

THE FALL OF JERICHO
Joshua 6

Lesson Memory Verse: I Corinthians 15:57 "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Lesson Aim: To teach children that God is all-powerful; He will give victory to those that obey Him.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): It was a beautiful, sunny Saturday morning. Jimmy was so excited. This was the first time he got to go fishing with his father in a boat on a big lake. His father told him some important things he must do, if he were going to catch some fish. First, his father told him how to bait the hook with a minnow and then how to cast the bait into lake, but Jimmy was not listening. He was too busy looking at all the new things around him. However, when it came time for him to fish, he didn't know what to do. Jimmy had to learn to listen to his father and obey him if he was going to be a successful fisherman.

HE (for Authority): In last week's lesson we learned how God's people depended upon Him to help them go across the Jordan River into the Promised Land. God stopped the river so that all of them could go across on dry land. This was a miracle, wasn't it? It was a great victory for them. Have you been depending on God to help you this past week? I hope so.

Now they were to conquer the Promised Land that God had promised them. God would help them, but they had to listen to His instructions. Just as Jimmy had to listen to his father's directions about fishing, Then Israel had to obey God's directions for conquering the land. If they would listen and obey, they would have a great victory. Our memory verse for today teaches us how we can have great victories, too. Let's recite I Corinthians 15:57 and then tell me how we can have victories over sins and troubles in our lives. (We have victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. We must listen to Him, obey Him and trust Him for strength to do what He tells us to do).

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.

In this lesson we shall learn about God's great power which is able to give us victory, if we do exactly as He says.

I. Orders from the Lord (6:1-7)

A. Promise of Victory (6:1-2)

All the big cities in that day were built with high, strong walls going all the way around the city. Jericho was such a city. When the rulers of the city heard that God's people were coming against them, they locked up all the gates in the walls. No one was allowed to enter or leave the city. But that did not stop the Lord. He promised Joshua a great victory over the city of Jericho, but Joshua had to obey the Lord.

B. Plan of Attack (6:3-7)

The directions were simple. Seven priests would blow their trumpets as they marched before the Ark of the Covenant that was carried on the shoulders of other priests. The Ark was a symbol of God's presence with them, just as it was in the crossing of the Jordan River. Soldiers would go before the priests and the Ark. More soldiers and people would follow the Ark as they marched around Jericho. They were told to march around the city once a day for six days. On the seventh day, they were to march around the city seven times. All of the marching was to be done in silence, except for the blowing of the trumpets. When they had finished the seventh time around the city on the seventh day all of the people were to shout. The walls would then fall, and the army would conquer the city.

Why did they have to do all this marching? Why couldn't God just make the walls fall on the first day? The Lord wanted to see if the people would be obedient in following His directions. Perhaps, while they were marching, the people of the city laughed at them and threw things over the wall at them. God's people had to learn to obey Him and their leader, Joshua, if they would see victory.

WE: Sometimes we may question God. We may say, "Why do we have to do this?" We must remember to trust God and follow the directions He gives in His Word, if we want victory.

II. Obedience of the People (6:8-19)

In these verses we see the Lord's people carefully followed His directions. They wanted victory over the city of Jericho.

Notice, Joshua and the people were diligent about obeying God. They were up at dawn following God's directions (6:12, 15).

WE: We must be diligent in obeying the Lord, even if it causes us some discomfort. We must be careful to follow His directions, if we want victory in our lives.

Joshua gave exact directions about the destruction of the city (17-19). He told them to keep Rahab and her family safe. Can you remember why she was promised safety? (It was because she had trusted God and helped the spies.) Then the people were to destroy everything in the city. Nothing was to be kept except the precious metals (silver, gold, brass, and iron), which they were to put in the treasury of the Lord. However, absolutely nothing was to be kept for themselves.

WE: We must listen carefully to what God says in the Bible and obey Him, even if we think that our way would be better. God's way is always best. When we obey Him, He will give us victory over our sins.

III. Overthrow of Jericho (6:20, 21)

The people were obedient. They followed the Lord's directions and the walls fell down. This was a great miracle. Remember the memory verse. We cannot see victory unless we are first obedient. The people continued to obey by destroying the whole city because it was a wicked, sinful city.

WE: We must keep on obeying the Lord to have complete victory.

IV. Oath Kept to Rahab (6:22-25)

Rahab's house was built right on the wall. The Lord caused all of the walls to fall, except one part. God spared that part of the wall where Rahab's house was built. After the walls fell, Joshua told the two spies who had been helped by Rahab to get her, all her family and all her possessions. They brought her out so she would not be harmed. Her faith in God was rewarded. Then the city was burned and totally destroyed (6:24).

WE: God will keep His promises and give us victory, too, if we obey Him.

V. Open Curse against Jericho (6:26, 27)

Joshua placed a curse upon anyone who would try to rebuild or refortify the city of Jericho. Jericho is a picture of sin. 1 Kings 16:34 tells of a man named Hiel who rebuilt Jericho and two of his sons were killed.

WE: We must not go back to our sins after the Lord has given us victory over them. If we do, it will be a curse on our lives. God does not intend for us to go back to the sins that He has helped us to conquer. If we do, it may be impossible to get victory over them again.

BE (for Action): What do you think would have happened, if God's people had not obeyed His directions concerning their battle at Jericho? Do you think they would have won the victory? They would have lost and perhaps would have been severely punished for their disobedience. The Bible principle is simple: Obedience brings blessing; disobedience brings punishment. This principle applies to our lives today. We all want to have victory over sin in our lives. The greatest victory is deliverance from Hell. Have you received Jesus as your Savior? If not, you need the victory of salvation. If you are a Christian practicing a particular sin, you need victory over this sin. You can have victory over this sin by turning away from this sin and trusting Jesus to give you strength to have victory every day. Trust Him!