

Friendship Baptist Church

12 Noon Bible Study

October 15, 2026

STILL MOVING FORWARD

A Six-Week Survey of the Book of Joshua

WEEK 4: WHEN THE WALLS WON'T MOVE

Student Handout | Pastor-Teacher James A. Terrance, Jr.

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Background and Bible Facts

- 1. Date of events in the book:** Traditionally placed around 1400 B.C. (an early chronology); the precise historical dating is debated.
- 2. Author of the book:** Traditionally associated with Joshua, but the book does not identify its final author. (See Joshua 24:26, 29-33.)
- 3. Who was it written to?** The people of Israel, including later generations, as a record of God's covenant faithfulness.
- 4. Key people in the book:** Joshua, Rahab, Caleb, Achan, Eleazar the priest, and the tribes of Israel.
- 5. Main theme of the book:** God fulfills His promise to give Israel the land and calls His people to covenant obedience. (Joshua 21:43-45; 24:14-15.)
- 6. How many books are in the Old Testament?** 39 in the Protestant (Baptist) Bible.
- 7. How many books are in the New Testament?** 27.
- 8. How many books are in the Bible?** 66 books in the Protestant (Baptist) Bible.
- 9. What is the original language of the Old Testament?** Primarily Hebrew, with smaller sections in Aramaic.
- 10. What genre of literature is Joshua?** Historical narrative: one of the Old Testament Historical Books (among the Former Prophets in the Hebrew Bible).

LET'S REVIEW THE BOOK OF JOSHUA (CHAPTERS 1-5)

A. True or False

1. Joshua became Israel's leader after the death of Moses.
☐ True ☐ False
2. God commanded Joshua to put the Book of the Law aside once he entered Canaan.
☐ True ☐ False
3. Joshua sent twelve spies to view the city of Jericho.
☐ True ☐ False
4. Rahab acknowledged that the LORD is God in heaven above and in earth beneath.
☐ True ☐ False
5. The Jordan River overflowed its banks at the time Israel crossed.
☐ True ☐ False
6. Israel took twelve memorial stones from the walls of Jericho.
☐ True ☐ False
7. Israel observed the Passover at Gilgal after crossing the Jordan.
☐ True ☐ False

B. Fill in the Blank Facts

WORD BANK: Moses | two | Rahab | Jordan | stones | Gilgal | Passover

1. After the death of _____, the LORD commissioned Joshua to lead Israel.
2. Joshua sent _____ spies to view Jericho.
3. _____ hid the spies who came to Jericho.
4. The priests stepped into the _____ before the water stopped flowing.
5. Israel took twelve _____ from the river as a memorial.
6. After crossing, Israel camped at _____.
7. Israel celebrated the _____ on the plains of Jericho.

Key Verse

Joshua 6:20 (KJV)

"So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city."

Primary Scripture Passage

Joshua 6:1-20

Why This Lesson Matters

Some problems do not disappear quickly. We may pray repeatedly, wait patiently, and wonder why nothing seems to be changing. Jericho teaches us to remain obedient even when we cannot yet see evidence that God is working.

Introduction

Jericho was Israel's first major fortified obstacle after crossing the Jordan. The city was securely shut, and its walls seemed to stand between God's people and the promise He had given them.

The LORD gave Joshua unexpected instructions: march around the city, remain disciplined, and trust His timing. For six days there was no reported change in the walls. But the absence of visible progress did not mean the absence of God's purpose.

Key Words

Jericho - Jericho was a fortified Canaanite city encountered by Israel after crossing the Jordan. Joshua 6:1 describes Jericho as "straitly shut up" because of the children of Israel.

Obedience - Obedience is the faithful response of God's people to His revealed commands. Joshua 6:6-8 shows Joshua and the priests acting upon what the LORD commanded.

Perseverance - Perseverance is continuing in faithfulness despite difficulty, waiting, or discouragement. Joshua 6:14 records Israel marching on the second day and doing so for six days.

Victory - Victory is the outcome God granted Israel at Jericho as His promise was fulfilled. Joshua 6:20 records the wall falling after the people obeyed the command to shout.

Lesson Outline

1. Some Walls Are Beyond Your Strength

Joshua 6:1-2

Jericho was "straitly shut up" (v. 1), yet the LORD told Joshua, "I have given into thine hand Jericho" (v. 2). Before Israel could see any change, God had already spoken His promise.

We cannot control every family member, reverse every loss, solve every health problem, or force every relationship to change. Recognizing our limits is not weakness; it invites deeper dependence upon God.

Student Notes:

2. Obey Even When You Don't Understand

Joshua 6:3-14

God commanded Israel to circle the city, carry the ark, blow trumpets, and keep silent until the proper time. These instructions were not an ordinary military strategy, but Joshua obeyed.

Sometimes we must continue praying, loving, forgiving, serving, and trusting even when we do not understand what God is doing. Obedience does not require complete understanding.

Student Notes:

3. God's Timing Is Worth Waiting For

Joshua 6:15-20

For six days Israel marched, and the walls remained standing. On the seventh day the people marched seven times, heard the trumpets, and shouted as commanded; the walls fell (vv. 15-20).

Waiting does not necessarily mean God has denied our prayers. We trust His wisdom and timing, remembering that the Jericho account does not promise every personal difficulty will disappear in exactly the same way.

Student Notes:

Life Application Assignment

Identify one "wall" in your life - something you have been praying about for a long time. Instead of focusing only on the wall, ask: "Lord, what are You asking me to do faithfully while I wait?" Practice that act of obedience this week.

Closing Prayer

Lord, some things in our lives seem too strong for us to change. Help us remember that nothing is too difficult for You. Give us patience while we wait, obedience while we trust, and faith when we cannot see what You are doing. Teach us to depend upon Your power and Your timing. Amen.

ONE THING TO REMEMBER: God calls us to faithful obedience even when the walls have not moved.