



UPSTATE GROUP GUIDE

Through the Bible

March 17-23

Joshua 5:13-6:27

Things to Know

EggVenture Volunteers Needed

April 5th, 2 - 5 pm - [Click Here to Volunteer!](#)

Gospel Connections and Conversations

[Click Here to report your Gospel Connections & Conversations](#)

Studying God's Word *In Community*

*Reminder: Seek to understand and apply God's word, **not** rehash the sermon.*

Read

Read Joshua 5:13-6:27 and make observations about the text.

- What is God teaching us in the passage?
 - What does this reveal about who God is, what God has done, and how I should respond?
 - Which part of the text was most meaningful to you and why?
 - What do you need help understanding about this passage?
-

Sermon Recap

- Joshua and the Israelites have finally made it into the Promised Land and through the first five chapters God is intentionally preparing his people to conquer the land.
- The Lord promised Joshua that the battle over Jericho was already won.
- Like the Israelites, God calls us to surrender to His battle plan. He promises that through Jesus, we are already victors!
- As believers we are now called to participate in battles with obedience, surrender, and worship
- Just as God was faithful to give Israel the victory over Jericho, He was gracious to save Rahab (along with her family) because of her faith. Rahab the prostitute would be restored and used in God's redemptive plan.

Discussion Questions

- **How does Joshua's encounter with the Commander of the Lord's army challenge our understanding of God's authority and our role in His plans?**
- **What does the fall of Jericho teach us about God's power and faithfulness, and how should this shape our trust in Him today?**
- **In what ways does Rahab's story reveal God's mercy and sovereignty, and how does it challenge our view of who can receive God's grace?**
- **Why do you think God required Israel to follow such an unusual battle plan, and what does this teach us about living in obedience even when we don't fully understand His ways?**
- **How does this passage encourage us to surrender control to God, and what specific areas of your life is He calling you to trust Him with more fully?**

Scripture

**Joshua 5:13-
6:27**

The Commander of the Lord's Army

13 When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?" 14 And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" 15 And the commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

The Fall of Jericho

6 Now Jericho was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in. **2** And the Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor. **3** You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus shall you do for six days. **4** Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. **5** And when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, everyone straight before him." **6** So 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." **7** And he said to the people, "Go forward. March around the city and let the armed men pass on before the ark of the Lord." **8** And just as Joshua had commanded the people, the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the Lord went forward, blowing the trumpets, with the ark of the covenant of the Lord following them. **9** The armed men were walking before the priests who were blowing the trumpets, and the rear guard was walking after the ark, while the trumpets blew continually. **10** But Joshua commanded the people, "You shall not shout or make your voice heard, neither shall any word go out of your mouth, until the day I tell you to shout. Then you shall shout." **11** So he caused the ark of the Lord to circle the city, going about it once. And they came into the camp and spent the night in the camp. **12** Then Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. **13** And the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the Lord walked on, and they blew the trumpets continually. And the armed men were walking before them, and the rear guard was walking after the ark of the Lord, while the trumpets blew continually. **14** And the second day they marched around the city once, and returned into the camp. So they did for six days. **15** On the seventh day they rose early, at the dawn of day, and marched around the city in the same manner seven times. It was only on that day that they marched around the city seven times. **16** And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "Shout, for the Lord has given you the city. **17** And the city and all that is within it shall be devoted to the Lord for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent. **18** But you, keep yourselves from the things devoted to destruction, lest when you have devoted them you take any of the devoted things and make the camp of Israel a thing for destruction and bring trouble upon it. **19** But all silver and gold, and every vessel of bronze and iron, are holy to the Lord; they shall go into the treasury of the Lord." **20** So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they captured the city. **21** Then they devoted all in the city to destruction, both men and women, young and

old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys, with the edge of the sword. 22 But to the two men who had spied out the land, Joshua said, “Go into the prostitute’s house and bring out from there the woman and all who belong to her, as you swore to her.” 23 So the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab and her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. And they brought all her relatives and put them outside the camp of Israel. 24 And they burned the city with fire, and everything in it. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the Lord. 25 But Rahab the prostitute and her father’s household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho. 26 Joshua laid an oath on them at that time, saying, “Cursed before the Lord be the man who rises up and rebuilds this city, Jericho. “At the cost of his firstborn shall he lay its foundation, and at the cost of his youngest son shall he set up its gates.” 27 So the Lord was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land.

[*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Joshua 5:13 - 6:27.

Living on Mission In Community

Before you close the group, answer this question:

How is God leading me to respond to His Word this week?

The story of Jericho’s fall reminds us that true victory comes not by human strength, but by trusting in God’s power and obeying His commands. Joshua and the Israelites had to believe that God’s way—marching, waiting, and shouting—was better than any military strategy they could devise. Likewise, we are called to trust that God’s ways are higher than ours, even when they seem unusual or difficult. Rahab’s faith saved her, showing that God’s mercy is extended to those who trust in Him, no matter their past. As followers of Christ, we must ask ourselves:

Are we living in complete trust and obedience, or are we still trying to fight life’s battles in our own strength?

