Overview

Biblical Passages: Joshua 6:1-27; Hebrews 11:30


Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:30

Biblical Truth: God revealed Himself, His glory, and His purposes through unusual instructions and phenomenal results.

Context: Joshua began his military campaign by obeying the Lord without question. Joshua’s first military campaign didn’t use the military at all. God instructed him to lead the people in a march around the city of Jericho for seven days. They marched around the city once for the first six days, and on the seventh day, they marched around the city seven times. After the seventh time on the seventh day, the people heard a blast from a trumpet and then shouted, and the walls collapsed. When the walls fell down, the people charged straight in and took over the city. The only people allowed to live were Rahab and her family. The Israelites were to burn the city, kill the people, and take certain items into the treasury of the tabernacle. The miraculous victory over Jericho brought great honor to Joshua as Israel’s leader. Before Joshua and the Israelites experienced their second victory, Achan’s sin had to be dealt with. Then God would grant Israel victory over their enemy. By way of ambush, Joshua and the Israelites defeated the city of Ai and were allowed to keep the riches for themselves. Israel was victorious when they trusted the Lord and were obedient to His Word.

Learning Goals:
• Students will understand that God can be trusted no matter what He may instruct us to do.
• Students will apply faith in God by committing to following Him even when they don’t know the outcome.

Prayer Suggestions:
As you prepare to teach this lesson, pray for your students.
• Pray that your students will know that God can be trusted in all circumstances, even when His instructions seem unreasonable.
• Pray that your students will become familiar with God’s hand at work in their lives.
• Pray that your students will respond to God’s leadership with trust and obedience.
Biblical Commentary

Investigation

God continued to use Joshua to fulfill His promise to give Canaan to Israel. Joshua had to decide whether or not he would follow conventional wisdom or God’s commands. God’s plan to take Jericho without military action was a test of Joshua’s character. God had already called Joshua to cross the Jordan with no bridge. Taking a fortified city by walking around it, blowing horns, and shouting must have seemed strange to observers, but not to Joshua. God had proven His ways are always successful, and what seemed odd from a human perspective was the very way God made His character known.

Importance

This passage of Scripture is important for students because it powerfully shows that God is. God promised land to His people, and He gave it to them in such a way that they and every other nation knew He was in charge. God commanded Joshua to lead the people using unusual methods—marching around a walled city, blowing trumpets, and shouting—which proved successful. God is completely sovereign and all-powerful. His ways are higher than our human logic, and Joshua believed in His ability to accomplish what He said. Joshua followed God’s commands, illogical as they were, to the last detail, and God once again proved Himself strong. God still calls His people to do things that sometimes do not make sense to the human mind to show Himself strong. As students study the way Joshua encountered God, they will realize His amazing power and the importance of obedience to His Word.

This passage also touches on other key truths: The Bible is God’s Word; and The Future is in God’s Hands.

Interpretation

Joshua 6:1 Jericho was the first major barrier to Israel’s conquering Canaan. The people of Jericho heard about the spies and about Israel’s crossing the Jordan River while it was swollen beyond its banks. So they went inside the city walls and shut things up tightly. Their fears were heightened when they heard Israel destroyed the Amorites (Josh. 2:10). The city gates were closed, and no one could go in or out of the city. They adopted a paralyzing siege mentality.

Joshua 6:2–5 Jericho was the first walled city Israel faced, and the Israelites may have wondered how they were to overcome such an obstacle. But God had a plan. God began by reminding Joshua He had already delivered the city into his hands (v. 2). He then told Joshua to instruct the people to walk around the city once a day for six days, and on the seventh day to walk around it seven times. Priests and the ark, not generals and an army, would lead the people each day. After the seventh march around the walls on the seventh day, Joshua would command
the priests to sound the trumpets, and the people would shout to the Lord. At that sound the walls would fall, and they could enter the city. This plan surely seemed odd to a military man such as Joshua, but he took God at His word and began to lead the people accordingly.

Joshua 6:6–7 Joshua without question commanded the priests to take the ark and place seven priests with trumpets in front of it. He then commanded the people to follow the priests and walk around the city.

Joshua 6:8–14 The people followed Joshua’s instructions. Note the order of action. God came to Joshua, His chosen leader. Joshua obeyed by commanding the people to act according to God’s command. The people showed their faith in God by doing what Joshua told them to do as God’s representative.

At the head of the procession was an armed guard followed by the priests, who blew the trumpets. The priests carrying the ark were next, and they were followed by another group of armed guards. The people followed them. All the time the seven priests before the ark blew the trumpets. Joshua told the people to walk quietly and not shout until he commanded them to. They people obeyed, and after quietly walking around the city once they returned to the camp for the rest of the day and night. They followed this pattern for six straight days.

