



3

The Battle of Jericho

Key Theme

- God is faithful to His promises.

Key Passages

- Joshua 6:1–6, 6:10, 6:20–21, 6:25

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe how God gave victory to the Israelites
- Describe how God was faithful to His promises to Rahab and Israel



Lesson Overview



Come On In

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Students will place a bookmark at Joshua 6. Students will put the Memory Verse Strips into order and then practice saying the verse together and/or with a partner.



Activity 1: Battle of Jericho Class Notes

page 5

Students will fill out The Battle of Jericho Class Notes as you study the lesson.



Studying God's Word

page 6

Joshua received unusual battle plans for the taking of Jericho. But he and Israel were obedient, and God was faithful to fulfill His promise to deliver Jericho into their hand. God was also faithful to spare the life of Rahab from destruction just as He had promised.



Activity 2: Jericho Rediscovered

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Students will discover what archaeologists have found to confirm the truths of the Bible's historical account of the destruction of Jericho.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Cut paper strips for each student. They will mark Joshua 6 in their Bibles.
- If you haven't done this, print and cut out the Memory Verse Strips from the Resource DVD-ROM for every 2–3 students.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Paper bookmarks
- Memory Verse Strips in envelopes or small plastic bags
- If you want to do this as an individual activity, make one set per student. Put complete sets into envelopes or small plastic bags.



BATTLE OF JERICHO CLASS NOTES

- Print one Battle of Jericho Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- Battle of Jericho Class Notes for each student
- Battle of Jericho Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print and cut the three Lesson Illustrations from the Resource DVD-ROM. Use the Board Work Illustration for your planning.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Three Lesson Illustrations
- Board Work Illustration
- Poster putty or tape



JERICHO REDISCOVERED

- Print, collate, and staple the two Walls of Jericho Illustrations from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Two Walls of Jericho Illustrations for each student



Memory Verse

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

➤ **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Before you begin to prepare for your lesson, please prepare your heart and mind by reading Joshua 5:13–6:27 and Hebrews 11:30, noticing that the faith of Israel was instrumental in accomplishing God’s plan to defeat Jericho.

After God’s charge to Joshua to lead the nation into the Promised Land and after the episode of Rahab and the spies, the nation of Israel itself was still on the eastern banks of the Jordan and had not yet crossed into the land that God had promised them. Chapters 3 and 4 of Joshua tell of the miraculous stopping of the Jordan River’s waters, allowing Israel to cross on dry ground, and of the memorial stones that Israel placed on the other side to commemorate God’s faithfulness. The bearing of the Ark of the Covenant before the nation (Joshua 3:11) declared that God was fulfilling His purpose to establish a nation for His own glory, which He had declared to Abraham nearly 500 years earlier.

The first obstacle before Israel was the city of Jericho. In Joshua 5:13–15, a Man identified as “the Commander of the Lord’s army” appeared to Joshua. This Man represents a Christophany—a pre-incarnate appearance in history of the Lord Jesus. If that were not the case, Joshua would not have obeyed the Man when commanded to take off his sandals because he was standing on holy ground. This was the Son of God Himself in human form, declaring that He would lead and fight for Israel. This was to be no ordinary battle!

The battle plan from the Lord must have seemed very strange to Joshua. Jericho responded to Israel’s approach by securely shutting up the city (Joshua 6:1), an indication that they expected a siege. God’s instructions to Joshua were for the army of Israel to march around the city once each day for six days, following the Ark of the Covenant, with the priests blowing trumpets, but making no other noise (Joshua 6:3–4). Then on the seventh day, the city would be circled seven times in the same manner, and finally, the Israelites would be instructed to shout—and God promised that at that time, the city would be miraculously destroyed, leaving a path for Israel to march directly in and take the city (Joshua 6:4–5). No other battles had been fought by Israel in this manner, and no others would be. God had a particular purpose to mark this victory, the first in the Promised Land, with a miraculous triumph that would follow a week of ceremony. God desired to conquer Jericho in a way that could not be attributed to Israel’s

