

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

4 Year Olds

Sunday Morning

Study 1

A is for Almighty

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The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word

Objective Using Joshua 6, show the students that God's power is infinite, that nothing is too difficult for God.

Key Verses

Joshua 6 – Main teaching passage.

Psalm 91:1

Revelation 15:3

Memory Verse Matthew 19:26 (January Memory Verse)

"And looking at them Jesus said to them, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Hook

Ask for a volunteer to attempt a feat of strength. Have the student place both hands on one of the walls in the classroom and then tell the student you want them to push the wall over. Tell the student that they can ask a friend to help them try. When the student is unable to push the wall over ask them why. Obviously the answer is that they are not strong enough.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

In today's Bible story, the children of Israel are faced with an impossible task: conquering Jericho. Jericho was defended by a massive wall and their armies were all prepared to protect the city. By themselves, there was nothing the children of Israel could do to defend themselves. However, God said that the Israelites would conquer the land, and He was going to make sure they were able to do it. God instructed them to march around Jericho once each day. On the seventh day, they would march around the city seven times with the priests blowing trumpets. After that, the people were to shout, and the walls would fall down. The Israelites obeyed, and just like that, the walls fell down. They didn't not fall down by chance, nor did they fall as a direct result of anything the Israelites did. The walls fell down because Israel obeyed and God knocked them down. For man, conquering Jericho was an impossible task, but God is almighty. He was able to overcome the walls of Jericho because He is able to do anything. As we begin the ABC's of God, we will be looking at His characteristics through words that describe Him. The first is "Almighty"- God can do anything that is within His character.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

Share with the students from your life a time when God proved Himself almighty. It might be an answered prayer or a time when God did something unexpected or amazing that showed His might to you.

God Almighty is also the personal, right here, right now God. He is our Heavenly Father who loves us infinitely more than we can imagine. The works that God has done in the past are incredible and mind-blowingly powerful, but His work is not done for the world, and His work is not done for and in us.

The walls of Jericho are a great example of this. A whole army of Israelites could not bring down the walls, and yet God gave them complete and total victory. The Israelites simply had to trust that God would move and bring down the walls for them.

Not only can God do incredible miracles to show his strength, but His works also include:
God made and formed the Earth

LOOK (Continued)

God made the sea and everything in it. He put limits on where it should go and where it should not.

God commands the morning (he causes the Earth to rotate and to journey around the Sun)

Point out for the students that these things that are impossible for man are nothing for the LORD. There is nothing that is too difficult for God. When we try to do things on our own, we will fail, but God succeeds in all He does. In every area of our life where we have no control or simply are not strong enough to affect our issues and problems, God is.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life.

TOOK

Review the lesson by asking the students to name some of the mighty things God has done, particularly in today's story.

Pray: Have the Students pray for God to move in any area of their life where they do not have the ability to affect change. It might be the health of a parent, a situation at home or any number of other things.

Parent Question: Is anything too hard for God to do?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Joshua 6 by David Guzik

Joshua 6 - The Fall of Jericho

A. Obedience before the fall of the city of Jericho.

1. (1-5) Instructions for the battle.

Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, *and* the mighty men of valor. 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. 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. 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."

a. **Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel:** Jericho itself was on full alert; from a human perspective, this would be a hard, if not impossible, battle. Yet from God's perspective, the battle was already over, because He can say to Joshua **I have** (in the past tense) **given Jericho into your hand**.

i. Up to this point everything had been more or less preliminary and preparatory. Now the real task before them must be faced and tackled. The Canaanites must be dispossessed if Israel is to occupy what God has promised them.

ii. Jericho was not an exceptionally large city; but it was an important, formidable fortress city. If Israel could defeat Jericho, they could defeat anything else that would face them in Canaan. Again we see the wisdom of God as opposed to human wisdom, in that Israel faces their most difficult opponent first.

b. **You shall march around the city:** The method of warfare was one that made absolutely no sense according to military intelligence. It required total dependence on God.

i. It required great faith from Joshua, because he had to explain and lead the nation in this plan.

ii. It required great faith from the elders and the nation, because they had to follow Joshua in this plan.

c. **The wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him:** It was a plan for victory whereby it would clearly be the work of the LORD. Yet God gave them something to do, so that Israel could work in partnership with God.

i. Obviously, it was something that God could have done without Israel's help at all, but He wanted them to be a part of His work - as He wants us to be a part of His work today.