Joshua 6:15–19 On the seventh day, the people arose at daybreak and marched around the city seven times. The Bible does not record any grumbling by the marchers, but you can imagine some were probably wondering when victory would come. Walking in circles was not the most reasonable way to capture a city. On the other hand, this generation had learned that walking in a circle in the wilderness can be God’s plan for His people.

On the seventh time around, Joshua gave the people explicit instructions about what to do next. They were to shout when the trumpets blew because God had given them the city. They were to devote every living thing to the Lord—everything except Rahab and her family. Joshua also warned them to stay away from the devoted things in the city. To take anything for their own meant their own destruction and the possible destruction of Israel. Lack of obedience meant direct consequences. A person of character like Joshua knew this firsthand, and he wanted the people to be reminded of this truth. All silver and gold and articles of bronze and iron were to go to the treasury of the Lord.

Joshua 6:20–25 When the people did as Joshua commanded, the walls collapsed. Every man charged in and began to devote the city to the Lord by killing every living person and animal in the city except Rahab and her family. These actions may seem harsh, but it was necessary to establish God’s people as the preeminent people in the land. Also, by not taking anything from the city, the people remained completely dependent on God to supply their needs. Saving Rahab as he promised showed Joshua’s trustworthiness. He had learned to trust God’s Word. He, therefore, became a man whose word could be trusted.

Joshua 6:26 After Joshua had accomplished God’s command and fulfilled his promise to Rahab, he placed a curse upon anyone who might desire to rebuild the city. This was an effect of devoting the people and contents to the Lord. The city was not to be rebuilt as an act of trust in God’s power and purposes for Israel. The words of Joshua held true throughout history. The Bible records that during the reign of Ahab in the northern kingdom of Israel, Hiel of Bethel rebuilt Jericho. He lost his first son when he built the foundations and his second son when he set up the gates (1 Kings 16:34).

Although God commanded the people not to take anything from Jericho for themselves, Achan thought he could. Joshua 7 is the story of the defeat of Israel by the inferior numbers of Ai and how God led Joshua to know Achan had taken gold and silver from Jericho for himself. The chapter concludes with the execution of Achan and all of his family. God’s harsh judgment on Achan’s family for taking things from the sack of Jericho may also seem odd to modern minds. Tolerance often outweighs justice in the arena of public opinion. Joshua did not blink an eye
when God told him to execute Achan and his clan. He knew the consequences of not obeying God. He had a defeat by a little town like Ai and 40 years wandering in the wilderness as proof. We can learn from Joshua’s unflinching faith in God’s Word. His faith was the core of his character, which played itself out in the heat of battle and the hard work of justice.

After Achan’s sin was dealt with, God commanded Joshua to take the city. This time God told Joshua to use a military ambush to capture the king and his city. It is a strategy used throughout history to defeat a country’s enemies. God also allowed Israel to take the livestock and plunder of Ai for themselves. God’s punishment was followed by God’s provision. This chapter of Joshua’s history illustrates that once sin is removed from people’s lives, God can use them to do powerful things for Him. Students can learn from this ancient defeat and victory; God can use them for His purposes when they obey His Word.

Implications

Trusting God completely can seem unreasonable at times—especially to students who are spreading their wings in judgment and decision-making. People often consider personal opinion their standard for truth. The culture thrives on indulgence and a heightened awareness of world religions. Students must often swim upstream to live a life of resolute trust in God. Joshua’s character was built on an unquestioning trust in God. Students need his example as they wrestle with the extent to which they’ll live their lives according to God’s Word. Joshua trusted God because of God’s actions in his life. He trusted God’s promise to be with him as He worked through him to accomplish His will. What is God asking students today that may seem unreasonable but is key to living a godly life? How can you encourage them to trust God’s commands while living in the culture around them? We see the continued development of Joshua’s character. He had to trust God’s unconventional plans to take Jericho. He also had to trust God’s word when Ai defeated Israel and God told him it was sin among the people, not a lousy army that caused the loss. Joshua’s character was also tested when God told him to execute Achan’s family. Each command tested Joshua’s faith and strengthened it when he followed God’s Word. How is God’s Word testing students’ characters today? What are they facing that causes them to dig deeper in their trust of God? How can you help them apply God’s Word in their particular situations?

Obedience involves acting out what you hear God say. Joshua trusted God and obeyed His word without question. This was the foundation of his character. How do you teach obedience to students who may not have learned it at home or school? What are some contemporary examples of obedience you can use to illustrate this foundation of their character and trust in God?
Teaching Plan

Connect Activity

Review Questions: Risk and Grace
(5–8 minutes, easy set-up)
Students will answer five review questions from the previous lesson.