military prowess. Israel would have had every reason, from a standpoint of military tactics and wisdom, to doubt whether God’s directions for the battle would be successful. On the other hand, the Israelites knew the faithfulness of God’s care for 40 years in the wilderness, knew from the previous generation of their great deliverance from Egypt, and knew that God gives the victory from their successful battles against the kings Sihon and Og (Deuteronomy 2:26–3:11). The Israelites were convinced that God’s promise was to be trusted, and they obeyed His seemingly strange commands for the battle of Jericho.

Israel’s faith at Jericho is mentioned in Hebrews 11 along with many others who demonstrated their faith in God—among them Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Rahab. These saints of God had faith that led them to look beyond immediate circumstances and trust that God’s ways would lead to blessing beyond any earthly situation. In all of those examples, faith led to obedient action (see Hebrews 11:7–31). Israel obeyed God’s instructions for the battle, trusting His goodness and faithfulness to His promises. After the seventh circle around the city on the seventh day, Israel shouted, the walls of Jericho fell, and the Israelites went straight into the city and destroyed their enemies—God’s enemies.

Just as the spies had promised, Rahab and her family were spared (Joshua 6:25) as reward for her help in protecting the spies before the battle (Joshua 2). Joshua 6:25 tells us that “she dwells in Israel to this day,” showing that Rahab became one of God’s people. It also shows us that the book of Joshua wasn’t written very long after the events of the book occurred, since Rahab was still living.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

For much of the twentieth century, archaeologists declared that the biblical account of Jericho could not have happened as the Bible said it did. More recent discoveries, however, have not only led to an archaeological revision of the date of Jericho’s destruction that accords with Joshua’s time in history but have also shown that the ruins that have been uncovered were destroyed in a way that is perfectly consistent with the Bible’s description of the event. What was once considered a “problem” of the Bible’s inconsistency with archaeological research has turned out, upon further discovery and study, to be an example of archaeological evidence displaying the trustworthiness of

the Bible's accuracy. Of course, God's Word can be trusted completely, with or without such scientific "vindication."

The Israelites marched around Jericho for seven days. But were those ordinary days or long periods of time? Jonah was in the great fish for three days, but were those ordinary days or long periods of time? Of course, those are ridiculous questions. But it is much the same with those who question the length of days in the creation account of Genesis 1. No Christian believes that the Israelites marched around Jericho for thousands of years or that Jonah was in the great fish for 3,000 years. Why? Because Scripture is clear. Yet, why do some Christians continue to question the clear meaning of Genesis 1? The answer is that they have been influenced by modern scientists who believe in millions of years. Thus, they have allowed man's ever-changing opinions to have authority over the unchanging Word of God. The word translated as "day" in Genesis 1 (and in the Jericho account) is the Hebrew word *yom*. In this chapter, *yom* is modified by a number and used in connection with the word "night" and the

phrase "evening and morning." Each time *yom* is used outside of Genesis 1 in just one of these ways, it means a normal-length day. There should be absolutely no question that day means a literal, 24-hour day in Genesis 1 because that chapter uses *yom* with the combination of all three—a number, the word "night," and with "evening and morning."

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Almighty Lord, I am awed by your power and faithfulness as I study this lesson. You are able. Help me Lord to live a life of faith like Rahab and Joshua and to pass that desire on to the children in my class. May each encounter I have with my students help them to fall in love with you and your Word more and more. Praise the name of the Lord! You are more than able.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will mark their Bibles at Joshua 6 with strips of paper.
- They will put the Memory Verse Strips in order and recite the verse together and/or to each other. They may work individually or in teams.

Use this time at the beginning of class to review the memory verse. We have provided a template on the Resource DVD-ROM you can use to make Memory Verse Strips to be put in order each week. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Battle of Jericho Class Notes

MATERIALS

- Battle of Jericho Class Notes for each student
- Battle of Jericho Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.

