

Fall of Jericho

Joshua 5:13—6:27

Main Street



bible verse

COMMITTING TO MEMORY

Psalm 126:3

The Lord has done great things for us
and we are filled with joy.



story lesson

BIBLE STORY

After the two spies returned, the Israelites had to cross the Jordan River to begin the conquest of Canaan—their promised land. The priests carried the Ark of the Covenant into the river and stood in the middle. The river was at flood stage (meaning...a lot of water!!) and when the priests' feet touched the water, the river, from upstream, stopped flowing. "It piled up in a heap a great distance away...so the people crossed over opposite Jericho" (Joshua 3:16). After every Israelite had crossed over on dry ground, twelve men from each tribe went back into the river bed and got one stone each—twelve total. The Israelites made a memorial of those twelve stones to remember what the Lord did for them as they crossed the Jordan River. "That day the Lord exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they revered him all the days of his life, just as they had revered Moses" (Joshua 4:14).

Then the people advanced toward the fortified city of Jericho. Along the way, Joshua met up with the Lord and He gave Joshua the specific instruction about the way the battle of Jericho was to go down. Upon arrival, Joshua relayed the instructions from the Lord to the people:

"March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days (Joshua 6:3).

"On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have all the people give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the people will go up, every man straight in" (Joshua 6:4-5).

"Do not raise a way cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!" (Joshua 6:10).

So they did this. For six days, they marched around the city once each day. On the seventh day, they marched around the city seven times. And upon the seventh time, the priests sounded the trumpets and the people shouted. And before their very eyes, the walls of Jericho came crashing down. Only the prostitute Rahab and her family were spared.

The command was to destroy everything in the city.

"...keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it" (Joshua 6:18).

"Then they burned the whole city and everything in it" (Joshua 6:24).

"And Joshua's fame spread throughout the whole land" (Joshua 6:27).

The conquest had begun. The nation of Israel was reclaiming the land that God had promised them many, many years ago to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

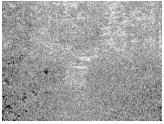
Trumpets, or ram's horn, were used in sounding the final shout which immediately crumbled the walls of Jericho. This trumpet is called a *shofar* and it has multiple uses:

- announcing the presence or coming of the Lord
- an instrument of proclamation
- to praise God
- an early warning siren
- to assemble the people
- to assemble the troops
- to call God's people to worship Him
- at the swearing of an oath to God
- in the midst of battle
- to announce the beginning of festivals
- and at the return of Jesus, the Messiah

This is a significant tool used in the life of the Israelites.

The crossing of the Jordan River has significant parallels to the crossing of the Red Sea. In both cases the people went through on dry ground and consisted of the entire nation of Israel. In the Red Sea crossing, the nation of Israel were *fleeing from* their enemies. In the Jordan River crossing, they were *advancing toward* their enemies. Both events displayed the awesome power of *Yahweh*, the God of heaven and earth.

This battle was a success. That does not sound like anything fantastic until you learn that there is often not much success with the Israelites. They choose more often to disobey, than to obey. In this instance, however, they choose to obey and follow the Lord their God and He is faithful to fight for them and bring them through.



life application

MAKING IT REAL

Do What God Says

When God tells you to do something in a certain way, you must do it. Do you think it was weird to walk around the city for six days? Then on day seven, walk around seven times? Do you think they thought there was a better way? Maybe. But they followed what the Lord said and it worked out. When God speaks, listen and obey.

God is Faithful

God follows through on what He says. He is faithful. When God said that He would rescue Rahab and her family from the destruction of Jericho, He did. They were spared because of the promise of His people.



questions

REMEMBERING

1. **What land did God promise to the Israelites?** Land of Canaan
2. **Who already lived in the land?** Canaanites
3. **What was the first city the Israelites conquered?** Jericho
4. **What did the Israelites do for six days?** Marched around the city once, quietly
5. **What happened to the city on the seventh day?** When the people of Israel obeyed what God had told them to do, God delivered the city over to them by destroying the huge walls.
6. **What does it mean to have faith?**



coloring sheet

ON THE NEXT PAGE



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