(5–8 minutes, easy set-up)
Download the “Review Questions” sheet. Print one copy for your own use.

After greeting students, use the review questions to test what they can recall from the previous lesson as well as to provide context for today’s lesson.

Drama: Jericho Walls
(5–10 minutes, moderate set-up)
Students will view a drama about what or whom they should put their trust in.

(5–10 minutes, moderate set-up)
Download the drama script. Prior to the session, enlist two students and/or adults to enact the drama. The drama can be as elaborate or simple as you choose. Print copies of the script. Give each cast member a copy ahead of time and ask the cast to be ready to perform it.

Lead the actors to perform the drama. Explain that this drama depicts the battle plan that God gave to the Israelites—marching around the walls of Jericho. Point out that we know from the last lesson about Rahab that the people of Jericho had heard about God and how powerful He was. Ask: Even though the people of Jericho were scared, if you were one of them, how would you have reacted to the Israelites simply walking around your heavily fortified walls? After students answer, explain that today we will explore this battle and what it teaches us about God.

Especially for Younger Students: Modified Swordfight
(10–15 minutes, moderate set-up)
Students will fight with objects that are not weapons

(7-10 minutes, moderate set-up)
Bring two (or more if needed) of any soft object that isn’t typically used as a weapon, such as pipe cleaners, toilet paper, ribbon, or yarn—two of any random object will work. Keep the items hidden while you give students the instructions.
Divide students into two teams. (If your group is large, you may wish to divide students into four teams to allow for the completion of the activity in the allotted time.) Explain that the two teams will compete against each other: **Two students—one from each team—will face off, and the first one to be hit somewhere other than the hand is out. The next person in line from his or her team will step up to battle the person who won.** This process will continue until one team has no more members and the other is declared the swordfight winner. Remind students that they can only touch the other person with their "weapon".

Give the first two students their weapons. Tell the rest of the students to form a line behind the first player from their teams and be ready to step in when the person in front of them is defeated. Remind students that once they are hit somewhere other than their hands, they are out of the game. Play until you have a winner(s). Ask: **What’s it like to fight with objects that aren’t meant to be used as weapons? Why doesn’t this seem like an effective way to fight an enemy?** Explain that today you will study the battle of Jericho and the unusual method of warfare God told the Israelites to use—marching in circles, blowing trumpets, and shouting.

**Especially for Older Students: Know Your Bible Quiz**

*(10 minutes, easy set-up)*

Students will decide if a statement originated in the Bible or not.

*(10 minutes, easy set-up)*

Download the “Know Your Bible Quiz” activity sheet. Print a copy for yourself.

Direct students out of their seats. Explain that the left side of the room is the no side, and the right side is the yes side. Say: **I’m going to call out several statements you’ve all probably heard at some point in time. If you think the statement originated in the Bible go to the right side of the room. If you think it didn’t, go to the left side.** Call out the first statement on the PDF. Once every student has chosen a side, tell them the answer. Continue until all statements have been read. Then say: **To hear God’s voice, you have to know what’s really in God’s Word and trust that His Word is true and good.** Explain that today we will look at how Joshua demonstrated trust in God even when He instructed him in a very odd method of warfare.

**Explore Activity**

**The Key Study: Battle Plans**

*(15–20 minutes, easy set-up)*

Students will read Joshua 6:1–27 and discover the battle plans for taking the promised land.

*(15–20 minutes, easy set-up)*

Download the Student Worksheet. Provide a copy for each student. You’ll need a dry erase board and
markers. Draw a circle on the board and label it The walled city of Jericho.

Say: Sometimes God's commands don't make sense to us. If we were Joshua and the Israelites, we may have been confused at God's instructions on how to defeat the city. Distribute the Student Worksheet. Direct students to look up Joshua 6 in their Bibles. Read Joshua 6:1 aloud. Explain that the circle on the board represents Jericho. Explain that, like many cities of that time, the people of Jericho enclosed their city with a protective wall, trusting their walls to protect them from any enemies or invading armies. Inform students that Jericho's walls were not like a small fence that we would envision today. Tell them that the outer wall, made of stone, was approximately twelve feet high and was approximately between four and six feet wide. Say: And that was just the outer wall! More mud-brick and earthen walls were inside the outer wall and were even higher. Point out that in that day, the people of Jericho would have had no reason to think that their wall couldn't protect them. Enlist a volunteer to read verse 2 and ask students to identify God's promise to Joshua. (He would deliver the city of Jericho to Joshua.) Encourage them to write it on their worksheets.

