



STORY

3/17/06

The Destruction of Jericho - Joshua Chapter 6 & 11:23

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I know that You are the only righteous, all-knowing, all-powerful God. You hold my life in Your hands at all times. Teach me through this Bible story to learn to appreciate both Your power and Your righteousness. Make me to understand that You hate sin and wickedness, as You demonstrated in the destruction of Jericho. If those around me turn away from You, I pray that you would keep me ever faithful. Clear away from my life all that is displeasing to You, and let me adorn my life instead with love and service to You and to my neighbor. I pray also that You would give me the wisdom and ability to teach the lessons of this Bible story to the children entrusted to my care. In Jesus' Name I ask. Amen.

VOCABULARY

Jericho - One of the oldest cities known to man, its name means "City of Palms." At the time of Joshua it was probably the most important city on the fertile plain between the Jordan River on the East and the hills and mountains that stretch from north to south in the West. It was the guardian of the entrance to Canaan. Biblical archeology has found evidence of many cities built and rebuilt upon this site. From earliest times to about 3000 BC several cities were built and destroyed. From 3000 BC until the destruction by Joshua in 1400 BC four more distinct cities have been identified. The climate, which is tropical, probably explains why it was later used by Herod the Great as his winter palace.

Rahab the Harlot - A prostitute in Jericho who befriended the spies sent to search out the city before the attack by Joshua. Because of her help, she and her entire family were spared. They were the only recorded survivors of this city of about 10,000.

Abstain - to refuse to take part in or to take possession of; have nothing to do with.

Consecrated- set aside and dedicated for a specific purpose, in this case the gold, silver, bronze, and iron of the City of Jericho was to be dedicated to the Lord.

OUTER AIM

God destroys the wicked City of Jericho by the hand of Joshua and the Children of Israel.

INNER AIM

By the destruction of Jericho God demonstrates both His omnipotence and His holy intolerance of sin and unbelief.

BACKGROUND

The Children of Israel have now crossed over the Jordan River and have entered into the

Promised Land. The manna stopped on the day after they began eating the fruit of the land that had been promised to them (Joshua 5:12). Now they are faced with their first real military challenge - the fortified City of Jericho. Archeologists estimate that the population of this city was about 10,000 at the time Israel attacked. Since we know that the city was in a state of siege when Israel arrived, and since the walls enclosed only about six acres of land, we know that the city was probably very crowded. Prior to the attack Joshua is greatly encouraged by the presence of the "Commander of the army of the Lord," who appeared to Joshua near the city (Joshua 5:13-15).

Verses 1-2

- Jericho had received word of the approaching army of Israel and had taken refuge in their walled city. The city itself was not only double walled, it was also located at the summit of a raised plateau. From a military perspective the task of taking the city was daunting.
- The Lord made clear to Joshua that this was going to be *His* battle. *God* was going to defeat the city of Jericho. In so doing He was setting the stage for the entire conquest of the Promised Land. *With* God the Children of Israel could not fail. *Without* God they could not succeed.
- Note the Lord's words, "**See I have given Jericho into your hands.**" Once God determined that the city was to be destroyed, its fate was sealed. Joshua accepted this promise of the Lord in faith, confident that the city had been delivered even before the walls had fallen.

Verses 3-11

- Given the size of the army of Israel and the relatively small footprint of the city of Jericho, the men of war could well have completely encircled the city as they marched around it.
- God wanted to demonstrate in this first battle in the Promised Land that He and He alone could deliver Israel's powerful enemies into their hands. What is more, they were not to rely on the cunning and bravery of man, but upon the power of God.
- It is widely speculated that the Children of Israel had to endure the taunts and jeers of the defenders on the walls as they walked in perfect silence around the city. This is by no means certain. The evil, pagan inhabitants of Jericho were well aware of what the God of Israel had done for his people on the east side of the Jordan River, and they were utterly terrified of Israel (Joshua 2:8-11). Rahab told the spies that her people were "fainthearted" and their "hearts had melted, neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of (Israel)." It is more likely then that the mood in Jericho while Israel circled was one of terror and foreboding, rather than one of confidence and shouted insults.
- Although we cannot say with any certainty why God had the people circle the city once a day for six days, and then seven times on the seventh day, we do know that it gave the people of Jericho ample time to repent and to turn to the Lord God. Whether or not any besides Rahab turned to the Lord is not known.
- The eerie, piercing notes of the trumpets, the ominous silence of the army of Israel, and the sound of marching feet must have been a terrifying spectacle. The people of Jericho were well aware that the God of Israel had parted the waters of the Red Sea. How secure could they have felt, even behind their fortified walls, when faced with such an enemy?