Optional Breakout Questions

Consider making time at the end of the group to break out into groups of 2-4 (keep them gender specific). Have them answer these three questions about their weeks:

1. How did you feed yourself?

- *(What have you been doing to feed your spiritual life, and how is it going?)*

2. How did you feed others?

- *(How did you share the gospel or gospel truth with someone this week?)*

3. How did you feed your flesh?

- *(What sins did you struggle with this week? How can your friends hold you accountable?)*

Leader Resources

Small Group Curriculum: The Fall of Jericho (Joshua 5:13–6:27)

Session Overview

This session explores the fall of Jericho, emphasizing God’s sovereignty, the necessity of obedience, and the foreshadowing of Christ’s victory over sin. We will examine how Joshua's encounter with the Commander of the Lord’s army sets the stage for the conquest, highlighting themes of divine warfare, faith, and God’s redemptive plan. Through discussion and application, we will reflect on how these truths shape our trust in God’s promises and our obedience to His commands.

Opening Time (Prayer, Accountability, and Transparency)

Begin with prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide the study and open hearts to receive God’s truth. Then, in small groups of 2-3, share about your personal walk with God this week. Ask: **“Is there any way we can pray for your personal journey of faith and obedience to God’s commands this week?”** Encourage honesty and vulnerability, leading by example.

Icebreaker Question

“Have you ever faced a challenge that seemed impossible to overcome? What did you do, and how did it turn out?”

Scripture Reading

Read **Joshua 5:13–6:27** aloud together. Encourage participants to listen carefully to God’s instructions and Joshua’s response.

Teaching Points

- **Contextual Insight: Joshua’s Encounter with the Commander (Joshua 5:13-15)**

- Joshua's meeting with the Commander of the Lord's army (likely a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ) signifies that the battle belongs to God.
- Instead of answering whether He is for or against Israel, the Commander states, "No, but I am the commander of the army of the Lord" (Joshua 5:14). This shows that God does not take sides; rather, we are called to align ourselves with Him.
- A.W. Tozer: *"God is looking for people through whom He can do the impossible. What a pity that we plan only the things we can do by ourselves."*
- **Christological Foreshadowing: The True Conqueror**
 - The Commander's presence points to Christ, who leads the ultimate battle against sin and death.
 - Jesus, like Joshua, brings deliverance, but not through human strength—through divine power.
 - Just as Jericho fell without Israel's military effort, salvation is achieved not by human works but by faith in Christ's finished work (Ephesians 2:8-9).
 - Charles Spurgeon: *"When we go to Jesus, our Joshua, we find that He does not come to take sides, but to take over."*
- **Historical & Exegetical Significance: Jericho's Destruction (Joshua 6:1-27)**
 - Jericho was one of the oldest fortified cities, making its collapse miraculous. The strategy given—marching in silence for six days and then shouting—was a test of faith.
 - The number seven (seven priests, seven trumpets, seven days) signifies divine completeness and God's perfect plan.
 - The destruction of Jericho represents God's judgment against sin. Just as Jericho was devoted to destruction, one day all who oppose God's kingdom will face judgment (Revelation 19:11-16).
 - The salvation of Rahab and her family highlights God's mercy. Matthew Henry: *"The safety of Rahab is a pledge of the believer's security in Christ."*
- **Obedience and Faith: Walking in God's Victory**

- Israel's role was to obey in faith, not to strategize. Faith is active, even when God's instructions seem unusual.
- Hebrews 11:30 affirms: *"By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days."*
- Like Israel, believers are called to walk in obedience even when God's ways seem unconventional.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think Joshua's response to the Commander of the Lord's army teaches us about submitting to God's authority?
2. How does the fall of Jericho demonstrate the power of faith and obedience?
3. In what ways do we try to fight our battles in our own strength instead of trusting God's strategy?
4. Rahab's faith led to her salvation. How does her story encourage us about God's grace toward sinners?
5. Are there areas in your life where God is calling you to obey, even when it doesn't make sense?

Application Points

- Trust in God's battle plan rather than your own. Victory comes through faith and obedience.
- Surrender to Christ as the Commander of your life. He doesn't just support your plans—He calls you to follow His.
- Like Rahab, trust that God's mercy extends to those who place their faith in Him.
- Identify a "Jericho" in your life—a situation where you need to trust God completely. Commit to prayer and obedience in that area.

Closing Reflection and Prayer

Reflect on how this passage challenges you to trust in God's ways. Pray together, asking God for faith to follow His commands, courage to surrender control, and assurance in Christ's victory. End by reading

Romans 8:37: *"In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."*

Memory Verse

Hebrews 11:30 – *"By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days."*

This lesson invites us to see how Christ leads us in victory, calling us to walk by faith in His power rather than our own. May we, like Joshua and

