho. Look, I know the Lord your God is the God in heaven above and here on earth. How could your people have escaped from Egypt and survived the journey from Egypt if He wasn't. There's no hope for me and my family unless we trust in your God.

**Spy 1:** Your right. Because the Lord was with us we were able to do away with those two Amorite kings, Sihon and Og.

**Rahab:** When we heard about that victory, it had everyone in Jericho trembling. They are really worried about an invasion by your people. I know you intend to attack this city and I want you to promise to save my father and mother and brothers and sisters and all their families.

**Spy 1:** We promise. May God take our lives if we don't do what we say.

**Spy 2:** Yes, we promise.

**Spy 1:** And what you must do, so we can keep our promise is to hang this red cord from your window so my people know which household is not to be harmed.

**Rahab:** Now you must go. I'll have a rope in here and I'll let you out of the window. Go as fast as you can into the hills and hide there until the coast is clear. Come on.

*(Exit into anti-room.)*

**Curtain**



**SCENE 5:**    **CROSSING THE RIVER** (*Curtain open with scene of Israel again on screen at rear of stage.*)

**Narrator:**    The spies did as Rahab's said and went into the hills and hid. The guards searched for days, but they couldn't find them. Then the two spies came down from the hills, crossed the river, and went back to Joshua. They told him everything that had happened, saying: "We are sure that the Lord has given us the whole country. All the people there are terrified of us." The next morning the Israelites rose early to begin their journey across the Jordan and on to their first camp at Gilgal.

*(Enter Joshua, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant, and the people walking behind. 12 of them are carrying stones ie boxes wrapped in brown paper.)*

**Joshua:**        **The Lord has told me how we will cross this river. You can see it's in flood at the moment, but don't be alarmed. The Priests will go first with the Ark. As soon as their feet touch the water, the river will stop flowing.**

*(The priests and the ark move into the river.)*

**Israelite:**      **Look at the river. You were right, Joshua, it's going down. It's gone! It's amazing!**

**Joshua:**        **The Priests will stand in the middle of the river while you all cross over. Before the priests leave, I want all of you who have brought stones to pile them in the middle of the River**

*(Those Israelites without stones go first and file through the river and stand on the top stage and watch. Those with stones will come into the river last. They pile the stones in the centre of the river.)*

**Israelite:**      **Mother told me about the Red Sea parting, but it was hard to imagine. This is amazing.**

**Israelite:**      **Look at the water just holding there!**

**Israelite:**      **Can you believe this?**

**Joshua:**        **Now collect 12 stones from the river bed and we will build a memorial when we camp at Gilgal. In the future, when your children ask you "what do these stones mean," you will tell how God stopped the River Jordan flowing so that you could cross over on dry ground. Then everyone will learn how great our God is.**

**Israelite:**      **I've seen some amazing things in my life, miracles from God, but this one is almost unbelievable!**

**Israelite:**     **Look at this stone, it's huge!**

**Israelite:**     **Won't this make a great bedtime story for the kids!**

*(These Israelites will hunt around for stones and place them in the river. Then everyone exits, the priests leaving the platform last. Rahab and her family and Jericho population remain for next scene on stage.)*

**Curtain**

**SCENE 5: THE DESTRUCTION OF JERICHO** *(The city of Jericho.)*

**Narrator:** Gilgal is just east of the Jordan and a few kilometres from Jericho. It is while they are here that many of the Israelites are circumcised and where they observe the Passover on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month. It is here that the manna stops falling and they eat food grown in Canaan for the first time. Joshua also takes time to have a look at the city of Jericho and while doing so, he is confronted by an man with sword who says he is the commander of the Lord's army. This man, most probably an angel, gives Joshua instructions on how to capture Jericho.

*(Open curtain to show Jericho with scarlet cord coming from Rahab's window. The Israelites enter: the Priests with rams' horns in front and the ark carried by priests, followed by the fighting men.)*

**Narrator:** Joshua was told to march around Jericho in the order you now see. They have been doing one circuit each day around Jericho for the past six days. Today is the seventh day and they will go around seven times. At the end of that seventh circuit I have been told to expect to see the end of Jericho.

*(On the first circuit the people in Jericho are shouting and laughing at the Israelites. They gradually get quieter on each circuit until by the 7<sup>th</sup> time they are silent. When the Israelites finish their final circuit they stand still. The trumpeters give a long blast on their trumpets and they all shout. The walls fall down).*

**Joshua:** *(Pointing to the ruins with his sword he speaks to the soldiers including Achan):* **Go in now and destroy everything. Remember, you are not to take anything for yourselves out of Jericho. If you do, you will bring disaster and destruction on our camp.** *(Those inside Jericho run out and are chased out through the anti-room by one or two of the soldiers who then return.)*

**Joshua:** *(To the spies):* **Go in and bring Rahab and her family out as you promised her and then we will burn the city with fire.**

*(The spies bring Rahab and her family out).*

**Joshua:** *(To spies):* **Take Rahab and her family to our camp and make sure they have everything they need. I trust you to treat her kindly after all she has done for us.**

**Achan:** **Hey! Hold on. This woman is just a ... just a ... Canaanite! She has no right to live in our camp - or eat our food - or take our clothes.**

**Joshua:** **That's enough, Achan! I fear you will bring us much trouble sometime in the future with your greed and your faithless ways.**  
*(To everyone):* **Now we will all return to Gilgal and give thanks to God who has once again kept His promise and given us Victory this day.**

**Curtain.**

*Curtain opens again and all the Sunday School sings*  
**“Joshua fought the battle of Jericho”**

## **Suggested Songs**

### **BE STRONG**

**Be strong and courageous and bold  
Be strong and courageous and bold.  
Away with your fear, for God will be near.  
Be strong and courageous and bold.**

**He's with you wherever you go,  
He's with you wherever you go.  
He's there by your side to help and to guide.  
He's with you wherever you go.**

**So trust Him with all of your heart,  
So trust Him with all of your heart.  
Believe and obey each hour of the day,  
And trust Him with all of your heart.**

### **JOSHUA FOUGHT THE BATTLE**

CHORUS:

**Joshua fought the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho  
Joshua fought the battle of Jericho, and the walls came a-tumbling down.**

- 1. You may talk of your King of Gibeon you may talk of your man of Saul,  
but there's none like good old Joshua and the battle of Jericho.**

CHORUS

- 2. Up to the walls of Jericho, he marched with spear in hand,  
go blow them ram-horns,' Joshua cried, 'for the battle is in God's hand.'**

CHORUS

- 3. Then loudly the ram-horns began to blow, trumpets began to sound.  
Joshua commanded the children to shout, And the walls cam a-tumbling down.**

CHORUS

### **GOD IS GREAT**

**God is great, God is good,  
He dried up all the river when He said he would  
God is great, God is good  
bles-sed be the name of the Lord.**

**See this rock, See this stone,  
These will show our children we were not alone  
God is great, God is good  
bles-sed be the name of the Lord.**

# JERICO CITY

## WARRANT

*To search and arrest Israelite spies and take them straight to the King for questioning.*

*By order*

THE KING