

Walking With God

Warriors: Joshua

UNIT

1

Lesson
Five



Prayer Starter

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit...
Dear Lord, being a good Christian takes courage and determination. Make us as strong as a soldier in following your ways and guide us with your wisdom. For we know that we are fighting a good fight and the ultimate prize is a life with you. Amen.

Hye-Q

Last week, we studied Moses and all of the important things he did during his life. Check the correct answer in each question.

- 1. When Moses' mother heard that her baby son might be in danger, she**
 - a. returned to Israel for safety___
 - b. hid in her father's house with her children___
 - c. placed her son in a basket for the princess to discover___
 - d. protested to the Pharaoh___
- 2. When God asked Moses to free the Hebrew slaves**
 - a. he was afraid he wasn't up to the job___
 - b. he was immediately sure he could do it___
 - c. he asked God for help___
 - d. he ran away___
- 3. When the Pharaoh kept refusing Moses' request to free the slaves, God**
 - a. threatened to kill the Pharaoh and his family___
 - b. sent 10 plagues as warnings___
 - c. ruined all the wheat stored in Egypt, causing a famine___
 - d. brought on a 40-day flood___
- 4. The last plague threatened first-born sons. To be spared that punishment, the Hebrews**
 - a. gathered their belongings and fled___
 - b. ripped their clothes in mourning and prayed___
 - c. brushed their door frames with lamb's blood___
 - d. baked bread and waited___
- 5. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments so the people could**
 - a. live safely in the wilderness___
 - b. never be hungry or thirsty___
 - c. know what was going to happen next to them___
 - d. live in holiness___



Daily Bread

While Moses grew old, he taught a young man named Joshua how to lead the Israelites. After many years, Moses died and Joshua took his place as the leader. God told Joshua to be strong and follow in the footsteps of Moses and to know that God would always be with him.

Years before, God had promised Moses that the Israelites would eventually live in the land of Israel. At the edge of that land was the city of Jericho. God told Joshua that it was time to go and live in the city of Jericho. There were already people living in the city, and their King did not want the Israelites there, so he closed up the city, not letting anyone in or out.

Joshua sent two men to sneak in and look around inside the walls of Jericho. They stayed with a woman named Rahab. When the King of Jericho found out that the spies had gotten in, he sent his soldiers to find them. Rahab hid them in her attic and told them, "I will hide you now, and when your people come to take over the city, please spare me and my family and let us stay here in peace." The men agreed and Rahab helped them escape and go back to Joshua.

God told Joshua exactly how to make the walls of Jericho fall down and this is what they did: First, Joshua gathered men into an army to march around the city. Following them were seven priests with trumpets made from the horns of rams. Behind them, more priests carried the Ark of the Covenant. (This held the tablets bearing the Ten Commandments.) And behind the ark, the rest of the army would follow. Every day for six days, they all paraded around the outside of the city one time, while the priests blew their horns and the army kept silent. Then on the seventh day, the Israelites marched around Jericho six times while the priests blew their horns again. On that day, after they went around six times, they paraded around a seventh time and Joshua ordered everyone to yell and shout with all of their might!

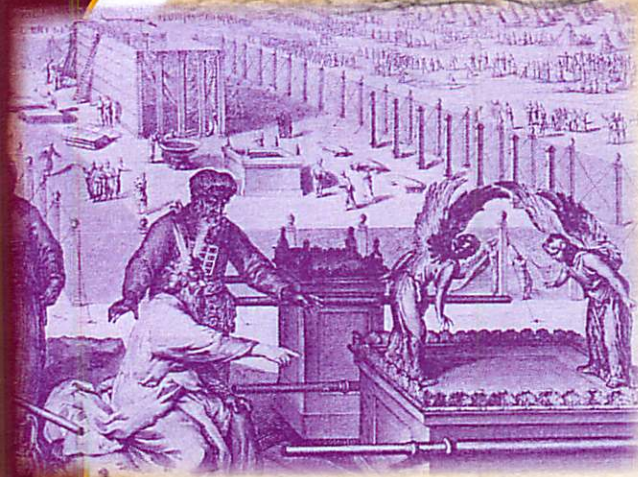
At the sound of the yelling and the trumpets, the walls of Jericho began to crack and crumble. The noise shook the walls so badly that they all fell to the ground and all who were inside the city ran in fear. All except for Rahab, who knew that she and her family could stay safely.

With the walls of the city in ruins, the Israelites could enter the city and begin their lives in their new land.



BIBLE BYTES

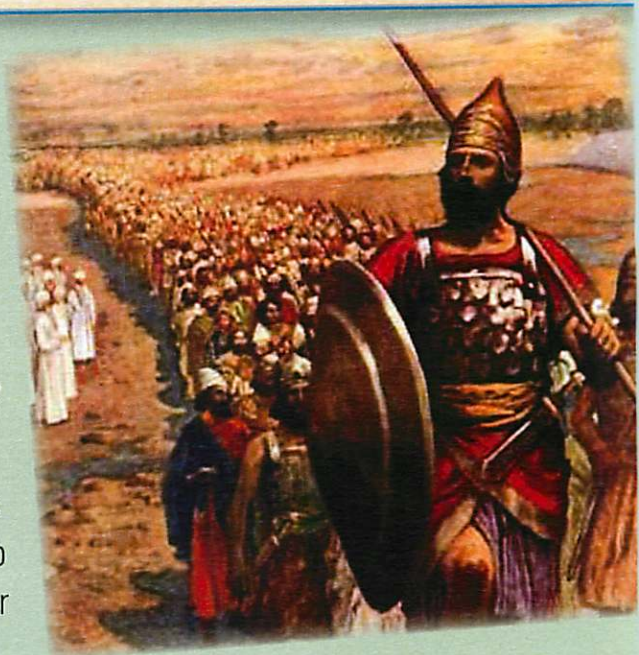
In the Bible, the word “Ark” may seem like it means different things. We all remember Noah’s “ark.” It meant a boat. It was big and was used to put the animals inside to save them. When it is used as “Ark of the Covenant,” it means a special box in which to put the Ten Commandments.



