

Calvary Chapel  of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

2nd Grade

## Sunday Morning

Study 16

*Faith*

# Faith

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The “Main passage” is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

These are the books of the Bible we will be memorizing. New books for this month are in bold. If a student can memorize all the books up to this month’s books, you may give them a prize from the “reward box” found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God’s Word.

**Objective** This lesson will teach the students that faith is believing and living like God’s Word is true using the example of Joshua and the Battle of Jericho.

## Key Verses

Galatians 5:22-23; Joshua 6—Main Teaching Passages

## Books to Memorize

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, 1&2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, **Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah**

## Hook

Ask the students if they trust you. Then have one of them come up to prove it. Put a blindfold on them and tell them to walk wherever you tell them. Guide them around the room. Then allow them to take the blindfold off.

By walking by your guidance and not their own eyesight, the student had to trust that you would lead them well and not let them crash into anything. This is an example of faith. Faith means trusting in God and obeying what He says, trusting that He will take care of us even if we don’t know what will happen.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

## BOOK

The seventh Fruit of the Spirit is faith (some versions translate it as “faithfulness”). Faith means trusting God and acting in obedience to Him, even if we don’t understand why He wants us to do something or are faced with challenges. It is not just thinking God’s Word is true in our heads, but actively living it out. The Bible is full of great examples of faith. One such example is Joshua and the Battle of Jericho.

In Joshua 6, we read that the Israelite armies were preparing to fight against the city of Jericho. Jericho had large walls and was sure to be a difficult city for Israel to capture, and so the Commander of the Lord’s Armies gave Joshua, the leader of Israel at the time, a plan. However, this plan was a highly unusual one. It did not involve any surprise attacks or the use of weapons and armor. The Lord told the Israelites to march around the city of Jericho each day for six days with the Ark of the Covenant. On the seventh day, they were to march around the city seven times as the priests blew their trumpets. After that, all the people were to shout, and the walls of the city would collapse on their own. When Joshua and the Israelites heard this plan, the Bible doesn’t record any doubts or questions. They trusted God, and in faith, they went out and did exactly as the Lord commanded them. On the seventh day, after they went around the city seven times and shouted, the walls collapsed and the Israelites easily conquered Jericho because of their faith.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

## LOOK

Many of us know the story of Joshua and the Battle of Jericho very well. In fact, we might know it so well that it’s easy to forget how crazy this plan might have sounded. Imagine being an Israelite and hearing that the plan for the battle involved marching in circles, blowing trumpets, and shouting. You might have thought, “How is that going to bring down the walls?” But whether or not some of the Israelites had any of these doubts, we read that they completely obeyed the Lord’s instructions, and in the end the Lord brought down the walls and gave Israel the city. You see, the battle was never going to be about Israel’s strength. It would be won or lost based on their faith.

Faith means believing that God’s Word is true and living like it’s true. It would have been tempting for the Israelites to doubt the plan God gave them, to think it was crazy, or to be worried about what the people of Jericho might do to them. But the Israelites didn’t let any of those things stop them. They believed in their minds that what the Lord told them was true, but they didn’t stop there. They acted on their belief by obeying the

# LOOK (Continued)

Lord's instructions, and in the end, that produced the victory for them. Marching around the city and shouting wasn't about breaking down the walls or scaring the people of Jericho. By obeying the Lord's commands, the Israelites showed that they trusted what God said was true, even if they didn't understand it.

As a Fruit of the Spirit, faith should be something present in the life of every believer. For us, faith might not mean knocking down walls or conquering cities, but by faith we obey the Word of God, even if we don't know how things will turn out. For example, maybe you are in a situation where all your friends are doing something that's wrong and want you to join in on their sin. You might be tempted to follow along or worried about what they might think if you don't, but by faith you know that it's better to obey the Lord than please other people.

Just like the Israelites, whenever obeying God's Word is difficult, we need to have faith by believing that what His Words says is true and obeying it. That will not be easy, but if your faith is weak, you can pray and ask the Lord to make your faith stronger. The Holy Spirit helps to give us faith when our faith is weak.

# TOOK

As a class, review the books of the Bible Genesis-Job.

Review the lesson by asking the students what faith is. How did the Israelites show faith at Jericho? What are ways that we can show faith?

**Pray:** Praise the Lord because His Word is always true. Ask Him to help you to have strong faith.

**Parent Question:** What are some situations in your life where you might need faith?

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

# FURTHER STUDY

## Commentary on Galatians 5:22 and Joshua 6 by David Guzik

5. ([Gal 5:22-23](#)) Examples of the fruit of the Spirit that walking in the Spirit produces in our lives.

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.**

h. **The fruit of the Spirit is... faithfulness:** The idea is that the Spirit of God works faithfulness in us, both to God and to people. "It is the characteristic of the man who is reliable." (Barclay)

i. "The ability to serve God faithfully through the years and through the temptations of life is not something we achieve by heroic virtue. It comes from the Spirit." (Morris)

### ***THE FALL OF JERICHO***

A. Obedience before the fall of the city of Jericho.

1. ([Jos 6:1-5](#)) Instructions for the battle.