Verses 12-19

- Israel did exactly as the Lord had commanded, and God granted them success. If only the people had learned the lesson the Lord was teaching them at Jericho, what future misery they could have avoided. In subsequent attacks they repeatedly failed to carry out the Lord's commands and paid a heavy penalty.
- Note the faith of Joshua as he adopts the same "already accomplished" confidence of the

Lord: "**Shout, for the Lord has given you the city!**" Though the walls still stood, in his mind the destruction of the city was already an accomplished fact, for the Lord had declared it.

□ Joshua honors the promise made by the spies to Rahab. Here is evidence of the mercy of God, for although He severely punished the wicked inhabitants of Canaan, He demonstrated mercy and kindness to those who turned to Him in faith. (Cf. Rahab's confession in Joshua 2:11)

Verses 20-25

□ Archeology on the old site of Jericho has verified that Jericho was a double walled city when Joshua attacked. The outer wall was made of brick and was six feet thick, the inner wall, also of brick, was about

twelve feet thick and thirty feet in height. The two walls were divided by a space of about fourteen feet. The Bible's simple statement that "the wall fell down flat" has also been verified by archeology. The entire wall, both inner and outer, fell outward. The outer wall fell down the sides of the rise on which the city was located. The inner wall filled the space between the walls and beyond. Archeologists note with some amazement that the walls showed no signs of decay or deterioration that could have caused their fall, thus dispelling the notion that "tremors" caused "decrepit walls" to collapse. They were pushed down by the finger of God.

● The destruction of the fortifications by God was so complete that the soldiers of Israel could all rush in at once. Most often in a siege a small breach is made in the wall, through which the whole army must pass at great risk. In Jericho the Lord God literally paved the way for the army of Israel.

● God commanded Israel to kill all of the citizens of Jericho (except for the family of Rahab). In prideful ignorance Bible critics have cited this lack of mercy as evidence of a cruel God - a different God than the one pictured in the New Testament. Yet we know that God is just, as well as loving. The city of Jericho was extremely wicked, and their time of judgment had come. The clear message is that God does not tolerate evil indefinitely. Man will be called to account for his evil.

● We ought to also recognize the love of God demonstrated here. His master plan for the Children of Israel was to send the Savior through them. God knew that the perversion of Canaan would surely destroy Israel long before the birth of Jesus if the pagan peoples were allowed to remain in the land. In love for all mankind (who would later gain eternal benefit from the Messiah) God visited judgment upon the pagan peoples living in the Promised Land.

● Though the destruction was complete, God managed to preserve the house of Rahab, which was situated on the wall. Israel then burned whatever could be destroyed, and collected the gold, silver, bronze, and iron for the Lord.

Verses 26-27 and 11:23

● Joshua pronounces a curse upon whomever would dare to rebuild what the Lord had chosen to destroy. The city therefore lay desolate after the destruction by Joshua for some 540 years. It was rebuilt by Hiel of Bethel in 860 BC and the curse of Joshua was fulfilled at that time. (1 Kings 16:34).

● Joshua rested from war and conquest after he had accomplished all that the Lord had required of him. This resting from war did not mark the end of all conquest in the Promised Land, but rather the establishment of a foothold for Israel. There were more battles to come, but Joshua's part was done. Israel now set about fortifying its position and cultivating the lands they had captured.

STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Father in Heaven, I am often tempted to put my trust and confidence in myself rather than in You.