We will be filling in these class notes as we study the Bible today. Try not to work

ahead. Fill in the blanks as we come to them. I'll let you know when to fill in something.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete these class notes, we'll see that God won the Battle of Jericho.

After filling in each point on the class notes, have the students re-read the statement together or call on individual students to read it.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

► Use the History of Israel Poster included with your teacher kit to show your class where the biblical accounts you study chronologically fit into this timeline.

Joshua 3:17

Remember that Joshua and the Israelites had finally gotten to the Promised Land. Jericho was the very first city they needed to conquer and Joshua had sent spies into that city to see what it was like. The spies were almost discovered by the king's men, but God used Rahab to protect them. It had been forty years and God had continued leading the people through the wilderness to the Promised Land. The whole time God was with them. God continued to show them His miracles and His protection.

Now they were preparing to cross the Jordan River. It was time for all of Israel to cross into the Promised Land! God led them across the Jordan River. It was spectacular. He miraculously dried up the ground, so they could all get across—just like He did for Moses!

Listen to Joshua 3:17. It is just too good to pass over. *Read verse.* So they crossed the Jordan on dry ground and the people moved on, toward Jericho. As they approached the city, Joshua met a man who was the Commander of the army of the Lord. The Lord had promised that He was going to fight for them. And He was with them to do just that!

Joshua 6:1–6, 6:10

But how would God give this mighty city of Jericho into the hands of Joshua and his men? Let's find out! Who can help me read today's passage? *Choose volunteers to read Joshua 6:1–6 and verse 10.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

These are some very interesting battle instructions! Let's study this passage carefully by asking some questions to see what God's Word is telling us.

► As the students fill in the class notes, you may want to write the words on the board so those who don't write and/or spell well, can copy easily.

Observe the Text

- ? Who is giving these unusual instructions? And to whom are they being given? *Joshua 6:2. The Lord is speaking to Joshua.*
- ? According to Joshua 6:2, what did the Lord promise Joshua? *The Lord promised that Jericho would be delivered into Joshua's hand. Fill in #1 on the class notes—Jericho and Joshua's. Put the City of Jericho picture from the Resource DVD-ROM on the board.*

Yes! Isn't that statement amazing? Before the battle, the Lord assured Joshua that the battle was already won.

- ? Good. Now, who can carefully explain what the Lord wanted Joshua and the Israelites to do? Start with Joshua 6:3. *March one time around the city six days in a row.*

- ? **And what were the people and priests to do on the seventh day?** *Joshua 6:4. March around the city seven times and the priests would blow the trumpets.*
- ? **What were the people to do while the priests blew the trumpets?** *Joshua 6:5. Make a great shout.*
- ? **Those were the orders. Now in Joshua 6:6, what did God tell the people to carry ahead of them as they marched around Jericho?** *The Ark of the Covenant.*
- ? **Who went ahead of the people with the Ark of the Covenant?** *Joshua 6:6. Seven priests.*
- ? **What does it say the priests were to carry with them?** *Joshua 6:6. Seven horns. Add the Ark of the Covenant picture with the priests to the board under the City of Jericho.*
- ? **Yes, the priests and the Ark of the Covenant led them. Does anyone know what the Ark of the Covenant represented to the people?** *God's presence.*

Refer to Lesson Illustrations. I want you to envision this unusual battle plan. See the mighty walled city of Jericho? Here is the army of Israel. Add the Army of Israel picture to the board behind the Ark of the Covenant and the priests.

Now on the first day, they were to march around the city one time in this formation just as the Lord commanded. While I'm marking their path here on the board, you mark it on your class notes under #2. Draw one circle for one time around the city. *On the board, draw a circle around the city to represent the path the Israelites took.*

And then they were to go back to their camp somewhere outside the city walls and wait until the next day. Look at Joshua 6:3 again.