Direct students' attention to verses 3–5 and help them answer the questions under Days 1–6 and Day 7. (Answers: DAYS 1–6—Armed men should march around the city once. Seven priests should carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. DAY 7—March around the city seven times. The priests should blow the trumpets. Following the priests, the people should shout loudly. The wall would collapse.) Call on one or two students to go the board. Say: After God told Joshua what to do, Joshua gave instructions to the people. As I read these verses aloud, draw a diagram of the battle plans. Read verses 6–14. Encourage the student to use symbols to represent the army, the priests, the trumpets, and the ark.

Then read verses 15–21 aloud, and instruct the student to draw another diagram of the last day's battle plan. Then, ask: How would you describe this battle method? How was it different from normal military conquests? After students answer, ask: How could this method of battle give full glory to the God of the Israelites instead of the power and military prowess of the Israelites themselves? Lead students to understand that because God chose to defeat the city of Jericho in such a unique way everyone would see His power and know that He alone is God. Tell students to describe how Joshua and the people of Israel could have responded to these seemingly unusual instructions. Emphasize that the people could have ignored God's instructions, thinking that they knew better. Say: Because Joshua and the people of Israel obeyed God fully, they were able to be a part of making His name known among all people and have an unhindered relationship with Him. Ask: How did Joshua demonstrate his trust in God's ability to keep His promise? Emphasize that Joshua's obedience to God's commands revealed that he trusted God's ability to do as He said and His willingness to do what He said.

Call on a student to read the conclusion to the battle scene in Joshua 6:22–27. Emphasize how Joshua kept his promise to Rahab and her family. Direct students to fill out “Battle Summary” on the worksheet as a class. (Answers: 1—trumpets; 2—priests not soldiers; 3—march around the city and yell; 4—the walls fell and Jericho was destroyed.)

Enlist a student to read verse 2 again and remind students that God told Joshua how the battle would end even before it began. Point to an essential truth poster (or print the truth online at http://studentlifebiblestudy.com/about-slbs) and ask a student to read the God is statement. Then ask: How does this encounter with God reveal His power? (The victory was clearly only from God. No
human battle plan was at work.) Point out that even when we think that God doesn't make sense, He is always in control and can always be trusted.

Master Teacher Key Study: Faith, Not Force

(15–20 minutes, easy set-up)
Students will read Joshua 6:1-27 and learn the importance of following God’s plan.

(15–20 minutes, easy set-up)
Use this outline and the Biblical Commentary to prepare to share the truths of this passage with students. Download the Master Teacher Worksheet. Print a copy for each student. Encourage students to take notes on their worksheets as you teach. The underlined words in the Master Teacher Key Study correspond to the blanks on the worksheet.

Introduction: Have you ever wondered how the automatic doors at grocery stores or shopping malls work? What actually happens is that a laser sensor monitors an area of space directly in front of the door. When you enter that space, the laser senses your presence and automatically opens the door. The principle is pretty simple. As long as you’re standing in the right place, the door will open.

In a spiritual sense, that’s how obedience works in the Christian life. Our obedience puts us in the right place to see God for who He really is and to open doors for us to be a part of His mission.

1. God gives us His plan and allows us to respond (Josh. 6:1-5).
   - God told Joshua exactly what he wanted Joshua and the people of Israel to do and exactly how the battle would end.
   - God's instructions to not use any typical military weapons may have sounded very strange to a people who were supposed to defeat an entire city.
   - Israel had to make a choice: take Jericho by faith as God had planned or take Jericho by force, as most armies would do.
   - Joshua had the choice to either trust God or put faith in himself.

2. I am responsible for my response to God (Josh. 6:6-11).
   - Joshua was the very first Israelite in this story to respond in obedience to God’s directions.
   - Obedience always begins with the right attitude toward God. It is a "by faith" attitude that says I will trust God before I trust myself.
   - Joshua declared his choice in Joshua 24:15 by saying: “If serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

3. My obedient response can influence others (Josh. 6:12-26).
   - Joshua modeled obedience for the whole nation. He told them to do as the Lord commanded because He knew God was trustworthy.
   - Joshua's leadership was authentic because he was asking the people to do the very same things he was doing.
Joshua's trust and obedience influenced others to trust in God and to experience His promises of delivery.

Illustration: Show a dollar bill and ask students if it is authentic or counterfeit. Tell them that the government (actually the Secret Service) uses several tricks to ensure something is authentic. For example, the treasury uses red and blue fibers sporadically through their printing that gives money a little color that’s impossible to duplicate. Also, some dollar bills have embedded security strips. All these things are meant to ensure that the money we use is the real thing. An expert from the FBI or Secret Service can pick out a phony dollar bill in a heartbeat.*

What’s the point? You may be able to fool people with faked obedience and an inauthentic faith, but you will never trick God. The real thing is always the best thing.