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."

a. **Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel:** Jericho itself was on full alert; from a human perspective, this would be a hard, if not impossible, battle. Yet from God's perspective, the battle was already over, because He can say to Joshua ***I have*** (*in the past tense*) ***given Jericho into your hand.***

i. Up to this point everything had been more or less preliminary and preparatory. Now the real task before them must be faced and tackled. The Canaanites must be dispossessed if Israel is to occupy what God has promised them.

ii. Jericho was not an exceptionally large city; but it was an important, formidable fortress city. If Israel could defeat Jericho, they could defeat anything else that would face them in Canaan. Again we see the wisdom of God as opposed to human wisdom, in that Israel faces their most difficult opponent first.

b. **You shall march around the city:** The method of warfare was one that made absolutely no sense according to military intelligence. It required total dependence on God.

i. It required great faith from Joshua, because he had to explain and lead the nation in this plan.

ii. It required great faith from the elders and the nation, because they had to follow Joshua in this plan.

c. **The wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him:** It was a plan for victory whereby it would clearly be the work of the LORD. Yet God gave them something to do, so that Israel could work in partnership with God.

i. Obviously, it was something that God could have done without Israel's help at all, but He wanted them to be a part of His work - as He wants us to be a part of His work today.

2. ([Jos 6:6-7](#)) Joshua tells the priests and the people.

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."

a. **Then Joshua the son of Nun called the priests:** Joshua had to tell the priests, because what they were asked to do was unusual. Normally, priests and the ark of the covenant did not go with Israel to battle.

b. **Take up the ark of the covenant:** The ark would be prominent in this victory, even as it was in the crossing of the Jordan River. Israel had to keep their hearts and minds on the LORD who was present with them, instead of putting their hearts and minds on the difficulty of the task in front of them.

c. **And he said to the people:** Joshua had to tell the people, because what they were asked to do was unusual. This was no customary way to conquer a walled, fortified city.

3. ([Jos 6:8-14](#)) The march of the first six days.

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.

a. **When Joshua had spoken to the people:** Joshua does not hesitate to do what the LORD has told him to do. Often, our delays to obey God show that we really don't believe Him.

b. **So he had the ark of the LORD circle the city, going around it once:** Jericho was not a large city; they could easily march around it in a day's time. As the people of Jericho saw the Israelites marching around their city, they probably had a sense of both awe and horror.

c. It took *courage* for Israel to do this; Israel was wide open to attack during this time, and it would have been easy for the people of Jericho to attack them from the high position of the walls.

d. It took *endurance* for Israel to do this; the march was for six days, and they had to persist in something that didn't seem to make much sense.

e. In this, the *helplessness* of Israel was revealed; through six days of silent marching, they had a good look at the walls that seemed to be impenetrable - they knew that this was a battle bigger than they were.

4. ([Jos 6:15-16](#)) The march of the seventh day.

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!"

a. **On the seventh day:** This march took place over a period of seven days, meaning that Israel had to have marched on a Sabbath; but this would be a work of God's sovereign grace and power, not of human works.

b. **Shout, for the LORD has given you the city!** The command was given for the people to **shout**. After the days of silence, this comes as a recognition that God would now give them what He had promised. **The LORD has given you the city!**

5. ([Jos 6:17-19](#)) The command to destroy the city and to save Rahab is given.

"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."

a. **Only Rahab the harlot shall live:** Joshua is careful to take care of Rahab. Her faith in the living God would find support by God's people.

b. Joshua had to command the people of Israel to stay away from **the accursed things**. By this he means the idols and things associated with the demonic and depraved worship of the people of Canaan.

i. The severe judgment that is brought against Jericho, and all of Canaan didn't come because they were in the "way" of God's people. It came because this was a people who were in total rebellion against God and in league with the occult, as the artifacts recovered from this period demonstrate.

c. **But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the LORD:** All the valuables belong to God; Jericho is the "first fruits" city of Canaan, and so the valuables are set apart to **the treasury of the LORD**.

B. The taking of the city of Jericho.

1. ([Jos 6:20-21](#)) The walls come down and the city is destroyed.

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.

a. **The wall fell down flat:** We are not told that Israel knew this would be the result of their obedient marching and final shouting. They may have been as surprised as the people of Jericho were at the way God decided to deliver Jericho into their hands.

b. **They utterly destroyed all that was in the city:** Why was Israel commanded to practice such complete destruction? Because the greatest sins of the Canaanites were spiritual: *When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not*



be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you. ([Deuteronomy 18:9-14](#))

i. Such judgment seems harsh to us, because it *is* harsh - and we must recognize, that at unique times, God has commanded that such judgment come to pass. It may happen either through an army that He has used (as in the case here), or through judgment that He directly brings (such as in the case of Sodom and Gomorrah, [Genesis 19:24-25](#)).

c. Israel **took the city**: They **took**, after God had *given* ([Joshua 6:2](#)). It was clear that God gave, but that Israel had to *take* by obedient, persistent faith.

i. So it is with all victory in the Christian life - God gives it to us in Jesus Christ; but we must take it from Him by obedient, persistent faith.

2. ([Jos 6:22-25](#)) Finishing up the battle.

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.

3. ([Jos 6:26-27](#)) Joshua curses the man who would re-fortify Jericho.

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." So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout all the country.

a. **Cursed be the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho**: This was fulfilled in [1 Kings 16:34](#), which says *In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation with Abiram his firstborn, and with his youngest son Segub he set up its gates, according to the word of the LORD, which He had spoken through Joshua the son of Nun.*

b. This completes the story of Israel's victory at Jericho. We can learn from the things that marked their victory.

- *Faith*: Joshua and Israel believed the battle plan.

- *Obedience*: Joshua and Israel followed the battle plan exactly.

- *Courage*: Israel followed the battle plan despite danger.

- *Endurance*: Israel followed the battle plan over a period of time, even when it seemed that nothing was happening.

- Israel *did not* rely on carnal scheming and worldly methods; their trust was in the *LORD*, not in human ingenuity.