

The Big Picture: Finding Jesus in the Old Testament:
Week 8: Joshua & Jericho: More Than Shouting Loud
Joshua 5:13–15; Joshua 6:1–20; 2 Corinthians 10:3–5

Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for bringing us together today. Open our hearts and minds as we study Your Word. Teach us to trust You even when we cannot see what You are doing, and help us remember that true victory comes through Your power and not our own strength. As we discuss Joshua and Jericho, point us to Jesus, who has already won the greatest victory for us. In His name we pray. Amen.

Theme:

The story of Jericho is not about shouting loud enough to make walls fall. It is about trusting God enough to follow Him, even when His ways don't make sense. Joshua reminds us that surrender comes before victory, obedience often comes before understanding, and Jesus is the greater Joshua who has already broken down the greatest wall—the separation between humanity and God.

Secular Quote:

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."
— Winston Churchill

Starter Question:

Describe a time when you had to trust the process even though you couldn't yet see the outcome. What helped you keep moving forward?

Digging Deeper Questions

Joshua first encountered the Commander of the Lord's army before Israel ever marched around Jericho. Why do you think God began with worship and surrender instead of military strategy? What does that teach us about facing our own challenges?

The Israelites were asked to follow a plan that probably seemed strange and even embarrassing. Why do you think God sometimes asks us to obey Him before we fully understand what He is doing? Can you think of examples from your own life?

The people marched around the city for six days without seeing any visible results. Why is waiting often one of the hardest parts of following God? How do we continue trusting Him during seasons when nothing seems to be changing?

Jericho reminds us that the walls fell because of God's power, not Israel's strength. How is that different from the way our culture often defines success or victory?

Rahab's story reminds us that God's mercy reaches unexpected people. Why do you think God intentionally included someone like Rahab in the family line of Jesus? What does her story teach us about grace and second chances?

Read Ephesians 2:11–22 together. Paul says Christ has broken down the dividing wall of hostility. How does this passage help us understand the deeper meaning of Jericho? What "walls" still exist between people today that Christ calls His Church to help tear down?

Joshua led God's people into the Promised Land, but Jesus leads us into something even greater. What similarities do you see between Joshua and Jesus? What are the important differences?

As Christians, we often pray for God to remove difficult circumstances. How can we tell the difference between asking God to remove a wall and asking Him to strengthen us as we walk around it?

Actionable of the Week:

This week, identify one "wall" you are facing. It may be fear, anxiety, resentment, grief, uncertainty, temptation, or a difficult relationship. Instead of asking only for God to remove it, spend time each day asking these three questions:

Lord, what are You teaching me? Lord, how are You asking me to trust You today? Lord, how can I faithfully take my next step?

Write down what you notice throughout the week. You may discover that before God changes your circumstances, He is changing your heart.

Finally, look for someone who may be facing their own "Jericho." Offer an encouraging word, pray with them, or simply be present. Sometimes God tears down walls through the faithfulness of His people.

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for being our greater Joshua. Thank You for fighting the battles we could never win and for breaking down the wall that separated us from God. Help us to trust You when the path seems uncertain, to obey You even when we do not understand, and to walk each day in the victory You have already secured through the cross and the empty tomb. Give us courage, faith, and hope until the day every wall is finally gone. In Your name we pray. Amen.

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Monday

Joshua 5:13–15

Theme: Before Victory Comes Worship

Joshua's first encounter before the battle wasn't with an enemy—it was with the Commander of the Lord's army. Before God called Joshua to conquer, He called him to worship.

Reflection: Am I asking God to bless my plans, or am I surrendering myself to His?

Tuesday

Joshua 6:1–20

Theme: Faith That Keeps Walking

For six days nothing appeared to happen, but God was working all along. Faith isn't just believing when we see results; it's trusting God while we wait.

Reflection: Where is God asking me to remain faithful even though I haven't yet seen the outcome?

Wednesday

Ephesians 2:11–22

Theme: Jesus Tears Down the Greatest Wall

The walls of Jericho eventually fell, but Jesus destroyed an even greater barrier—the wall of sin that separated us from God. Through Christ we are welcomed into God's family.

Reflection: How does knowing I have peace with God through Jesus change the way I face life's challenges?

Thursday

2 Corinthians 10:3–5

Theme: Fighting God's Way

Followers of Christ don't rely on worldly strength. God equips us with spiritual weapons to overcome fear, temptation, pride, and every obstacle that stands against His truth.

Reflection: What stronghold in my life needs to be surrendered to Christ today?

Friday

Hebrews 11:30–31

Theme: Faith That Trusts

The writer of Hebrews reminds us that the walls of Jericho fell because of faith, and Rahab was saved because she trusted God. Faith is not perfect performance—it is confident trust in a faithful God.

Reflection: Where can I choose faith over fear today?

Saturday

John 16:33

Theme: Walking from Victory

Jesus never promised His followers an easy road, but He did promise His presence and ultimate victory. Because Christ has overcome the world, we can face tomorrow with hope.

Reflection: How can I walk into tomorrow with confidence, knowing that Jesus has already won the ultimate victory?

Memory Verse for the Week:

"The Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

— Joshua 1:9b (NIV)

As you go through this week, remember that our confidence isn't found in the size of the walls before us, but in the greatness of the God who walks beside us.