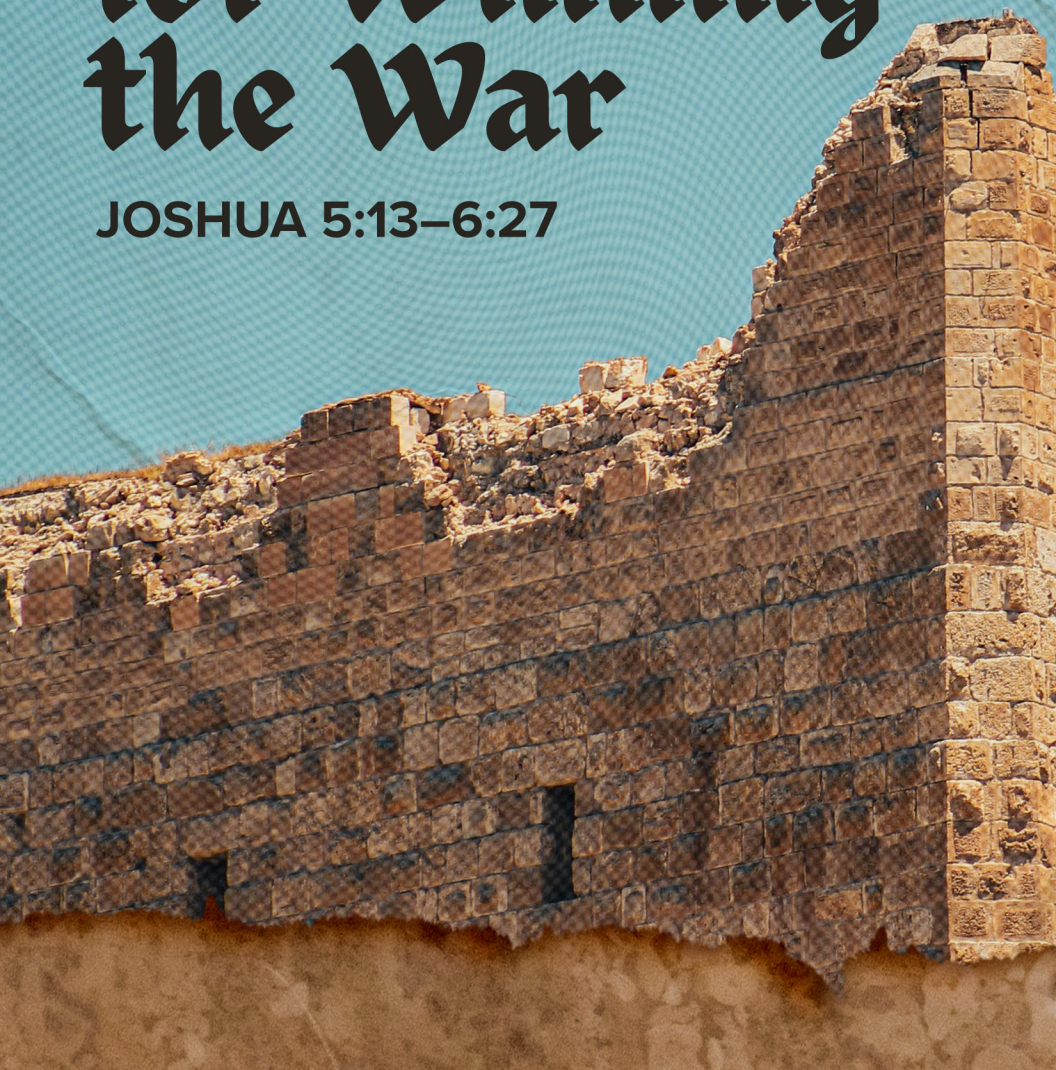




God's Way for Winning the War

JOSHUA 5:13–6:27



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WELCOME: Fixing Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:

Have each GG draw a roadmap of the different battles, trials, or obstacles they had to overcome at different points in their life. The points may include when they were a child, a student, a new employee, a newlywed, a new parent, etc. Then, let them share with the group how God got them past those experiences.

