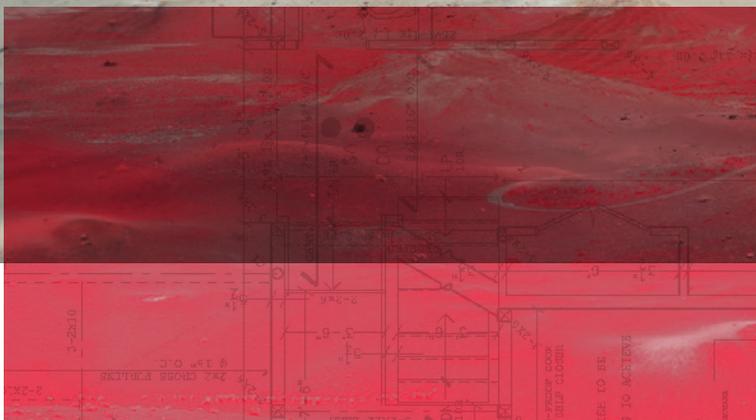




COURAGE



Prayer Guide
WEEK 6

I Have Given You Jericho

Week 6
Day 1

Prayer Guide

The fear of the unknown makes us afraid of the future. How will this marriage work out? How will this child turn out? Will I recover from this serious illness? If we could just know what lies ahead, we would make better decisions and make them with much less fear—we think.

You can imagine how reassured Joshua felt when God told him that he and his army would be victorious going up against the heavily fortified city of Jericho. Whew! What a difference it makes to go into battle with absolute confidence that God is fighting for you.

Even more, Israel is not just going to barely win, they are not just sneaking over the walls—they didn't know yet that they would be going through the walls—but Joshua's soldiers would utterly defeat the soldiers behind the walls and make it to the throne to capture the king himself. Total victory! To claim this victory all Joshua had to do was believe God and obey his instructions.

God's people are assured of a much greater victory, a victory over sin and death. Jesus himself leads the way. All we must do is believe what he says and obey his instructions.

Then the Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men."

JOSHUA 6:2

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

MATTHEW 6:25-26

Are your fears for your future or the future of God's church based on fear of the unknown? Ask God to give you greater assurance that he is leading us to absolute and total victory.

PRAYER TIME

His Ways Are Not Our Ways

Week 6
Day 2

Prayer Guide

God did not say, "March around the walls and Jericho will surrender out of sheer fright." He did not say, "Blow your rams' horns and they will believe they are being attacked by the heavenly hosts." Nothing about God's plan for taking Jericho really made much sense. Don't you think all the military leaders of Israel were scratching their heads?

In our world, God's people find themselves limited—only so much time, only this much money, or only so many people to do things with. When there is a city to conquer or a mountain to climb, we begin to believe that our limitations are God's limitations. How foolish!

No wonder his plan does not look like our plan. With God nothing is impossible. So, whose plan should we go with? Joshua went with God's totally irrational plan—and the walls came tumbling down.

"March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in."

JOSHUA 6:3-5

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.

ISAIAH 55:8

What part of God's plan doesn't really make sense to you? Do you have to understand how it all works before you will obey? Surrender your plan to God in prayer today.

PRAYER TIME

Do Not Shout...Yet

Week 6
Day 3

Prayer Guide

What a scene that must have been for the people of Jericho. Soldiers marching around their walls, the priests blowing rams' horns, but not a single soldier saying a single word. No generals yelling orders, no taunting of the enemy looking over the walls, and no reply when ridiculed by the enemy. Not a single word.

Perhaps Joshua, as he pondered this particular order, thought back to the day the Israelites were pinned against the Red Sea with Pharaoh's army charging them. So many people used so many words to criticize Moses for leading them into a death trap. Moses just stood before the people, the staff of the Lord in his hand, and spoke these few words for the LORD, "Be still, and know that I am God!"

The time for shouting would come. On the seventh day, after the seventh round, the people would shout and the walls would fall, BUT for six days and six rounds on the seventh, they were to be still, so they would know it was neither their words nor their volume nor their wisdom that brought the walls down. It was God alone.

But Joshua had commanded the army, "Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!"

JOSHUA 6:10

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

PSALM 46:10-11

Try being still before the Lord today. Just listen, and know that he is God. The time for talking and shouting will come, but not today.

PRAYER TIME

The First and Best Belong To God

Week 6
Day 4

Prayer Guide

Jericho was the first battle across the Jordan in the land God had promised Israel. From the beginning of time, God had claimed the first fruits of his gifts to his people as sacred or holy. Abel's offering were the first fruits of his harvest, Abraham offered the first tenth of his plunder from battle to God's high priest Melchizedek, and God's law given through Moses to the Israelites codified offering the first and the best to God. The first fruits of harvest, the firstborn of their flocks, and even their firstborn children belonged to God.

Some Christians think that God forgot about all this in the new covenant, but, in fact, he expanded his claim on us beyond just the first fruits. He says, YOU are holy, set apart for him. Jesus also said, "Seek first the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need." Everything we have, everything we are is a gift from God and belongs to him. Give it all back to him—and you will be storing up treasure in heaven that you will never lose.

"But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the Lord and must go into his treasury."

JOSHUA 6:18-19

Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.

1 CHRONICLES 29:11

How different will your prayer be if you start by acknowledging that all you are and all you have is a gift from God? What amazing things could God's people do together if all of us understood we are set apart for God? Ponder these questions, then pray.

PRAYER TIME