Remind me often so that I never forget that You are my strength, the only One who can deliver me from my enemies. As you fought for the Children of Israel, fight also for me. Grant that I never forget how You feel about sin and disobedience, and fill me with joy in knowing that You paid for all of my sins on the cross. Give me comfort in knowing that You are always with me and will never leave me. As the Children of Israel could not defeat the city of Jericho without you, so too apart from You I can accomplish no good thing. Strengthen my faith and help me to always trust in You as my God and Savior. In Jesus Name I ask this. Amen.

PRESENTATION

This account can be read in class. Larger classes might also enjoy acting out the drama of the battle by marching around human "walls" that fall down at the shout of the people.

APPLICATIONS

1. Note the patience and the trust taught by God to the warriors of Israel in this lesson. It must have seemed silly and pointless to simply walk around a fortified city for seven days with no sound but the marching of feet and the blowing of trumpets. Let the children see that God's ways are very often not man's ways, and visa versa. Our calling as Christians is not to understand God and His ways, but to obey and trust.
2. Note that a group is made up of individuals. Every member is important. Had any of the Israelites disobeyed God's command to walk around the city of Jericho in silence, the displeasure of the Lord would have affected the whole of Israel. So also later when Achan took and kept from Jericho that which belonged to the Lord, all Israel suffered. Use these facts to demonstrate to the students that this not only applies to being part of a team in the secular world, it also applies to every member of the Christian Church. Each one of us is an ambassador for Christ. The poor conduct of even one will reflect badly not only on the whole Church, but also on our Savior Jesus.
3. Just as God preserved Rahab in the midst of the utter destruction of Jericho, so God today can and will preserve those who believe in Him, even though God's Children are surrounded by enemies on all sides. Though Rahab and her family were no doubt saddened by the thought of losing all of their friends in Jericho, they had found a new family among the people of God. Show your students how they too might be called upon to forsake friends and even family members for the sake of the gospel. (You might ask if any have friends or family members who belong to false teaching churches and discuss with them the best ways to help those friends or family members - i.e., not to join them in the false church but to call them out to the church that teaches the pure Word of God.)
4. It is important to discuss with the students why God commanded the death of all of the inhabitants not only of Jericho but of all of Canaan. Use this fact to demonstrate how God feels about sin. The punishment of the unbelievers in Canaan is a foreshadowing of the coming judgment of the whole unbelieving world.

Use the destruction of the Godless to contrast the loving, merciful, undeserved rescue of us sinners (pictured by Rahab the prostitute). All men deserve God's wrath and destruction. For Jesus' sake He has granted us pardon and peace.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

(Hebrews 11:30 NKJV) By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.
(Deuteronomy 3:22 NKJV) 'You must not fear them (the enemy), for the LORD your God Himself fights for you.'
(Psalms 103:12 NKJV) As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Middle any of the above and...

(Psalms 27:1 NKJV) The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?
(2Chronicles 20:20 NKJV) "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper."
(Psalms 103:10 NKJV) (The Lord) has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.

Upper any of the above and...

(Psalms 18:2 NKJV) The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
(Psalms 127:1 NKJV) Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.
(Psalms 103:8-9 NKJV) The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.
{9} He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever.

HYMN CHOICES

"If God Himself be for Me" TLH #528:1 & 4 "Who Trusts in God a Strong Abode" TLH# 437:1-2 "Built on the Rock the Church doth Stand" TLH# 467:1-3

The Fall of Jericho

Joshua 6, 11:23



The Story

The city of Jericho had a very thick wall all around it. Now the people of Jericho were very afraid because the Children of Israel were close to the city, and they closed the gates of the wall. The people of Jericho were hiding inside the city walls.

The Lord told Joshua, "I have given Jericho to you. Here is what you shall do. All the fighting men should march around the whole city once a day for six days. Seven priests with trumpets made of ram's horns should march in front of the ark. On the seventh day you should walk around the city seven times, and the priests should blow the trumpets. When they blow a long blast on the trumpets, all the people shall shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat."