4. God always honors obedience (Josh. 6:27, Heb. 11:30).
   - God honored Joshua’s obedience, and Joshua’s fame spread throughout the land because of the God he served.
   - Israel took Jericho by faith, not by force.

Conclusion: Why does it matter if I follow God in obedience? It matters because my obedience will open the doors to His activity and involvement in my life. A disobedient spirit will cause a disruption in my relationship with Him. Disobedience doesn’t destroy the relationship; it disrupts it. If I am obedient, however, soon God will use my obedience to influence others’ obedience. And God always honors the obedience of His people.


Especially for Younger Students: Wear Your Armor
(15 minutes, moderate set-up)
Students will consider how God has called them to fight against Satan.

(15 minutes, moderate set-up)
Download the “Wear Your Armor” activity sheet. Provide a copy for each student.

Say: We’ve looked at how God called Joshua and the Israelites to battle in Jericho. We’re in a battle, too—every day. How does God tell us to fight? Direct a volunteer to read Ephesians 6:10–18. Ask: What does verse 11 say is the purpose of this armor? (So you can stand against the devil’s schemes.) Explain that we are all in a battle against Satan because he wants us to sin against God. Say: But God has given us exactly what we need to stand strong, just as He did for Joshua.

Divide students into groups of three and instruct them to complete the first two columns by labeling the armor. (Answers for Physical Equipment column: helmet, breastplate, belt, sword, shield, shoes. Answers for Spiritual Equipment column: salvation, righteousness, truth, Word of God, faith, gospel of peace.) When they finish, go through the answers together and discuss the role each piece of equipment plays as we battle Satan’s schemes. Use these suggestions to guide your discussion of what goes in the third column:
   - Helmet—protects your mind; know truth of God’s Word when Satan tries to deceive your mind;
certainty of salvation

- Breastplate—protects vital organs; your heart is covered with the righteousness of Christ because of His work on the cross
- Belt—protects vital organs; the truth of Christ upholds our faith
- Sword—a weapon; Word of God is used to fight Satan (Luke 4:1–13, the temptation of Jesus)
- Shield—a weapon of defense; firm faith in Christ is how we “extinguish all the flaming arrows” Satan throws at us (v. 16)
- Shoes—protect feet; walk in peace before God

Point out that when we walk with Christ, He gives us His armor to walk faithfully in obedience to Him. Say: **We aren't expected to follow Him alone; He gives us what we need to live in spiritual victory ever day.**

Especially for Older Students: Why Would God Do That?

*(10 minutes, easy set-up)*

*Students will consider why God would ask Joshua and the Israelites to destroy the city of Jericho.*

(10 minutes, easy set-up)

*Download the “Why Would God Do That?” activity sheet. Provide a copy for each student.*

Ask a volunteer to read Joshua 6:20–21 and 24. Explain that the word *devoted* in Hebrew (cherem) is used in the Old Testament to describe the irreversible giving over of things or persons to the Lord, often by totally destroying them. Start a discussion by asking: **Why would God command His people to destroy an entire city and kill all the men, women, children, and animals?**

Remind students how important it is not to look at only one verse in the Bible and expect to understand it completely. Explain that the Bible is a whole book. Point out that we wouldn’t pick up a novel or history book or someone’s journal and expect to understand everything about it from one sentence. Say: **Neither should we read one isolated event in the Bible and expect to figure out everything we need to know.**

Direct students to the “Why Would God Do That?” PDF. Assign each student a passage to look up. (You may need to assign multiple passages or give more than one student the same passage depending on the size of your class.) Instruct each student to read their verses. Ask each student: **How does that passage reveal God’s character?** As students examine these passages, guide them to see both God’s love and mercy, and God’s righteous judgment. Emphasize that God’s character never reveals evil, and in times of His judgment we must be careful to see that His extraordinary holiness prevents Him from having any association with sin. Say: **God’s character is so righteous and holy that He won’t tolerate sin. As we’ve seen, He has often executed judgment on people because of their sin. It may be difficult for us to understand God’s judgment at times, but the most complete picture of God is found in Christ.**

Ask: **Why are we all undeserving of God’s love?** Ask a student to read Romans 6:23. Remind students of the gospel—that we all sinned and deserve death, but in love God offers us eternal life through Jesus Christ. Encourage students to think, speak, and live as forgiven sinners bought with a price.
Transform Activity

Deeper Discussion

(5–8 minutes, easy set-up)
Students will discuss the importance of following all of God’s instructions.

(5–8 minutes, easy set-up)
Discuss these questions with your students. Help them apply Joshua’s situation to their own lives. Be ready to share a personal example of how God’s commands sometimes don’t make sense from a human perspective.

