

Joshua 6:1-2 NLT: Now the gates of Jericho were tightly shut because the people were afraid of the Israelites. No one was allowed to go out or in. But the Lord said to Joshua, "I have given you Jericho, its king, and all its strong warriors.

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

This week we're traveling to Jericho - the location of the first city the Israelites conquered when they came into the Promised Land. Jericho - also known as "the City of Palms" is believed to be one of the oldest inhabited cities of the world. According to archaeological findings, the entire city was surrounded by two very thick walls with a space of 12-15 feet between the walls. In fact, many houses were built over the gap between the walls. The city appeared to be invincible, but God had a plan - an unusual battle plan for the Israelites to follow. God's plan has some great lessons for us to apply to our lives as well.

1A) According to Joshua 6:1, what do we learn about the city and the people?

1B) What promise did God give Joshua in verse 2?

Read Joshua 2:8-11:

2A) What do we learn from Rahab's comments to the two spies that confirms what we learn in Joshua 6?

- 2B) What reasons did she give for the attitude of the people of Jericho?
- 3A) What instructions are we given in Proverbs 4:13 that can remind us to "take hold" of the promises of God?
- 3B) PERSONAL: What promise of God have you decided to "take hold of" this week?

Read Joshua 6:3-14:

4A) Describe God's battle plan to defeat Jericho. Verses 3-5

4B) How did Joshua respond? Verses 6-7

4C) How did the people respond? Verses 8-14

Read Deuteronomy 31:4-8:

5A) What instructions and promises did Moses give the people of Israel and what did he specifically say to Joshua?

5B) PERSONAL: How are you encouraged by the following verses? 2 Chronicles 15:7:

Psalm 31:24:

1 Corinthians 16:13:

Read Joshua 6:15-20:

6A) What happened when the Israelites boldly followed God's plan?

- 6B) PERSONAL: What walls or obstacles are you facing right now and how does this story encourage you so that you "Don't Fold?"
- 7) PERSONAL: How do the following verses encourage you to continue fighting your daily battles and trusting God to give you the victory? Galatians 6:9:

1 John 5:4-5:

ACT: We all face daily battles - many which seem to be impossible to ever win, but Scripture teaches us repeatedly that nothing is impossible with God. We can take hold of the promises of God and boldly walk in faith every day, because we know that with Jesus as our Savior and Lord and the Power of the Holy Spirit living within us that victory is ours. We can be strong and courageous knowing that every obstacle is an opportunity for God to show us that we can trust Him completely and that our trial can become our testimony of His greatness.

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

• This week let's read various passages that encourage us to be strong and courageous.

Monday:

Deuteronomy 31:6 NLT

So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you."

Tuesday:

Joshua 1:9 NLT

This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Wednesday:

2 Samuel 10:12 NLT

Be courageous! Let us fight bravely for our people and the cities of our God. May the Lord's will be done.

Thursday:

1 Chronicles 28:20 NLT

Then David continued, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Don't be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. He will see to it that all the work related to the Temple of the Lord is finished correctly.

Friday:

Matthew 14:26-27 NLT

When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!" But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!"

Saturday:

Acts 27:22-25 NLT

But take courage! None of you will lose your lives, even though the ship will go down. For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me, and he said, 'Don't be afraid, Paul, for you will surely stand trial before Caesar! What's more, God in his goodness has granted safety to everyone sailing with you.' So take courage! For I believe God. It will be just as he said.

Sunday:

James 5:7-8 NLT

Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.



www.metchurch.com 817.379.4638