So Joshua told the people what to do. On the first day, armed men started to walk around the city. Then came the seven priests blowing on the seven trumpets made of ram's horns, followed by the ark. Then more men came after the ark. No one talked at all while they walked around the city, but the trumpets blew the whole time. When they had all walked around the entire city one time, they went back to their camp for the evening.

The second day was just like the first. Days three, four, five, and

six were also the same. But on the seventh day they got up very early, about the time the sun was rising, and they marched around the city. They marched without talking, just as they had on the other days. The priests blew the trumpets as they had on the other days. But when they had marched around the city seven times, the priests blew a long sound on the trumpets, and Joshua told the people, "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city! Go in and destroy everything that is there, and all of the people. Only save Rahab and her family. Also save the silver and gold, and the things made of bronze and iron because they belong to the LORD."

So the people shouted when the priests blew the long note on the trumpet, and the wall of the city fell down flat. The people went into the city and destroyed everything in it. The only people who were saved were Rahab and her family. They saved the silver, gold, bronze, and iron, and then they burned the whole city.

So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout all the country.

God destroyed the wicked city of Jericho by the hand of Joshua and the children of Israel.

Activity One – Color the picture on page 1 using the following directions.

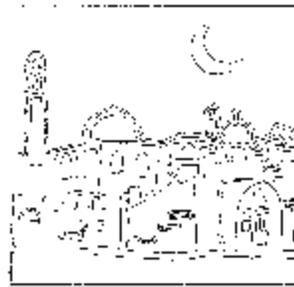
1. Color the priests red.
2. Color the ark yellow. (It is very small.)
3. Color the trumpets made of ram's horns blue.
4. Color the picture showing what happened when God helped the Children of Israel.

Activity Two – Get the Children of Israel from Egypt to Jericho. Color the picture

Help the Children of Israel get to Jericho.



**Draw between the pictures.
Start here.**



Finish here.



The teacher can explain that the children of Israel started in Egypt. Then they wandered in the desert for 40 years. When they crossed the Jordan River, they had entered the Promised Land, the land flowing with milk and honey. The first city they encountered was Jericho. These things are all pictured on the worksheet.

Activity Three – Sing this song to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” and ask the children to help make up appropriate actions.

Walk, walk, walk around
The city once a day
Then walk around it seven times
And make the trumpets play.

Shout, shout, shout aloud
The city walls will fall.
Then take the city--destroy it
As on the Lord you call.

Passages

Hebrews 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.

Psalms 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Hymn - Read and sing TLH #528 v. 1.

If God Himself be for me, I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me my foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my Head and Master, befriend me from above,
What foe or what disaster can drive me from His love?

Prayer

Lord, we know that You want all people to believe in You. Please be with us so that we never lose our faith, and we also pray that You will lead the unbelievers to faith, too. We pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.

The Fall of Jericho

Joshua 6, 11:23



The Story

The wicked city of Jericho had a very thick wall all around it. Now the people of Jericho were very afraid because the Children of Israel were close to the city, and so they closed the gates of the wall. The people of Jericho were hiding inside the city walls.

The Lord told Joshua, "I have given Jericho to you. Here is what you shall do. All the fighting men should march around the whole city once a day for six days. Seven priests with trumpets made of ram's horns should march in front of the ark. On the seventh day you should walk around the city seven times, and the priests should blow the trumpets. When they blow a long blast on the trumpets, all the people shall shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat."

So Joshua told the people what to do. On the first day, armed men started to walk around the city. Then came the seven priests blowing on the seven trumpets made of ram's horns, followed by the ark of the covenant, a golden box carrying special items. God had told the Israelites to build the ark years before while they wandered in the wilderness. Then more men came after the ark. No one talked at all while they walked around the city, but the trumpets blew the whole time. When they had all walked around the entire city one time, they went back to their camp for the evening.

The second day was just like the first. Days three, four, five, and six were also the same. On the seventh day they marched around the city seven times without talking. The priests blew the trumpets as they had on the other days. But when they had marched around the city seven times, the priests blew a long sound on the trumpets, and Joshua told the people, "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city! Go in and destroy everything that is there, and all of the people. Only save Rahab and her family. Also save the silver and gold, and the things made of bronze and iron because they belong to the LORD."