WORSHIP: Adoring Our God

Suggested song:

[You've Already Won](#)

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM

1. GG members will see their need to turn to God for the battles in life they face.
2. GG members will actively seek God's guidance and presence in their lives, as well as trust the Lord in obedience.

INTRODUCTION

The previous verses of chapter 5 recount the consecration of the Israelites before they were to begin their conquest of the Promised Land (5:1–12). The men of Israel were circumcised, and the whole nation commemorated the Passover, readying their hearts for what God had in store. Our passage today tells the story of the first city to fall, particularly how God won the battle for Joshua and the Israelites.

God prepared the Israelites to take Jericho (vv. 5:13-6:5)

As Joshua and the Israelites approached Jericho, they were met by the commander of the Lord's army. After affirming them of His presence, God then gave specific instructions on how to overthrow Jericho.

1. What can you say about how the commander of the Lord's army was described in the passage? What does the dialogue between Joshua and the commander reveal about both of them?
2. Joshua was asked to take off his sandals. What do you think is the significance of this? (cf. Exodus 3:5).
3. As a group, list God's instructions for the Israelites in overthrowing Jericho. Which details stand out to you? Imagine that you were one of the Israelites given these instructions. Describe to the group what you would be thinking throughout the whole process.

Application

The preparation God gives His people is essential for their success and enjoyment of His plans. Today, we can receive instruction from Christ through His Word and experience His presence in our local community of faith. What have you been doing to ensure that you are constantly listening to God's instructions?

Israel obeyed God's instructions and participated in His plan (vv. 6-19)

The people of God promptly obeyed God's instructions and executed His plan. Before the final step in the plan, Joshua gave final reminders as well to the Israelites.

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

1. Compare the list of instructions you wrote down as a group to how the Israelites executed them. What can you observe about how the Israelites responded to God's instructions?
2. Note how many times the ark of the covenant is mentioned in the passage. What can we recall from Scripture about the significance of the ark of the Lord? (cf. Joshua 3:6, Exodus 25:22)
3. According to Joshua's final reminders to the people, what were the things and who were the people that were to be devoted to destruction? What, then, and who were the people to be spared?

Application

God often wants to fulfill His plans with the participation of His people. Is there an uncertainty in your life right now you know God is clearly telling you to trust Him? Share it with the group and let yourself be accountable so that, as a community, we may encourage one another in obedience.

God kept His promise to Israel and to Rahab (vv. 20-27)

At the sound of the trumpets and the shout of the people, the walls fell, and the city of Jericho was given to the Israelites, all according to God's design. Moreover, He allowed Rahab and her household to be spared.

1. What was the result of the Israelites following God's instructions? How does the passage describe how the Israelites took the city of Jericho?
2. According to the text, how did Joshua allow Rahab and her family to be spared? Review as well Rahab's encounter with the spies that led to this moment. (cf. Joshua 2:1-7, 12-13, 18-21)
3. What were the effects of Joshua and the Israelites' successful conquest of Jericho on the city itself? What were the effects on Joshua's reputation?

Application

Like Rahab, we were also meant for destruction because of our own sins until our Savior intervened. How can you celebrate His grace this week? Is there a struggle you have that you feel is unredeemable? Extend grace and forgiveness to one another in the community, beginning with your group.

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

PRAYER ITEM

Dear God, truly, there is none like You. Your victory is assured, Your sovereignty is unchanging, and Your grace is enough. Thank You for this reminder that just as how You fought the battle for Joshua and the Israelites, You have overcome death and sin. Help me to live in obedience and trust so that I may enjoy participating in Your perfect will. May others come to faith in Christ through the Holy Spirit's work in my life. This I pray in Jesus' name. Amen. ■



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