- ? **What were they supposed to do on the second day?** *The same thing all over again. Draw another circle around the city of Jericho and have students draw another path around Jericho on their class notes.*
- ? **Yes. Day after day they were to repeat the same strange march around the city of Jericho. For how many days?** *Joshua 6:3. Six. Draw the circle around the city four more times and have students do the same on their class notes.*
- ? **Now look in Joshua 6:10. What other command did God give Joshua and the people?** *Do not make any noise until I tell you to shout!*

Yes! They were to march once around the city silently each day for six days. *Refer to the board work. Only the sounds of their footsteps and the priests' horns would be heard—until the seventh day. On the seventh day they marched around the city seven more times. Draw another path around Jericho on the board—this time seven times around. Have the students draw the same on their class notes. Then the priests gave a very long trumpet sound, and Joshua yelled "Shout, for the Lord has given you the city!" They shouted and the walls came tumbling down.*

Discover the Truth

Wow! God assured Joshua and the Israelites that the city of Jericho was already theirs. God had promised His protection. And God is always faithful to His promises! Even though the battle plans were extremely unusual, Joshua and the people knew they could trust their faithful God!



READ THE WORD

Let's read on to find out what happened to Jericho, Rahab, and the Israelites.

Joshua 6:20–21, 6:25

- ? We will read Joshua 6:20–21 and verse 25 next. Who would like to read this time? *Choose volunteers to read Joshua 6:20–21, 6:25.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? First look at Joshua 6:20–21. A lot of information is packed in those two verses. When the seventh day came God acted! What did the people do? *Shout.*
- ? What did the priests do? *Joshua 6:20. Blew the trumpets.*
- ? What happened to the wall? *Joshua 6:20. It fell down flat.*
- ? What did Joshua's men do? *Joshua 6:21. Went in and destroyed all that was in the city.*
- ? That's right! And now in Joshua 6:25, who did Joshua spare? *Rahab.*
- ? Rahab, her family, and all their possessions were spared. Yes! Who can tell me why? Take a look at Joshua 6:17 for the details. *She hid the spies. Joshua promised she would be saved, and by God's grace she was.*

Refer to Lesson Theme Poster, Lesson 2. Do you remember that? When Joshua sent the spies into the city, Rahab was the one who hid them from the king's men—on her roof. They promised to spare her from the destruction because she had protected them.

Discover the Truth

Jericho was completely destroyed according to God's plan. Rahab was saved according to God's plan.

- ? Do you see how God's plan for Jericho, Rahab, and the Israelites unfolded? Look at #3 on your class notes. What do you think the blanks should say?
Allow for answers.

The Israelites had victory over Jericho. God accomplished His plan and He fulfilled His promises. *Have students fill in #3 on the class notes—Jericho, promise.*

The fulfillment of God's plan and promise for Israel was victory over Jericho. Joshua was obedient to God to accomplish this victory. God kept His promise to the Israelites by giving Jericho into their hands. It was a victory that only God could have accomplished. And He sure gave them victory in a unique way, didn't He?

Now read #4 on your class notes. God kept another promise. What was that promise? How would you complete that? *Choose someone to read #4 aloud. Allow discussion. Fill in #4 on the class notes—saved and promise.*

God was faithful to the Israelites to give them the Promised Land, and God was faithful to Rahab and her family. God accomplished His plan and fulfilled the promise to Rahab. She and her family were the only ones in the city saved from destruction because of Rahab's faith and obedience when she hid the spies. What a faithful God we serve!





Jericho Rediscovered

MATERIALS

- Walls of Jericho Illustration #1
- Walls of Jericho Illustration #2

INSTRUCTIONS

Pass out the Walls of Jericho Illustrations. You will refer to these as you explain the modern-day archaeological evidence that confirms what God did in 1400 BC at Jericho.

It is easy to read the Bible and hear about the great things God does without grasping just what a huge event it was. That can easily happen when talking about Joshua and the walls of Jericho.