So the people shouted when the priests blew the long note on the trumpet, and the wall of the city fell down flat. The people went into the city and destroyed everything in it. The only people who were saved were Rahab and her family. They saved the silver, gold, bronze, and iron, and then burned the whole city.

So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout all the country.

God destroyed the wicked city of Jericho by the hand of Joshua and the Children of Israel.

Activity One – Color the picture on page 1 using the following directions.

1. Color the priests red.
2. Color the ark yellow. (It is very small.)
3. Color the trumpets made of ram's horns blue.
4. Color the picture showing what happened when God helped the Children of Israel.

Activity Two – Answer the following questions.

1. What did the people of Jericho trust to protect them from the Children of Israel?
2. Whom did Joshua and the Children of Israel trust to win the battle for them?
3. The Children of Israel marched around the city once a day for how many days?
4. How did the Children of Israel act as they marched around the city?
5. On what day did the walls of Jericho fall?
6. What did the people do when the priests blew long blasts on the trumpets?
7. Why did the Children of Israel have to destroy all the people of Jericho?
8. Why was Rahab saved?

When God destroyed Jericho, He showed the He is all-powerful and that He hates sin and unbelief.

Passages - Write the mixed up passages below correctly by putting the words in correct number order.

Psalm 27:1

11 I	21 of	20 life;	17 strength	12 fear?	26 afraid?	18 of
1 The	6 and	16 the	2 LORD	4 my	23 shall	
9 Whom	3 is	24 I	15 is	25 be	7 my	10 shall
13 The	14 LORD	22 whom	19 my	5 light	8 salvation;	

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26		

Hebrews 11:30

5 of	10 they	7 fell	4 walls	8 down	9 after	12 encircled
1 By	2 faith	15 days.	3 the	13 for	6 Jericho	11 were
						14 seven

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	

Deuteronomy 3:22

3 not	6 for	11 Himself	2 must	4 fear	8 LORD	12 fights
13 for	9 your	7 the	14 you."	10 God	5 them,	1 "You

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14		

Hymn - Read and sing TLH #528 v. 1.

If God Himself be for me, I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me My foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my Head and Master, Befriend me from above,
What foe or what disaster
Can drive me from His love?

Prayer

Lord, we know that You want all people to believe in You. Please be with us so that we never lose our faith, and we also pray that You will lead the unbelievers to faith, too. We pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.

The Fall of Jericho

Joshua 6, 11:23

Your birthday is 5 months away.
When you are 48 inches tall you can go on rides at Disney World.
The school bully gets away with taking your lunch.

What do each one of the above situations require on your part?
What makes it easier to deal with the wait involved?



Prayer

Lord God our Creator,

Help us today to listen attentively to Your Word so that we can learn those things that the Children of Israel learned in their battle with the people of Jericho. Make us willing hearers and devoted learners of Your saving message to us. We pray this in Your Name. Amen.

The Fall of Jericho - Joshua 6:1-27

Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in.

{2} And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. {3} "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. {4} "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. {5} "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."

{6} 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." {7} 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."

{8} 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. {9} 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. {10} 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."
{11} 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.

{12} And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. {13} 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. {14} And the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. So they did six days.

{15} 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. {16} 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! {17} "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. {18} "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. {19} "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."

Outer Aim - Our all-powerful God used Joshua and the Children of Israel to destroy the wicked city of Jericho.

Inner Aim - In His wisdom and almighty power, God will both care for the God-fearing and punish the ungodly.

{20} 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. {21} 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.

{22} But Joshua had said to the two men who had spied out the country, "Go into the harlot's house, and from there bring out the woman and all that she has, as you swore to her." {23} And the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all that she had. So they brought out all her relatives and left them outside the camp of Israel.

{24} But they burned the city and all that was in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. {25} And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

{26} Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying, "Cursed be the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates."

{27} So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout all the country.

What the Story Tells Us – Put these events from the story in the correct order by using the numbers 1-6.

