

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

## Sunday Morning

Study 19

*The Walls of Jericho*

# The Walls of Jericho

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.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week 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** To show the faith of the Israelites in obeying God's Word. Also to present the judgment of God upon sin.

## Key Verses

Hebrews 11:30

Joshua 6:1-21

**Memory Verse** - Luke 11:28

"But He said, 'More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!'"

## Hook

Review last week's memory verse, Exodus 14:31.

Give a brief over view of the events that took place from the Red Sea crossing to the Battle of Jericho.

Include the failures of Israel in the wilderness, the Golden Calf event, and the failure to enter the land at Kadesh-Barnea.

Highlight the difference between their actions at those times and during the battle of Jericho.

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

Hebrews 11 jumps over the failures of the Israelites in the wilderness, at Sinai with the Golden Calf, and their refusal to enter the land at Kadesh-Barnea. This makes sense, as this is the chapter on faith, not failure. So rather than dwelling on 40 years of judgment for rebellion, Hebrews 11 moves on to the next great moment of corporate faith shown by the Israelites, when they obeyed the word of God at Jericho.

The instructions of God were precise, though militarily suspect. They were to march around the city once per day for 6 days, then on the seventh day they were to march 7 times. They were required to stay silent during this time, only shouting and blowing their horns at the completion of the final march around the city. The Israelites obeyed these unique set of instructions, and as the Lord promised, the walls of Jericho fell, giving the Israelites total victory.

Note that our study ends at v. 21. We will study Rahab's entire story next week.

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

# LOOK

The story of Jericho might be the greatest act of submission and humility that the Israelites perform in the whole Old Testament. The army was commanded by God to go up and capture the city of Jericho, which we should point out is the strongest, most heavily-defended city in all of Canaan. The Israelites had won significant battles over the course of the past 40 years and had learned a few things about making war. However, the Lord told them to forget all of it. They were not going to lay siege to Jericho in the standard way. They were going to do something that makes absolutely no military sense. They were going to walk around the city quietly and then go home again.

If I was the general of an army, this would be quite a tough order to follow. The Israelites would be vulnerable and in danger during this time. If Jericho had allies, they might be able to come down upon the Israelites as they were marching. The commanders of the army must have been thinking, "I hope God know what He is doing." In fact, God tells the Israelites to do this for six days. For six days not a single arrow was fired, not a sword was drawn, not a drop of blood was spilled. At the end of each day, the army must have wondered what the purpose of all that marching was.

# LOOK (Continued)

I believe that God asked the Israelites to march for 6 days to give the citizens of Jericho one final chance to repent and submit to Him. Jericho stayed defiant however, and on the seventh day, after having marched around the city seven times, the Israelites were finally allowed to release all that energy that they had built up, and they shouted and blew their trumpets, just as God commanded them. As they did, the city walls crumbled and collapsed, giving the Israelites complete victory over the citizens of Jericho.

While it seems quite harsh for the population of the city to be killed during the battle, this was God bringing His judgment on the sins of Jericho. Up until the trumpets blew, they could have turned from their sin to the true God, just like Rahab did (which we will learn about next week). They could have been saved, but they chose to fight against God instead of with Him.

Like the citizens of Jericho, one day you and I will face the judgment of God. At any time we can escape the judgment of God by repenting of our sins, asking forgiveness for the wrong things that we have done, and accepting the free gift of salvation that is offered in Jesus Christ. And just like the citizens of Jericho, there is a time limit. One day another trumpet will blow and the Lord will return to judge the earth. Have you, like the Israelites, heard God's Word and obeyed it, or rather, like the citizens of Jericho, are you waiting for God's judgment to fall?

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?

# TOOK

As a class, memorize Luke 11:28.

**Pray:** Thank the Lord for His clear word to us. Ask for the faith to hear it and obey. Praise Him for the gift of life that He extends to all of us.

**Parent Question:** How did the Israelites demonstrate their faith during the battle of Jericho?

# FURTHER STUDY

## Commentary on Joshua 6 by David Guzik

### *Joshua 6 - The Fall of Jericho*

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

1. (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. (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. (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. (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. (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. (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 is 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.