

Before you start, get the adults to stand inside the city wall, including City Leaders A & B. The children, plus any adults who need to accompany very small children, should stand around the outside, holding shakers and/or worship ribbons.

Narrator We need your help with today's story.
First, we need the people *inside* the city walls to help us.
Whenever someone asks, WHY ARE THEY MARCHING ROUND
AND ROUND?, I want all the people inside the city to tell me, with big
strong voices: "OUR WALLS ARE STRONG AND WILL KEEP
THEM OUT!"
Let's practise.
WHY ARE THEY MARCHING ROUND AND ROUND?

ALL OUR WALLS ARE STRONG AND WILL KEEP THEM OUT!

Narrator That's great.
And there's one more thing you'll need to do, right at the end of the
story. I'd like you to meet our Angel. When she blows the trumpet, like
this...
trumpet blast
I want you to push over the walls so that they come crashing down - but
not yet!!
Ok, we also need help from the people *outside* the city walls. There are
two things for you to remember. The first one is that whenever the
Angel says MARCH, I want you to march *quietly* around the city walls.
And whenever she says HALT, I want you to stop.
Let's practise.

Angel MARCH!

The children march around the city walls.

Angel HALT!

Narrator That's brilliant.

The second thing for you to remember is that right at the end of the story, when the Angel says NOW, I want you to march *and* shout as loud as you can, like a big battle cry to frighten the enemy, *and* shake your shakers *and* wave your worship ribbons. Let's practise that, too.

Angel NOW!

ALL RAAAARRR!

Narrator Brilliant. We're all ready now to begin. Make sure you hold your shakers really quietly, so that you can hear the story.

God's people had a new leader. His name was Joshua, and God had promised that Joshua would be the one who led the people into a new land. But it was not going to be easy. There were battles to be fought. And when God's people came to the city of Jericho, they couldn't imagine how the battle would ever be won.

City Leader A *We* live inside the city of Jericho. And our city has the biggest, strongest walls you can ever imagine!

Narrator The walls of Jericho went round and round. Round and round the whole city. The walls were tall. The walls were thick. How would God's people ever get in?

City Leader B Look at those Israelites, camped outside our city walls. Ha! What hope do they have?

Narrator Joshua's thoughts went round and round. Round and round inside his head. He was the leader of God's people now. But how could he lead them into Jericho?

But look!

The sword of the Lord swung round and round. Round and round the angel's head.

Angel God will lead you into Jericho. He has a secret plan. All you have to do is trust him.

Narrator The soldiers of Israel gathered round and round. Round and round their leader, Joshua. He told them the angel's plan. He didn't leave out one bit. The soldiers were amazed!

The next day, the important people of Jericho were looking out through the city walls.

City Leader A Listen! Can you hear that?

City Leader B Marching! It's that Joshua with his tribe of Israelites!

Angel MARCH!

The children march around the city walls.

City Leader A They're marching round our city! Is it a parade? Is it some kind of trick? WHY ARE THEY MARCHING ROUND AND ROUND?

ALL OUR WALLS ARE STRONG AND WILL KEEP THEM OUT!

Angel HALT!

Narrator The army of God's people marched round and round. Round and round the walls of Jericho. And the next day, when the people looked out over the city wall again, guess what they saw?

Angel MARCH!

The children march around the city walls.

City Leader A Hey, look! They're back again.

City Leader B Don't they look pathetic?

City Leader A I bet they're scared of us.

City Leader B BUT WHY ARE THEY MARCHING ROUND AND ROUND?

ALL OUR WALLS ARE STRONG AND WILL KEEP THEM OUT!

Angel HALT!

Narrator On the third day, the people of Jericho looked out again.

Angel MARCH!

The children march around the city walls.

City Leader A Would you believe it? They're back again!

City Leader B That Joshua! We don't want him - or his God - in here.

City Leader A WHY ARE THEY MARCHING ROUND AND ROUND?

ALL OUR WALLS ARE STRONG AND WILL KEEP THEM OUT!

Angel HALT!

Narrator And so it went on. The army of God's people marched round and round the walls of Jericho.

Angel MARCH!

The children march around the city walls.

Narrator Once round each day. Six days in a row. And the people of Jericho laughed.

City Leader B WHY ARE THEY MARCHING ROUND AND ROUND?

ALL OUR WALLS ARE STRONG AND WILL KEEP THEM OUT!

Angel HALT!

Narrator But the next day, something new happened. When the army marched round and round, round and round on the seventh day, they marched round once, they marched round twice ... they marched round Jericho *seven times!*

Angel MARCH!

The children march around the city walls.

Narrator Then they raised their voices.

Angel NOW!

ALL RAAAARRR!

Narrator Then they blew their trumpets.

Trumpet blast.

Narrator And the walls came crashing down!

Narrator And God's people danced round and round. Round and round the ruins
of Jericho. "God is our helper!" they sang and they shouted. "He will
never let us down."