- ___ The Children of Israel marched around the city without any noise except for the blowing of trumpets by the prophets.
- ___ God told Joshua that He had given Israel the city of Jericho and how Israel should defeat Jericho.
- ___ The Israelites killed the people of the city.
- ___ All the people began to shout.
- ___ The Children of Israel marched around the city 7 times.
- ___ The walls of the city fell down.

Discussion Question: Why did God have the Children of Israel destroy all of the people in the city?

What God Tells Us - True/False- Mark each statement below as True(T)or False(F). Be ready to explain your answer.

- ___ 1. The Children of Israel were not sinful.
- ___ 2. The people of Jericho were sinful.
- ___ 3. All the people of Jericho were destroyed.
- ___ 4. God made the Children of Israel wait for seven days before they defeated Jericho.
- ___ 5. Joshua came up with the plan to defeat Jericho.
- ___ 6. It was God who actually defeated Jericho.
- ___ 7. It was easy to understand God's plan to destroy the walled city of Jericho.
- ___ 8. All of the Children of Israel played a part in the defeat of Jericho.

In the statements above, the odd numbered ones were false. Write answers to the questions below about those false statements.

- 1. What is wrong with saying that anyone is sinless?
- 2. Rahab and her family were spared. Why? Was Rahab sinless?
- 3. What was the difference between Rahab and the rest of the people of Jericho?
- 4. Can we always understand why God does what He does?

5. What should be our understanding when things that happen don't make sense to us?

Passages - Explain what attitude each person or group listed below would have toward the passages which follow and why they would feel that way.

- The people of Jericho ↔ Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain. (Psalms 127:1 NKJV)
- The Children of Israel ↔ Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain. (Psalms 127:1 NKJV)
- Rahab ↔ (The Lord) has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. (Psalms 103:10 NKJV)
- Joshua ↔ 'You must not fear them (the enemy), for the LORD your God Himself fights for you.' (Deuteronomy 3:22 NKJV)

Hymn - Stanzas 1 and 4 of Hymn 528 could be sung by both the Children of Israel at Jericho or by us in our life. Read those stanzas and explain what comfort could be taken by both of the groups mentioned.

If God Himself be for me, I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me
My foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my Head and Master,
Befriend me from above,
What foe or what disaster
Can drive me from His love?

My Jesus is my Splendor, My Sun, my Light, alone;
Were He not my Defender
Before God's awe-full throne,
I never should find favor
And mercy in His sight,
But be destroyed forever
As darkness by the light.

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

I am often tempted to put my trust and confidence in myself rather than in You. Remind me often so that I never forget that You are my strength, the only One who can deliver me from my enemies. As You fought for the Children of Israel, fight also for me. Grant that I never forget how You feel about sin and disobedience, and fill me with joy in knowing that You paid for all of my sins on the cross. Give me comfort in knowing that You are always with me and will never leave me. As the Children of Israel could not defeat the city of Jericho without You, so too apart from You I can accomplish no good thing. Strengthen my faith and help me to always trust in You as my God and Savior. In Jesus Name I ask this. Amen.

The Fall of Jericho

Joshua 6, 11:23

What does impossible mean?

Name some things that seem as if they would be impossible to accomplish.

Prayer

Lord who makes and controls all things in this world, today we are studying about how You can make all things possible for You are omnipotent. As we learn to understand and trust Your power and wisdom, help us to obey You in all things and not question what You command us to do. Help us learn today from the Children of Israel that all things are possible with You. Amen.

The Fall of Jericho - Joshua 6:1-27

Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in.

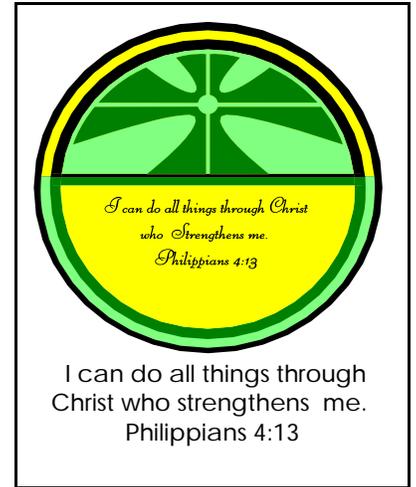
{2} And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. {3} "You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. {4} "And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. {5} "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."

