

Religion Class

The Battle of Jericho Hats: Assignment for Sophomore Religion



Grade Level

10th

Content Area

Bible/Religion

His Story...Just in Time Joshua/Jericho Lesson

Description/Abstract of Lesson

This assignment has students create the most ridiculous, outrageous, large, dynamic aluminum foil headwear possible. The goal is to look preposterous, absurd, silly, outlandish, etc. After construction of their headwear, students should be marched around campus as a spectacle to the other classes (it may be wise to give your colleagues a “heads-up” before crashing their classes), insisting on order, silence, and a lack of explanation to your onlookers. I recommend a slightly humiliating class “shout” at the end. While I doubt your school walls will come crashing down (and if they do, please don’t tell your principal where you got this idea from), the students will have an opportunity to discover what it might have felt like to be an Israelite in the week leading up to God’s destruction of the walls of Jericho.

Time Requirements

Preparation Time: None outside of the time to purchase the aluminum foil and alert your colleagues of your plans.

Class Time: One 90-minute block for construction and the experience, another 30-minute class period for debriefing of the experience. In cut down the debriefing minutes, students could be given a short list of response questions that focused and limited the resulting discussion.

Concept/Enduring Understanding

While God asked the Israelites to make a very silly looking military move (walk your entire army around a city so the enemy gets a good look at the “stupid” opposition), He was teaching them that the battle would be won as a result of His strength and plans...not because they were “cool.” When students encounter a humiliating experience in the vein of the Jericho story, they understand what it must have felt like to be an Israelite during the days of trusting God as they marched around the great walled city.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

How can students put themselves in the Israelite’s position to understand the power of trust in a powerful God?

Journey To Excellence Standards Addressed

- J2E 1.2 Have a growing knowledge of God’s Word and enjoyment in its study.
- J2E 1.4 Discover the importance and power of prayer and faith in one’s relationship with Jesus.
- J2E 1.5 Value God’s revelation of Himself through inspired writings and creation.
- J2E 4.1 Exhibit concern and sensitivity for other peoples and cultures.
- J2E 4.4 Use a biblical perspective to analyze history and current events.
- J2E 9.3 Develop fine arts talents through practice, performance and presentation.

Specific Learning Outcomes

Head (know): The learner will understand and internalize the experience of the Israelite army depending on God's plans.

Heart (feel): The learner will respond, through their creativity and experience, to the situation of the Israelites as they experienced the Battle of Jericho.

Hand (do/respond): The learner will work to construct their headwear, walk through the experience, and then respond to debriefing questions provided by their teacher, all to walk in the "sandals" of the Israelite army.

Assessment of Outcomes

- Students will enjoy studying God's Word through the vehicle of a fun, creative project.
- Students will come to understand the level of faith the Israelites needed to express in God to follow His plans.
- Students will develop a deeper respect for God through noting the contrast between the wisdom of humans and God's wisdom.
- Students will empathize with the Israelites when placed in a related environment
- Students will work with their hands to create their headwear. Creative products are encouraged.

Teaching Strategies & Instructional Management

Presentation of Lesson in the Textbook

Teacher demonstration Headwear

Headwear construction time

Marching Experience

Experience Debrief

Required Materials

- *The Holy Bible*, Joshua 5:13-6:25
- *His Story...Just in Time* Textbook
- Aluminum Foil...you'll want approximately 10 feet per student.
- Foil tears easily, so no scissors are necessary.
- If students need to adhere pieces of the foil together, invite them to use staples.
- PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE HAVE YOUR STUDENTS RECYCLE THE FOIL WHEN YOU ARE DONE WITH YOUR LESSON!

Lesson Evaluation & Teacher Reflection

Ask your students to reflect on their experience looking “foolish” to their class and schoolmates. Ensure that they understand that God was not trying to humiliate the Israelites, rather to teach them to trust in and rely on His power and plans...even though those plans were contrary to human expectations.