- How did Joshua show he trusted God?
- Has there ever been a time when it seemed unreasonable to follow God? What did you do?
- What is the value of knowing Joshua’s story as you listen for God’s commands?
- What are the obstacles to obediently following God when what He says doesn’t seem to make sense—such as loving your enemies or turning the other cheek?
- How do we stay faithful to God when we’re confused by our circumstances?

When you finish discussing these questions, remind students that God demonstrated His power to Joshua, the Israelites, and the surrounding nations by the way He chose to give His people the land. Encourage them to remember this week that even when it seems unreasonable to follow God from a human perspective, we should be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, cling to His Word, and commit to obey.

Especially for Younger Students: Trustworthy

(5–10 minutes, easy set-up)
Students will discuss why God is trustworthy.

(5–10 minutes, easy set-up)
Provide a dry erase board and dry erase markers. Provide an index card and pen for each student.

Instruct students to think about and list characteristics that make a person or thing trustworthy. For example, explain that if they wanted to determine if a chair was trustworthy, they would look at their integrity of its construction and its stability. List the characteristics that the students share on the board. After a couple of minutes of discussing trustworthy characteristics, lead students to then list characteristics of why Joshua trusted God and why they can trust in God, too. Emphasize that God has the power to do what He says; He has the will to do what He says; He always keeps His promises; He is always good and always wise. Say: Even at times when we don't think God is not making sense, we can know that God is trustworthy and follow Him no matter what.

Distribute the index cards and pens. Tell students to write down the list of why God is trustworthy. Instruct students to write a sentence of commitment to God, in their own words, that they will commit to trust Him at all turns in life, no matter how confusing obedience may seem. Allow a couple of moments...
for students to write. Encourage them to keep the card in their Bibles or another accessible place and to use it to continually emphasize the truth that God is trustworthy.

Especially for Older Students: Trust His Name

*(5–10 minutes, easy set-up)*

*Students will consider things they put their trust in.*

(5–10 minutes, easy set-up) *Pass out blank sheets of paper.*

Enlist a volunteer to read Psalm 20:7. Ask: *How is this verse related to Joshua’s story?* *(Joshua trusted in God’s name, not weapons, for his victory over Jericho.)* Ask: *What are some things we put our trust in that are figuratively like horses and chariots?* Encourage students to discuss the earthly things they place their trust in, such as personal success, intelligence, money, relationships, social acceptance, or hard work. Then ask: *How can we put our trust in God’s name?* Help students understand that trusting God’s name requires us to know Him. We put our trust in Him through prayer and obedience to His Word. Ask: *Why do you think it’s so tempting to trust horses and chariots instead of God?* Allow them to share their thoughts.

Ask students to create two columns on the paper: one labeled *Horses and Chariots* and the other *The Name of the Lord.* Tell them to ask God to show them the horses and chariots they’re putting their trust in. Encourage them to list these things, confess them to God, and ask Him to help them see the lack of real power these things have when compared to God’s endless power. For each thing they list, instruct them to write in the next column how they can trust the Lord instead. Encourage students to think about Joshua’s story this week and to be mindful not to put their trust in anything other than God.

Creative Prayer

*(5–10 minutes, easy set-up)*

*Students will consider the walls in their lives and ask God to tear them down.*

(5–10 minutes, easy set-up) *Pass out blank sheets of paper.*

Ask: *Why did the Israelites want the walls of Jericho to fall down?* *(Because Jericho was one of the first cities in the promised land.)*

Ask each student to draw a circle on the paper and write the word *promised land* in the center of it. Encourage students to spend a moment in prayer asking God to show them things that are holding them back from living in the promised freedom and spiritual blessings of God. Instruct them to write these things outside the circle on their paper.

Encourage them to ask God to bring their walls down. When they are finished, close by praying aloud: *God, Help us remember you are the one who crumbles our walls by your power. Help us clearly hear your voice and to have a heart of obedience.*
1. Before entering the promised land, where did Joshua send the two spies to "look over the land"?
   a. Alabama
   b. Babylon
   c. Jericho
   d. Jordan

2. The two spies Joshua sent into Jericho stayed with _______.
   a. Jezebel
   b. Rahab
   c. Ruth
   d. Lydia

3. What did Rahab reveal to the two spies to show her belief in God?
   a. She bowed down and worshiped Him.
   b. She knew the Ten Commandments by heart.
   c. She had heard of God's mighty acts.
   d. She was a Hebrew by birth.

4. How did the two spies sent by Joshua escape Jericho?
   a. They sneaked out the gate.
   b. They climbed down a rope from Rahab's window, which was part of the city wall.
   c. They dressed like people of Jericho and hid in the crowds.
   d. They slipped past the guards at the gate at night.