2. (6-7) Joshua tells the priests and the people.

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." 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."

a. **Then Joshua the son of Nun called the priests:** Joshua had to tell the priests, because what they were asked to do was unusual. Normally, priests and the ark of the covenant did not go with Israel to battle.

b. **Take up the ark of the covenant:** The ark would be prominent in this victory, even as it was in the crossing of the Jordan River. Israel had to keep their hearts and minds on the LORD who was present with them, instead of putting their hearts and minds on the difficulty of the task in front of them.

c. **And he said to the people:** Joshua had to tell the people, because what they were asked to do was unusual. This was no customary way to conquer a walled, fortified city.

3. (8-14) The march of the first six days.

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

a. **When Joshua had spoken to the people:** Joshua does not hesitate to do what the LORD has told him to do. Often, our delays to obey God show that we really don't believe Him.

b. **So he had the ark of the LORD circle the city, going around it once:** Jericho was not a large city; they could easily march around it in a day's time. As the people of Jericho saw the Israelites marching around their city, they probably had a sense of both awe and horror.

c. It took *courage* for Israel to do this; Israel was wide open to attack during this time, and it would have been easy for the people of Jericho to attack them from the high position of the walls.

d. It took *endurance* for Israel to do this; the march was for six days, and they had to persist in something that didn't seem to make much sense.

e. In this, the *helplessness* of Israel was revealed; through six days of silent marching, they had a good look at the walls that seemed to be impenetrable - they knew that this was a battle bigger than they were.

4. (15-16) The march of the seventh day.

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. 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!"

a. **On the seventh day:** This march took place over a period of seven days, meaning that Israel had to have marched on a Sabbath; but this would be a work of God's sovereign grace and power, not of human works.

b. **Shout, for the LORD has given you the city!** The command was given for the people to **shout**. After the days of silence, this comes as a recognition that God would now give them what He had promised. **The LORD has given you the city!**

5. (17-19) The command to destroy the city and to save Rahab is given.

"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. 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. 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."

a. **Only Rahab the harlot shall live:** Joshua is careful to take care of Rahab. Her faith in the living God would find support by God's people.

b. Joshua had to command the people of Israel to stay away from **the accursed things**. By this he means the idols and things associated with the demonic and depraved worship of the people of Canaan.

i. The severe judgment that is brought against Jericho, and all of Canaan didn't come because they were in the "way" of God's people. It came because this was a people who were in total rebellion against God and in league with the occult, as the artifacts recovered from this period demonstrate.

c. **But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the LORD:** All the valuables belong to God; Jericho is the “first fruits” city of Canaan, and so the valuables are set apart to **the treasury of the LORD**.

B. The taking of the city of Jericho.

1. (20-21) The walls come down and the city is destroyed.

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. 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.

a. **The wall fell down flat:** We are not told that Israel knew this would be the result of their obedient marching and final shouting. They may have been as surprised as the people of Jericho were at the way God decided to deliver Jericho into their hands.

b. **They utterly destroyed all that was in the city:** Why was Israel commanded to practice such complete destruction? Because the greatest sins of the Canaanites were spiritual: *When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you.* (Deuteronomy 18:9-14)

i. Such judgment seems harsh to us, because it *is* harsh - and we must recognize, that at unique times, God has commanded that such judgment come to pass. It may happen either through an army that He has used (as is the case here), or through judgment that He directly brings (such as in the case of Sodom and Gomorrah, Genesis 19:24-25).

c. Israel **took the city:** They **took**, after God had *given* (Joshua 6:2). It was clear that God gave, but that Israel had to *take* by obedient, persistent faith.

i. So it is with all victory in the Christian life - God gives it to us in Jesus Christ; but we must take it from Him by obedient, persistent faith.