

The Battle Of Jericho

Joshua 6:1-26

MEMORY VERSE

JOSHUA 6:2

“And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.’”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Several old newspapers and 4 - 5 chairs.

Several bricks (5 - 6 should be good) chipped into 4 or 5 pieces during the week. Enough pieces of brick for each child.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Simon Says

Play a game of Simon Says.

Then go over God's specific instructions for the defeat of Jericho from tonight's lesson.

Make the comparison that God wants our complete obedience to His specific commands, then He gives us the victory. **God is always on our side.**

LESSON TIME!

What became of Joshua and the children of Israel after they crossed the Jordan? It was not a time of leisure. They were called to fight their enemies--in a very unusual way. Faith, obedience, courage, and patience were necessary.

As Joshua was called into battle, so we are called to a battle--a spiritual warfare (2 Corinthians 10:1-6). In order to win, we must trust and obey God. When we do, we will find out like Joshua and the Israelites that **God is always on our side.**

JOSHUA 6:1-5

Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in.

And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.

"You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days.

"And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.

"It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him."

Jericho was an important city, the first city the Israelites were called to conquer in the new land. It was a strong fortress, shut up so nobody could go out or come in. It was also shut up against God, engulfed in its rebellion against God. God told Joshua (verse 2) that He has given Jericho into his hand, all of the city.

Note, it was *God* who gave Jericho into Joshua's hand. Joshua and all of Israel must trust and depend on God; for there was no way for them to win the battle in their own strength. We, too, like Joshua must learn to trust and depend on the Lord. In John 15:5, Jesus said, "Apart from Me you can do nothing." **God is always on our side.**

No fortress can stand against God, and God would be strong on Joshua's behalf. God gave Joshua His plan. The men of war were to march around the city of Jericho for six days, with seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day, they were to march around the city seven times, and the priests were to blow the trumpets. When the people heard a long blast with the ram's horn and the sound of the trumpet, all the people were to shout. God promised, at that time, "the wall of the city will fall down flat" and the people could go in and conquer the city.

Note, also, that even though God had given the city into Joshua's hands, Joshua was required to *do something*. We know that along with God's provision and the absolute certainty that He will win the battle, we still have responsibilities--we need to walk in obedience to Him.

JOSHUA 6:6-14

Then Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD."

And he said to the people, "Proceed, and march around the city, and let him who is armed advance before the ark of the LORD."

So it was, when Joshua had spoken to the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD advanced and blew the trumpets, and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them.

The armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets.

Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout."

So he had the ark of the LORD circle the city, going around it once. Then they came into the camp and lodged in the camp.

And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.

Then seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually and blew with the trumpets. And the armed men went before them. But the rear guard came after the ark of the LORD, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets.

And the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. So they did six days.

Notice: the ark was given the place of honor, being made central in the order of the procession. First the men of war were to go; then, the ark with seven priests in front with trumpets of rams' horns; and then, the whole congregation of people. The ark was symbolic of God's presence. It's position before the people would remind them that the victory was from God.

Note also, the Ten Commandments, God's law, were in the ark. His Word was ever before the congregation; God's Word should have a prominent place in our lives, too.

The sound of the trumpets would perhaps put fear in the Canaanites hearts. At the same time, it would bolster the courage and confidence in the Israelites hearts. So today, while those who are in rebellion fear and tremble in the presence of God; we as His children, are uplifted. **God is always on our side.**

True to their promise to Joshua—“ All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go,...”—the people faithfully obeyed and marched around the city without murmuring, complaining, or questioning--though God’s plan for conquering the city certainly required faith. God often does not reveal the “why’s” to us. He asks that we simply trust and obey Him. May we do so without murmuring, complaining, or questioning.

Paper War

Have a stack of newspaper to wad up to use as ammo.

Divide the class into two teams. Make a “wall” for each team by placing 4 or 5 chairs in a row for them to hide behind. Tell them they may wad up paper and throw paper at the other team (but caution them to be careful not to throw too hard). The teacher should help one team for the first half then go help the other team.

