

THE DOWN- FALL WALL

The Fall of Jericho
Joshua 5:13–6:27
1406 BC

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God is just.

BIBLE VERSE

My help comes from the LORD. Psalm 121:2

LEARNER GOAL

I understand that God is just and defeats our enemy, the devil.

LAW & GOSPEL

I trust in my walls of self-made security, but my works and my accomplishments crumble around me.

God delivers me from the ruin of my sin and provides me a mighty fortress in Christ.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Confident in their wall, the people of Jericho shut themselves up inside the city. Following God's unusual battle plan, Joshua gathers the priests, trumpets, ark of the covenant, and people. Six days they march once around the city, then seven times on the seventh day, giving a shout at the conclusion of the last circuit. The city walls come tumbling down, and the Israelites wipe out the citizens and livestock while plundering precious metals for the tabernacle. Yet Rahab and her family are spared.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read Joshua 5:13–6:27 and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

IN DEPTH Read Joshua 5:1–12 for more background on what happened to God's people once they entered the Promised Land.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Puppet, small toy trumpet
- Paper-bag blocks (paper bags, newspapers)
- Empty gift-wrap or paper-towel tubes, wax paper, rubber bands, construction paper, stickers
- Cheese cubes, square cheese crackers, Bugles snacks
- Index cards

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible
- Device with prepped music
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Copies of Enduring Faith Page
- Supply Box

LAUNCH

Plan your lesson by reading through the options in each section. Choose the activities that will best fit your learners, and mark those boxes to guide you as you teach the lesson.

BEGIN

- Follow the Order of Opening Worship, use the Lesson Opening, or do both (part of the planning resources in the digital resource center).
- Sing songs, using music found in the digital resource center or your own favorite songs.

SAY

- Have you ever had a big problem and needed someone else's help? Who helped you? Today, we'll hear about a time when God's people needed His help.**
- What's the best way to knock down a wall? Listen to responses. What about blowing on it? Would that knock down the wall? What if you had a whole army blowing on it? Would that work? God often does things much differently than we would.**

PRAY

Dear God, thank You for loving us and saving us from our sins through Jesus. Amen.

LEARN

Show your Bible, and remind the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

TELL THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Choose one of the options on the next page to tell the Bible narrative.

DO THIS!

Use one or both of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative as you read it.

- FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE YOUNGER** Have children build a wall out of cardboard blocks or paper bags (see "Live" section for making paper-bag blocks). As you read the narrative, each time you come to text that is printed in bold, have your students march silently around the room or in a circle in your class space. After the seventh time around, make sure that the walls you have built come tumbling down. After students have "captured" the city, they can lead Rahab and her family out of the city. (Assign students to be Rahab and her family. Use some red yarn or ribbon to mark Rahab.)
- FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE OLDER** For children who already know this story well, start by writing down all that they remember from this narrative. Then, read **Joshua 5:13–15** together. Students may not be familiar with this section of Scripture. Talk about this amazing visit of the preincarnate Christ. Have students draw what this encounter might have looked like. Then, read the rest of the account together, checking to see if the details they remembered were accurate.

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose the questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

- How did God help the Israelites defeat Jericho?
- How does God help you?
- Why did God have the Israelites destroy all the people of Jericho?
- Who did God save in Jericho? How does God save us?

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion, using these key points.

- God made the walls of Jericho come down.
- Let children share how God helps them.
- The people of Jericho were wicked and did not follow God. They were God's enemies, and they would have led God's people away from Him into sin and unbelief.
- God saved Rahab and her family because she believed in Him as the one true God. God has saved us from our sin through Jesus.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus is the greater Joshua, who has the power to forgive our sins and who has delivered us from eternal death.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: Have children pretend to blow trumpets where indicated.

Joshua led God's people into the land of Canaan. Now, they were finally home in the land God promised them. But some wicked people lived in this new land. They did not worship God. They did not even know who God was. They worshiped idols instead. Idols are pretend gods made of wood and stone. Many of these people lived in the city named Jericho. It was a big city with high, thick walls around the outside. But God wanted His people, the people of Israel, to live there instead. What would God's people do?

The people of Israel camped two or three miles from Jericho. When the people of Jericho saw them, they were afraid. They locked their big strong city gates. Their soldiers watched the people the top of the walls. They were afraid because they had heard what God had done for His people, the people of Israel.

God spoke to Joshua. He said, "I will give you Jericho. This is what you must do: March around the city walls once a day for six days. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times. Then, have the priests blow on their trumpets. The people will shout in loud voices. The walls of Jericho will fall down."

Joshua did what God had said. He told the people to march. On the first day, they marched once around the city. On the second day, they marched once around the city. On the third, the fourth, the fifth, and the sixth days, they marched once around the city.

On the seventh day, Joshua and the people marched around Jericho not one time but seven times! Then, when Joshua commanded, the priest blew the trumpets and the people shouted. (*Pretend to blow trumpets.*) The walls of Jericho came tumbling down! Crash! Boom!

