

Sunday School Stories – Joshua at Jericho

Christy Penley

June 16, 2024

Reflection & Discussion Questions

When life is hard, we need perseverance

In these times sometimes we feel God is not working on our behalf.

*When was a time of perseverance or struggle to persevere in your life similar to Christy's marathon story?

Joshua is called to conquer Jericho in an unconventional way

Read and discuss Joshua 6:1-14 (NIV)

6 Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in.

2 Then the Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. **3** March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. **4** Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. **5** When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in."

6 So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it." **7** And he ordered the army, "Advance! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the Lord."

8 When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the Lord went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the Lord's covenant followed them. **9** The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding. **10** But Joshua had commanded the army, "Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!" **11** So he had the ark of the Lord carried around the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent the night there. **12** Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. **13** The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the Lord and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the Lord, while the trumpets kept sounding. **14** So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days.

*What stands out to you from this passage? What can we learn from Joshua?

*Without knowing how the end of the story would turn out, what feelings do you think the people were experiencing?

*What is the significance of the Ark of the Covenant with the people? Is there something that reminds you of God's presence with you in your own battles?

God was the power behind the battle at Jericho

Read and discuss Joshua 6:15-20(NIV)

15 On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. **16** The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city! **17** The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. **18** But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. **19** All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the Lord and must go into his treasury." **20** When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.

*What do these verses show us about God?

*How have you seen the character of God unfold for you in a time of frustration or doubt?

*What situation are you in that you want to quit? Is there a place you feel God is not present?

*What do you sense the Spirit is showing you through the story of Joshua at Jericho?