SCRIPTURE SOURCE

“Be strong and very courageous. Obey all the laws Moses gave you. Do not turn away from them and you will be successful in everything you do. Study this Book of the Law continually. Meditate on it day and night so you may be sure to obey all that is written in it. Only then will you succeed. Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” *Joshua 1: 7-9*

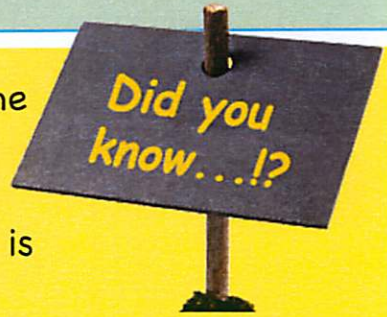
The Book of Joshua continues the story Moses began and tells us all about the adventures of the warrior Joshua. This was the wise and brave young man Moses had appointed to take command. Right from the beginning, God has advice for this new leader.



What does he tell the young Joshua to do?

Do you think this is good advice for you, thousands of years later? Why or why not?

The celebration of St. Vartan is held on the Thursday before the first day of Lent. A special hymn is sung at that day’s liturgy: **Norahrash Busagavor**. Many of the commanders and priests present at the Battle of Avarayr are mentioned by name. Here is the first line:



ՆՈՐԱՀՐԱՇ

NORHRASH



Նո - րա - հրաշ պը-սա - կա - տը եւ զօ - րա - զլուխ ա - նա-քին - եաց, —
 No - ra - hrash bu - sa - ga - vor yev zo - ra - klookh a - ra-keen - yats, —
 Wondrous crown-bearer and leader of the virtuous.

In the Armenian Tradition

In the 5th Century, over 1500 years ago, *Vartan Mamigonian* was a soldier and a nobleman. At that time, part of Armenia was ruled by Persia, modern-day Iran. The Persians were not Christian. They had a different religion that worshiped fire. The King of Persia wanted all of his subjects, including the Armenians, to turn away from their own religion and start to worship fire, like him.



At first, the Armenians didn't know what to do! They did not want to give up being Christians. The Armenians argued with each other about how to keep their beliefs and also keep peace in their country. They gave in to many of the King's other demands, and even tried to make the King think they would worship fire. The King sent in his own religious leaders, called Magi, to conduct pagan worship services. But in the end, the Armenians had to follow their hearts. They could not give up their love of Jesus Christ just because the King told them to. They sent the Magi back to Persia.

When the King saw this, he decided that he would force the Armenians to give up their religion with a war. He sent an army of 260,000 men with elephants for the soldiers to ride on and shoot arrows from above. The Armenians only had 66,000 soldiers to defend themselves. There was a horrible battle at Avarayr, but Vartan and his small army fought with bravery and dignity. That day, they died for their beliefs.

But, this was not the end. It was just the beginning of the Armenians' fight to remain Christian. There were more battles and after some time, the Persian King gave up trying to convert the Armenians. He saw how hard they defended their religion and this made him have respect for them and their faith. He did not tell them to worship fire anymore.

If Vartan and his men did not die for their right to be Christian that day, we might not have the Armenian Church today. That is why we have a special celebration for him and all of the people who defended Christianity back then. It is also why the Church considers Vartan a saint.

CELEBRATE WITH GOD

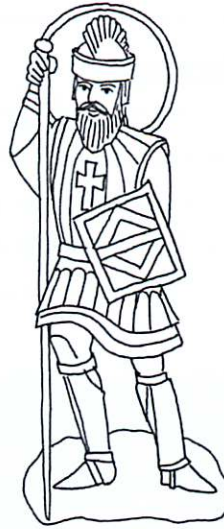
St. Vartan Soorp Vartan Մուրթ Վարդան



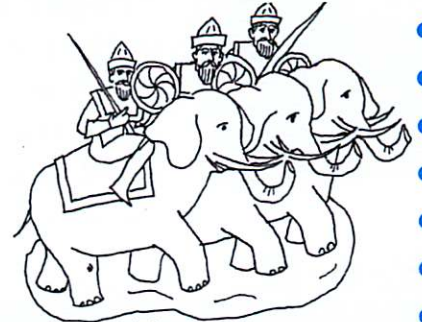
Magi



Soldiers



Vartan



Elephants

Well Versed

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:9

Family Focus

Today, the students learned about Joshua and St. Vartan. Comparing these two warriors helped them understand how important it is to know God’s teachings and truly live them which will make us strong and successful in every important way. We discussed how God promises to be with us wherever we go. Students reenacted the fall of the walls of Jericho and created a poster on St. Vartan. They’re on display in the classroom, if you want to see them.

Living Your Faith

1. Attend Vartananz celebrations this year. If you cannot come to the church that night, say a prayer that evening with your family to remember how Armenians defended their faith.
2. Discuss occasions in everyday life - at home and school - where feeling God’s presence and knowing his ways can make us strong.