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Joshua

Narration Moses, who had led the Israelites, died just before the Israelites entered Canaan, and so God appointed a new leader. His name was Joshua.

God Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid. I will be with you as I was with Moses, and as I promised Moses, I will give you the land of Canaan.

Narration Joshua was strong and courageous because God was with him as He had promised. Joshua chose two spies to spy out the land of Jericho. A woman in Jericho named Rahab helped the two spies by hiding them in her house.

Soldier Danger! Some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land!

Narration The king of Jericho was angry when he heard that Israelites spies were in Jericho and ordered his soldiers to capture them and bring them to him. But Rahab helped the two spies escape.

Rahab As I have shown you kindness, I ask that when you come back to conquer Jericho that you spare my life and the lives of my family and save us from death.

Narration The spies assured Rahab that they would keep their promise and escaped safely from Jericho.

Narration After 40 years roaming the deserts, the Israelites finally stood before the Jordan River which flowed near God's Promised Land, Canaan. In order to enter into Canaan, the Israelites had to cross the Jordan River, but there were no boats to carry them nor any bridges. Crossing the strong currents of the river seemed impossible.

Man (Pointing at Jericho) Goodness me! How will we ever get there!

Woman (Shrugging her shoulders) Indeed! This is impossible! Absolutely impossible!

Narration Then God spoke to Joshua.

God Today, I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant to stand in the Jordan River. When they do, the river will be still.

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- Narration** The priests who were carrying the ark of the covenant stepped into the river and as soon as they did, something wonderful happened. The strong currents of the river stilled and the water parted before the Israelites so that they walked on dry ground.
- Joshua** Now be careful. No need to push each other. Take your time.
- Woman** Hallelujah! Thank the Lord!
- Man** I cannot believe I am experiencing the miracle of the Red Sea! This is amazing!!
- Narration** The Israelites safely crossed the Jordan River just as their ancestors had crossed the Red Sea.
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- Narration** God spoke to Joshua who was standing before Jericho.
- God** You will conquer Jericho. March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Have the priests carry trumpets of rams' horns, but every one else must be silent. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout, then the walls of the city will collapse.
- Narration** Joshua spoke to the Israelites.
- Joshua** Everyone must be silent while we march around the city - only shout loudly on the day I say so!!
- Narration** And so every day for 6 days, the Israelites obeyed the Lord and marched around the city once.
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- Narration** Finally the seventh day came. On this day, as God had instructed, the Israelites marched around the city seven times and when the priests gave a long blast on their horns on the seventh march, the Israelites gave a loud shout.
- Joshua** Everyone shout!! The Lord has delivered Jericho to us!!
- Israelites** Aaaaaaaaaahhhhh!!!!!!!
- Narration** At their shout, Jericho's walls began to shake. Crash! Crash! Crash! The walls of the city came crumbling down. Jericho collapsed and everyone within the walls died. But as promised, God saved Rahab, who had helped the two spies, and her family. Joshua and the Israelites who had obeyed God's words finally entered and lived in the land of Canaan.