The Israelite army rushed into the city and captured it. Then, Joshua led God's people out of Jericho and into the land of Canaan. God had done as He had promised. He gave His people homes, cows, sheep, and plenty of good food. Joshua trusted in God to help him lead God's people. God had helped Joshua through this time of trouble. God is with us too. When we have bad times, He helps us. The very best way He helped us was by sending Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus won the battle over sin, death, and the devil when He died on the cross and rose again for us.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

The people of Jericho were very scared. **God's people had crossed the Jordan River and were camped right outside their city.** The people of Jericho locked all the city gates and hid behind the thick walls that towered high over their heads. They hoped these walls would be strong enough to keep out the Israelites.

God told Joshua to gather all his men together and march them around the city one time. They were to be careful not to say a word.

In the middle of the army, Joshua lined up seven priests. **They walked side by side, each blowing a ram's horn like a trumpet.** Behind this line followed other priests who carried the ark.

The Israelite army walked around the city one time as the trumpets blew, and then they returned to camp.

The next day, the Israelites did the same. And the next day. And the next day. **For six days, the Israelites walked around the city one time, trumpets blasting.** At the end of each day's march, they returned to camp.

On the seventh day, the Israelite army gathered at sunrise and began marching around the city. But this time, they didn't stop after one time around. They circled it a second time and a third time and a fourth time. They kept going around a fifth time and a sixth time.

Finally, the Israelites walked around the city a seventh time. Then, Joshua gave a command. The priests blew their trumpets and from every direction around the city a loud roar rose as **the Israelites all shouted with mighty voices.**

The people of Jericho watched in terror as the mighty walls of their city crumbled and fell all around them. The Israelites marched straight up into the city and captured it.

The spies who hid in Rahab's house went and brought her and her family out. They led her family safely out of the city and then burned the city with fire. **Rahab and her family lived with the people of Israel and worshiped their God.**

The people of Jericho hid behind their mighty walls, hoping they could keep God out. But no hiding place can keep Him away.

LIVE

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

Move in Sevens

Joshua and God's people marched for seven days. Have children spread out, and challenge them to do seven of each thing you name (e.g., jump seven times, clap seven times, hop seven times). Talk about what happened on the seventh day. Have children think of some obstacles or problems they have in life. How does God help them?



Puppet Talk

Have a puppet pretend to blow a trumpet. He says he is practicing because he has a big problem. There is a neighbor dog that scares him, and he thought he could blow his trumpet and chase it away. But he's not so good at it. Tell him he doesn't need to be. Say, **It wasn't the trumpet or marching that defeated God's enemy in Jericho. It was God! God helps us with all our problems, especially our sin problem. How? He sent Jesus to be our Savior.**



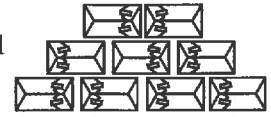
Kazoo Craft

Make kazoos. Use 6-inch lengths of empty gift-wrap or paper-towel tubes. Use a rubber band to secure a 4-inch square of waxed paper over one end of the tube. Wrap construction paper around the tube and tape in place. Decorate with stickers or other decorations. Show children how to make music by humming into the open end of the tube.



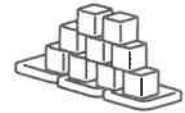
Paper-Bag Blocks

Bring in paper grocery bags and newspaper. Have children stuff one paper grocery bag lightly with newspaper, then fit a second bag over the open end to make a large block. Use the blocks to build a wall, and then knock it down.



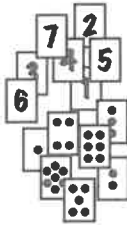
Jericho Snack

Serve cheese cubes and square cheese crackers. Challenge children to make the wall of Jericho, then eat it. Option: Also give children Bugles chips, a trumpet-shaped corn snack. Make pretend trumpet noises before eating the wall.



Number Seven

On an index card, write the numeral 1. On another, draw a large dot. Do this for numerals 1 to 7, using fourteen index cards. Have children match number and dot cards. Say, **In our Bible story, God's people walked around a wall for seven days. Where else in the Bible is the number seven important?** (Creation, Book of Revelation)



Forty Years Later

God's people had to wait forty years to enter the Promised Land. Help students figure out how old they will be in forty years, and talk about what they might do in the intervening years and what their lives might be like forty years from now. Remind them that the Lord will continue to guide them and provide for them, just as He did for the Israelites.



LEAVE

SAY

Our God is just. He has defeated sin, death, and the devil. We can trust in God above all else.

PRAY

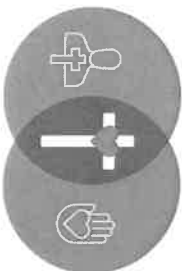
Dear Jesus, thank You for giving us the ultimate victory over sin and death. We know that we can put our trust in You. Help us to share this good news with others. In Your name we pray. Amen.

THE DOWNFALL WALL

LESSON 5

Joshua 5:13–6:27

GOD IS JUST.



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God calls me to follow His plan and directions, even when I don't understand them.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can serve my God as I listen to His Word and apply it to my life.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age:

ADULT

I can consider what God's justice meant in the narrative and how that applies to my life today.