When it is time to stop and you have their attention, ask what it was like to have the teacher on your team. Ask what would happen if the teacher took down one of the “walls.” Compare to Jericho. What is it like to have God on our side helping us in our battles?

JOSHUA 6:15-19

But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only they marched around the city seven times.

And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city!

"Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

"And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.

"But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the LORD; they shall come into the treasury of the LORD."

Now after six days of marching around the city, they were to march again. The walls were as strong as ever, and perhaps their faith had been tested; but, they remained obedient to Joshua. This time they marched around the city seven times; then, Joshua told them to shout for "the Lord has given you the city." He declared "the city doomed by the Lord to destruction."

The people of Jericho were wicked people; they would have been spared if they had turned from their wickedness; but, they did not. Only Rahab would escape God's judgment.

In verses 18 and 19, Joshua warned the children of Israel to keep themselves from the “accursed things.” Matthew Henry comments, “God had promised them a land flowing with milk and honey, not a land abounding with silver and gold, for He would have them live comfortably in it that they might serve Him cheerfully, but not covet either to trade with distant countries, or to hoard for after time.”

The defeat of Jericho was the “first fruits” of the promised land, Canaan; it was fitting that it should be entirely devoted to the Lord, and its treasures set apart for Him.

JOSHUA 6:20-25

So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.

But Joshua had said to the two men who had spied out the country, "Go into the harlot's house, and from there bring out the woman and all that she has, as you swore to her."

And the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all that she had. So they brought out all her relatives and left them outside the camp of Israel.

But they burned the city and all that was in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.

And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

The Israelites obeyed the Lord and trusted Him despite the seeming impossibility before them. Now, we see the fruit of their courage, obedience, and patience. The walls of Jericho fell down. In Hebrews 11:30, we are told that “by faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.” So, faith caused the walls of Jericho to tumble down--the obedience of faith, the patience of faith, and assurance of faith, and finally the triumph of faith. **God is always on our side.**

We also see that God's ways are different from man's. Who would ever think that this mighty fortress would be completely demolished by a group of people walking around it? God's ways are to bring glory to Himself and to help us grow in faith. His ways

are contrary to the fleshly and scheming methods the world employs. God requires that we have faith, patience, and the courage to obey Him. We may not always understand God's plan, but we know that if it is His plan, it will work. We are simply to obey Him.

Note, in verses 22-25, the promise given to Rahab (chapter 2:14, 19) was kept. In Hebrews 11:31 we read, "By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace." The preservation of her house, which was "upon the town wall" (Joshua 2:15) was a miracle, as was the falling down of all the other parts of the wall. What a picture of God's mercy towards those who trust in Him!

JOSHUA 6:26

Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying, "Cursed be the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates."

Joshua condemned Jericho to destruction, cursing any man that at any time should offer to rebuild it. Jericho would remain in ruins as a monument of God's anger with a people given to sin and rebellion.

As we reflect on the battle of Jericho, we see important lessons. One, there is no obstacle too great when God is for us and with us. Two, God's promises often still require our responsibilities; we must both trust and obey. Three, faith holds onto the things that are "not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Trust and obedience should not require our understanding; God's ways are not man's ways. Let us not complain, murmur, and question.

Remember, we are engaged in a battle also--our warfare is spiritual. And, God has given us all we will ever need for our battle (Ephesians 6:11-17; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5). May we, as the Israelites did in the battle of Jericho, exhibit faith, obedience, patience, and courage. **God is always on our side.**

A Chip Off The Old Block

During the week, chip up red bricks into 4 or 5 pieces. Bring enough pieces for each child to have one. Write the first word of what God said to Joshua in the memory verse: "See!" on the piece of brick and the scripture reference. If you have enough room, you could write the whole verse on the piece of brick.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving that **God is always on our side** and will fight our battles for us. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.