{6} 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." {7} 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."

{8} 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. {9} 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. {10} 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." {11} 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.

{12} And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. {13} 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. {14} And the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. So they did six days.

{15} 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. {16} 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! {17} "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. {18} "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. {19} "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." {20} So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the

foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates."

{27} So the LORD was with Joshua,

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. {21} 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.

{22} But Joshua had said to the two men who had spied out the country, "Go into the harlot's house, and from there bring out the woman and all that she has, as you swore to her." {23} And the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all that she had. So they brought out all her relatives and left them outside the camp of Israel.

{24} But they burned the city and all that was in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. {25} And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

{26} Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying, "Cursed be the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its

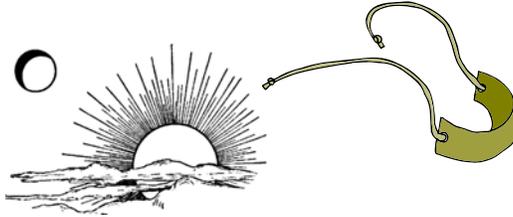
and his fame spread throughout all the country.

What the Story Tells Us - Take turns briefly summarizing the story 4 times from a different point of view. Use no more than 3 sentences in your summaries. Tell or write the story as would (1) Joshua, (2) a soldier in the city of Jericho, (3) a soldier of the Children of Israel and (4) as Rahab.

Outer Aim - Our all-powerful God used Joshua and the Children of Israel to destroy the wicked city of Jericho.

What God Tells Us - What is wrong with the attitudes portrayed in the following sentences?

1. "The people of Jericho, as other Godless people, get away with evil all the time."
2. "The people of Jericho deserved to die because they were so Godless."
3. "No one could destroy such a powerful city as Jericho."
4. "We shouldn't have killed all the people of the city. We could have saved them."
5. "God won't destroy us because we are not as wicked as were the people of Jericho."



Passages - Decide which passage listed below could be applied to the improper attitudes displayed above. Place the number of the situation above in the blank by each passage below.

- ___ Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- ___ Psalm 103:8-9 - The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever.
- ___ Job 20:4-7 - Do you not know this of old, since man was placed on earth, that the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite is but for a moment? Though his haughtiness mounts up to the heavens, and his head reaches to the clouds, yet he will perish forever like his own refuse; those who have seen him will say, 'Where is he?'
- ___ Acts 5:29 - But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.
- ___ Matthew 19:26 - But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Inner Aim - In His wisdom and almighty power, God will both care for the God-fearing and punish the ungodly.

Your Turn - In our story today, the "impossible" happened, the huge walls of Jericho just fell down. The Bible references listed below show other "impossible" things that are possible. Read the references and explain briefly that "impossible" thing.

1 Samuel 17:40-51

Joshua 10:12-14

Matthew 17:20

Matthew 9:20-22

1 Thessalonians 4:14

Hymn - Stanzas 1 and 4 of Hymn 528 could be sung by both the Children of Israel at Jericho or by us in our life. Read those stanzas and explain what comfort could be taken by both of the groups mentioned.

If God Himself be for me,
I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me
My foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my Head and Master,
Befriend me from above,
What foe or what disaster
Can drive me from His love?

My Jesus is my Splendor,
My Sun, my Light, alone;
Were He not my Defender
Before God's awe-full throne,
I never should find favor
And mercy in His sight,
But be destroyed forever
As darkness by the light.

Prayer

Lord with You, all things are possible. Today we saw how You helped the Children of Israel overcome impossible odds by defeating the people of Jericho. Even more unlikely is the death and resurrection of Your Son Jesus to save us who are as wicked as those people in Jericho. Teach us to have faith that You are in control and that You are always making sure that everything that happens is for our good. We pray this in Your name, Lord, and in the name of Your Son Jesus. Amen.