5. What did the two spies sent by Joshua promise to do for Rahab?
   a. They promised to tell everyone about her good deeds.
   b. They promised not to tell the King of Jericho that they had stayed with her.
   c. They promised to spare Rahab and her family when they returned to conquer Jericho.
   d. They promised to remember her before the Lord.
1. Before entering the promised land, where did Joshua send the two spies to "look over the land"? *(Lesson 21)*
   a. Alabama
   b. Babylon
   **c. Jericho**
   d. Jordan

2. The two spies Joshua sent into Jericho stayed with _______. *(Lesson 21)*
   a. Jezebel
   b. Rahab
   c. Ruth
   d. Lydia

3. What did Rahab reveal to the two spies to show her belief in God? *(Lesson 21)*
   a. She bowed down and worshiped Him.
   b. She knew the Ten Commandments by heart.
   **c. She had heard of God's mighty acts.**
   d. She was a Hebrew by birth.

4. How did the two spies sent by Joshua escape Jericho? *(Lesson 21)*
   a. They sneaked out the gate.
   b. **They climbed down a rope from Rahab's window, which was part of the city wall.**
   c. They dressed like people of Jericho and hid in the crowds.
   d. They slipped past the guards at the gate at night.

5. What did the two spies sent by Joshua promise to do for Rahab? *(Lesson 21)*
   a. They promised to tell everyone about her good deeds.
   b. They promised not to tell the King of Jericho that they had stayed with her.
   **c. They promised to spare Rahab and her family when they returned to conquer Jericho.**
   d. They promised to remember her before the Lord.
Jericho Walls

Creative Note: Use cardboard boxes to construct a small section of the walls of Jericho.

Characters:
JARARD
TECHICK

Props: Thermos of coffee; two cups; swords or spears

Costumes: Ancient soldier costumes

(A Jericho sentry, JARARD, is lazily manning his post on the city's walls. TECHICK, another sentry, enters with a thermos of coffee and a couple of cups.)

TECHICK: Hey, Jarard. How's it going?
JARARD: Pretty good, pretty good.
TECHICK: What's the outlook today?
JARARD: Same as yesterday and the day before that and the day before that and the three days before that.
TECHICK: Not that I'm complaining, really, because I'm actually not worried at all, you know . . .
JARARD: Oh, yeah, please.
TECHICK: But, uh, this has to be absolutely the lamest siege I've ever heard about.
JARARD: Yeah, no chance of this one going down in the history books.
TECHICK: Or at least, if it does, it will be how incredibly pathetic their attempt was.
JARARD: You got that right.
TECHICK: Coffee?
JARARD: What kind?
TECHICK: It's a new roast, actually, in honor of our little friends out there. It's called Jehovah Java.
JARARD: Ha! . . . I don't get it.
TECHICK: Jehovah . . . (JARARD stares at him blankly.)
TECHICK: Their God . . . (JARARD just shrugs his shoulders and waits for more.)
TECHICK: (like he's talking to a school child) The name of their God is Jehovah. Jehovah Java. Get it?
JARARD: Oh, yeah. Funny.
TECHICK: You still don't get it, do you?
JARARD: Um. Not really. No.
TECHICK: Wanna cup anyway?
JARARD: Yeah. Let me try this stuff.
(TECHICK pours a cup for JARARD.)
TECHICK: Here you go.
JARARD: Thank you.
(TECHICK blows on it to cool it off. TECHICK pours a cup for himself and takes a sip.)
TECHICK: Oh, yeah. That's good.
(TECHICK peeks over the wall.)
TECHICK: Not only is it the lamest siege, this is also the lamest parade ever.
JARARD: Tell me about it. You know what's weird, though?
TECHICK: What?
JARARD: They've been at it a lot longer today.
TECHICK: Really? What's up with that?
JARARD: Don't know. All I know is that every day for six days they've shown up, marched around our wall once, and gone home.

TECHICK: Yeah. Lame.

JARARD: Right. Today, they've been around almost six times.

TECHICK: Huh. That is weird.

(They both sit for a second sipping their coffee.)

TECHICK: You know what I heard?

JARARD: What's that?

TECHICK: I heard their God . . . Jehovah . . .

JARARD: Right. I heard that supposedly their God gave them instructions on how to conquer us.

TECHICK: That's what I heard.

JARARD: And this plan involved taking a bunch of priests with trumpets and walking around our city?

TECHICK: Eh, what do I know?

JARARD: I'll say this. That's not the kind of God I'd want to put my trust in.

TECHICK: You're telling me. I'm perfectly content relying on our much-envied defensive walls here.

JARARD: Why do you think I volunteered for wall detail? It's the safest place in the whole army . . . the whole town for that matter.