I want you to look at the Walls of Jericho Illustration #1. This drawing is based on what has been discovered at the actual site of Jericho by archaeologists—people who carefully clear the land to see what may be left and buried from people and cities long ago. You will notice that there are no houses on this illustration. But this will

give us an idea of how well-protected the city was.

The city was built up on a very steep hill—or earthen mound. This in and of itself would make it difficult for enemies to attack. Then there was wall #1. This was the first of three walls and it was 12–15 feet tall. On top of that was wall #2. This was a mud brick wall and it measured 20–26 feet tall! It is thought that this wall measured 6 feet thick! We are talking about a very strong and well-protected fortress.

But that is not all that was found! There was a third wall! See how the ground sloped up steeply from walls #1 and #2, and was topped by another sturdy mud-brick wall—wall #3.

Now, look at the second illustration. You will see that this space between walls #2 and #3 is probably where Rahab's home was. The Bible tells us that her home was "on the city wall." And we know that the

spies escaped through her window. That leads us to believe that her house would have been one of those built right up against the outside wall of the city.

When we think of what the Israelites were doing—marching silently around the city—wondering what God was going to do—we realize the faith and trust they had in almighty God!

We read in the Bible that the walls fell down flat! That would have been something to see. And the recent discoveries of archaeologists digging and studying the area of Jericho have confirmed that this is exactly what happened.

You see, they found the city and the walls were collapsed, just as the Bible says in Joshua 6:20. Not only that! They have found evidence that places in the walls at the bottom actually crumbled forward forming a ramp of rubble which would have made it possible for the Israelites to go “up into the city” just as described in Joshua 6:20! You

can see what that may have looked like on Illustration #2.

And what about Rahab’s house? Remember, God spared Rahab and her family. But, it seems her home would have been destroyed with the rest of the city. Well, excavations done in 1907–1909 found that a portion of the lower city wall had not fallen with the rest of the city. This could have been where Rahab’s home was “on the wall.”

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The Lord performed a great miracle in Jericho. Israel destroyed Jericho and Rahab was saved. God fulfilled His promises by bringing down the walls in a very unusual battle. Many details of the biblical description of the destruction of Jericho have been confirmed by recent archaeological digs. But even without these findings, we know that the Bible is true—it is the Word of God, who does not lie—it is the history book of the universe.



Applying God’s Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

God gave the Israelite army, and Joshua, victory over the walled city of Jericho. God led them into the Promised Land. They crossed the Jordan River on dry ground! The Lord told Joshua that the victory over Jericho was his—even before the battle had begun! That victory came through some very unusual battle plans. The walls of Jericho fell after the Israelites did just as the Lord commanded. They simply marched around the city walls for seven days, with the Ark of the Covenant—God’s presence—guiding them. The priests blew their horns and the army gave a great

shout on Joshua's command. The walls fell down flat! God was faithful to His promise—as He always is.

And let's not forget that Rahab and her family came out of Jericho alive—how could that be? The only ones saved? Only by God's grace because of His promise made to protect her. God always fulfills His promises.

That leads us to #5 on your class notes. What is the answer? *Fill in #5 on the class notes—always.*

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

FAITHFUL

(Refer to Attributes Poster)

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the students to practice the memory verse this week.

How can the fulfillment of these promises apply to us? Well, from these fulfilled promises and from all the others in God's Word, we can be sure that God is faithful. God has always been faithful. And God will continue to be faithful to all of His promises to all of His children.

Sometimes it doesn't look like things will turn out OK. Sometimes God asks us to do things that don't make sense—like marching around a city and hoping the walls will fall! Sometimes life will be difficult. But God has promised that He will be with us. He will help us. He will strengthen us. And just like He did with Joshua and the Israelites, God demands that we obey Him, even when it is very, very hard. We can always trust our faithful God!



MEMORY VERSE

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God for being a God who is always faithful to His promises.
- Thank God for giving us so many examples of His faithfulness in His Word.
- Ask God to help us trust Him more when things don't make sense.