



Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho, Jericho...

Introduction – from a distance courage always seems easier and more obvious than it does to the person(s) experiencing the situation. Fear has the ability to cripple. Yet we have been learning courage is essential to the Christians. Joshua 5-6 record an event so incredible, we sing songs about it 3,000 years later. As we will see, courage is indispensable, especially when we believe the task is impossible.

Discussion question: What is the greatest display of courage you have ever witnessed? What made it so incredible?

Moses was dead. His servant Joshua was about to have his leadership tested in an incredible way. The time had come to receive their inheritance – the Promised Land. Joshua's task was to lead the charge. First stop – mighty Jericho.

Read Joshua 5:13- 15

- 1) Who appeared to Joshua (5:13-15)? What was the purpose of this appearance?
- 2) What is the purpose of the stranger's drawn sword?

Read 6: 1-19

- 3) Describe how Israel captured and destroyed Jericho. Is this the usual way armies defeated walled cities in that day?
- 4) God gave Joshua very specific instructions. If you were a soldier marching in silence around Jericho, how do you think you would have felt?
- 5) What warning was given in connection with the taking of Jericho (6:18-19)? Why?
- 6) What was shown by Israel's obedience that day (see Hebrews 11:30)?
- 7) Rahab and her family were spared – why?
- 8) Would you consider Rahab an example of courage? Why or why not?

Application questions

- 9) What are the different battles we face?

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- 10) How does a lack of courage keep us from seeing God's incredible victories?
- 11) What are different promises God has made concerning our lives and the battles we face?
- 12) How do faith and attention to his Word give courage in the face of our "Jericho"?

Spend some time in prayer asking God for wisdom to know that battles that must be fought and for courage to believe his Word.