YOUTH

I can describe how God is both just and merciful.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that God is just and defeats our enemy, the devil.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God is my helper.

BIBLE VERSE

My help comes from the LORD.

Psalms 121:2

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Confident in their wall, the people of Jericho shut themselves up inside the city. Following God's unusual battle plan, Joshua gathers the priests, trumpets, ark of the covenant, and people. Six days they march once around the city, then seven times on the seventh day, giving a shout at the conclusion of the last circuit. The city walls come tumbling down, and the Israelites wipe out the citizens and livestock while plundering precious metals for the tabernacle. Yet Rahab and her family are spared.

TAKING IT HOME

- ▶ *On the Go*—Jericho's walls were strong, yet it only took a shout to bring them down. Is there anything God cannot do? Explain your answer.
- ▶ *At Medtime*—Remember God's promises to Abraham (see Genesis 15:1–6). Beginning with Isaac's birth and in as much detail as you can remember, describe how God kept these promises.
- ▶ *Something to Do*—Make a ram's horn using rolled paper. Shout out your favorite Bible verse from it to remind you of God's might and power.
- ▶ *Before Bed*—The names *Joshua* and *Jesus* both mean "the Lord saves." How did Joshua and Jesus both help save people? Why is it so important to believe that Jesus saves you?



Leader Devotion LESSON 5
THE DOWNFALL WALL—THE FALL OF JERICHO
JOSHUA 5:13-6:27

BIBLE TRUTH

God is just.

BIBLE VERSE

My help comes from the LORD. Psalm 121:2

LAW & GOSPEL

I trust in my walls of self-made security, but my works and my accomplishments crumble around me.

God delivers me from the ruin of my sin and provides me a mighty fortress in Christ.

DEVOTION

As a child, I always loved the account of the fall of Jericho. I could visualize the Israelites marching around the city each day until the final day, when they marched around seven times and then gave the shout of victory. I may have even re-enacted the fall of the wall, using blocks or cardboard boxes. But I'd never considered the terror of the citizens of Jericho when the walls came crashing down. Everything they had put their trust in now lay in piles of rubble around them.

We face the same terror when we realize our standing before a righteous God. Yet, “God is also a God of love, whose justice was satisfied when His Son took the punishment for the sin of the world. The Lord delivers us, through faith in Jesus, from the destruction awaiting this present evil age” (*TLSB*, p. 350).

Pray: We thank You, O Lord, that You justify all who rest their faith in Jesus. We praise You, O Lord, that You gave Yourself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age. Amen.

LESSON 5 OPENING

THE DOWNFALL WALL—THE FALL OF JERICHO

This is a picture of a wall. A very big wall. A “great” wall. Do you recognize It? Where is it found? *Allow volunteers to answer.* This is a picture of the Great Wall of China. Many centuries ago, the people of China built this wall along their northern border. Why do you think they built this wall? They built it to keep their country safe. This wall kept their enemies away.

Imagine being on the outside of this wall. How would you get on the other side? You could try climbing it. But it is tall, and there are people defending it. They won’t let you climb very high. You could try knocking it down. But it is very strong and thick. It would be difficult to move even one of the stones! You can’t dig a tunnel under it, because the foundation is very deep. It seems impossible to get to the other side of this wall!

Some things seem impossible for us to do. In the Book of Matthew, Jesus and His disciples talked about the impossible. The disciples thought it was possible to follow all of God’s Commandments and keep His Law perfectly. They thought that if they did everything right, they would earn their way to eternal life. Jesus told them it was even harder than they thought to get to heaven. That made His disciples upset, and they asked Jesus, “Who then can be saved?” They wanted to know how it was possible that anyone could get to heaven! Jesus replied, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:25–26).

Even though it is impossible for us to get to heaven by ourselves, God made it possible by sending His Son. Jesus broke down the wall between us and God. He loves us so much that He died for our sins, rising from the dead three days later. He made it possible for us to go to heaven.

When the Israelites were trying to enter the Promised Land, they came across many situations that seemed impossible. Listen to today’s lesson to hear an example of God doing the impossible for His people.

Pray: Dear Jesus, thank You for breaking down the wall between us and God so we can live in heaven with You forever. Help us remember that all things are possible with You! Amen.

LESSON TEXT

Joshua 5:13–6:27

BIBLE TRUTH

God is just.

FAITH FOCUS

The Power of the
Sacrament of the Altar

LAW & GOSPEL

I trust in my walls of
self-made security,
but my works and my
accomplishments crumble
around me.

**God delivers me from
the ruin of my sin and
provides me a mighty
fortress in Christ.**

BIBLE VERSE

My help comes from the
LORD. Psalm 121:2

VISUAL HELPS

Picture of the Great Wall
of China

THE DOWNFALL WALL—THE FALL OF JERICHO

Unit 5, Lesson 5

Our Broken Wall

Directions: Cut out the pattern below along the solid black outline. In each square, write a sin you've committed. Fold in the sides of the pattern on the dotted lines to form a box, making sure that the sins you've written down are on the inside of the box. Fold down the small latch to close the box. Then wait for more instructions from your teacher.