TECHICK: Yeah. If I'm gonna trust anything it's gonna be these babies right here.

(TECHICK pats the walls. A distant sound of a trumpet blast is heard.)

JARARD: You hear something?

TECHICK: Yeah. Those priests must finally be blowing those trumpets of theirs.

JARARD: They should be just about finishing their seventh pass now. Must be on their way home again.

JARARD: Yeah.

(They each take a sip of their cups and then suddenly stop simultaneously.)

TECHICK: Hey. Do you . . .

JARARD: . . . Feel something?

(The End)
Character
Lesson 22, Connect

KNOW YOUR BIBLE QUIZ

Did the following statements come from the Bible?

1. Haste makes waste. No
2. A little bird told me. Yes (Ecc. 10:20)
3. Don’t follow the crowd! Yes (Ex. 23:2)
4. Mark my word! Yes (2 Chron. 18:27)
5. Cleanliness is next to godliness. No
6. It’s a drop in the bucket. Yes (Is. 40:15)
7. The apple of my eye Yes (Ps. 17:8)
8. Actions speak louder than words. No
9. An apple a day keeps the doctor away. No
10. Your sin will find you out. Yes (Num. 32:23)
11. The early bird gets the worm. No
12. An eye for an eye Yes (Ex. 21:24; Deut. 19:21; Matt. 5:38)
13. Skin for skin! Yes (Job 2:4)
14. There’s nothing new under the sun. Yes (Ecc. 1:9)
15. Hear no evil; see no evil; speak no evil. No
THE FALL OF JERICHO (JOSHUA)

biblical passage: Joshua 6:1–27; Hebrews 11:30
memory verse: Hebrews 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.

BATTLE PLANS
The city of Jericho was shut up tightly. The people were afraid of the Israelites and hid behind their city's walls.

GOD'S PROMISE TO JOSHUA (v. 2) ______________________________________

God's battle plan was unique. It illustrated that only God could have delivered the city of Jericho to Israel.
Record the specifics of the battle plan below.

DAYS 1–6
What did God tell Joshua to do for six days? (vv. 2–4)
Armed men should ____________________________________________.
Seven priests should ____________________________________________.

DAY 7
What did God tell Joshua to do on the seventh day? (vv. 4–5)
March around the city ___________________________ times.
The priests should ___________________________.
Following the priests, the people should ____________________________.
The wall would ________________________________.

BATTLE SUMMARY

Weapons:
Leaders:
Strategy:
Success:
THE FALL OF JERICHO (JOSHUA)

biblical passage: Joshua 6:1–27; Hebrews 11:30
memory verse: Hebrews 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.

FAITH, NOT FORCE
1. God gives us His _________ and allows us to _________ (Josh. 6:1–5).

2. I am _________ for my _________ to God (Josh. 6:6–11).

3. My _________ response can _________ others (Josh. 6:12–26).

4. God always honors _________ (Josh. 6:27; Heb. 11:30).

SMALL-GROUP Discussion Questions
• How did Joshua show he trusted God?
• Has there ever been a time when it seemed unreasonable to follow God? What did you do?
• What is the value of knowing Joshua’s story as you listen for God’s commands?
• What are the obstacles to obediently following God when what He says doesn’t seem to make sense—such as loving your enemies or turning the other cheek?
• How do we stay faithful to God when we’re confused by our circumstances?
# Wear Your Armor

Read Ephesians 6:10-18. Fill in the blanks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Equipment</th>
<th>Spiritual Equipment</th>
<th>Purpose in Battle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helmet</td>
<td>Salvation</td>
<td>Protects your mind against Satan’s deception with the certainty of salvation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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WHY WOULD GOD DO THAT?

Genesis 3:14-19  The serpent, Eve, and Adam were placed under sin's curse.
Genesis 6:5-8  God flooded the earth.
Joshua 8:1-2  God told Joshua to destroy Ai like he did Jericho.
Judges 16:28-30  Samson killed the Philistines.
1 Samuel 17:45-52  David and Goliath.
Psalm 83  Asaph prays God will destroy those who are against him.
Isaiah 19:1-17  Isaiah prophesied God's destruction of Egypt.
Isaiah 40:28-31; 43:1, 4  God showed His favor to Israel.
Matthew 5:38-42  Turn the other cheek and go the extra mile.
Matthew 7:13-14  Narrow gate leads to life; wide gate leads to destruction.
Romans 8:31-39  Nothing can separate us from God's love.
2 Peter 3:9; Hebrews 13:8  God doesn't want any to perish; Jesus is always the same.

WHAT DO THESE VERSES TELL US ABOUT GOD'S CHARACTER?


For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God . . . the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 3:23; 6:23

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