

# Winning Strategy

Session 4 • Joshua 6:12-25



## ENGAGE

**PREPARE:** Display **Pack Item 1** (*Map: The Conquest of Canaan*) on a focal wall. Make copies of **Pack Item 8** (*Handout: Joshua, Judges, Ruth Time Line*) and **Pack Item 12** (*Handout: Winning Strategy*).

**READ:** Enlist a volunteer to read the opening paragraph on page 37.

**ASK: What is involved in learning to trust someone?** (p. 37)

**SHARE:** Distribute copies of **Pack Item 8** (*Handout: Joshua, Judges, Ruth Time Line*) and review Israel's shift from Moses to Joshua. Note that around 1406 BC, Joshua led the people across the Jordan and toward Jericho.

**TRANSITION:** Show adults the location of Jericho on **Pack Item 1** (*Map: The Conquest of Canaan*). Explain that Joshua was an experienced military leader, but today's session reveals his willingness to surrender his ideas to the plans and strategies of God.

## EXPLORE THE TEXT

**READ: Ask adults to read Joshua 6:12-14 silently**, underlining words and phrases that stick out to them. After a few minutes, allow volunteers to share what they marked and why.

**EXPLAIN:** Review the instructions God gave Joshua in verses 1-5. Discuss what the people might have thought about this plan.

- God's plan to capture Jericho was simple, yet unorthodox. The army would march around the city once a day for six days. On the seventh day, they would circle Jericho seven times, blow their trumpets made of rams' horns, scream loudly, and watch God bring down the city's massive walls (Josh. 6:1-5).

**ASK: Have you ever been given an instruction or command that didn't make sense in the moment? What happened?**

**ASK: How do God's unusual instructions test our faith?** (p. 39)

**TRANSITION:** *God was preparing His people to enter the promised land with this test. The seventh day offered a different kind of test.*

**READ: Call for a volunteer to read aloud Joshua 6:15-19**, directing the group to listen for God's instructions for victory.

**SHARE:** Highlight how the seventh day differed from the previous six days for Joshua and the Israelite army.

**ASK: Why did God set the treasures of Jericho apart for Himself?** (p. 39)

**SHARE:** *God is the Owner and Provider of everything. He led Israel into the promised land. It all belonged to Him, so it was not unkind or unfair for Him to claim the spoils of war for Himself.*

**REFLECT:** Note that Rahab and her family were exceptions to God’s ban. Encourage adults to share how God’s actions toward her reveal His faithfulness—and how it can help us learn to trust Him more.

**TRANSITION:** *God had told them what He was going to do. Now, it was time to see the fulfillment of His plan.*

**READ: Call for the group to read Joshua 6:20-21 silently**, considering how the Israelites would have felt as they carried out God’s commands.

**RECAP:** Review the events recorded in verses 20-21. Share the following:

- **(6:20-21)** The inspired writer only briefly recorded the great miracle of the falling walls of Jericho at the end of verse 20. However, this short description coincides with the tone of the book of Joshua. In short, God would fight Israel’s battles and bring victory through His unmatched power. In response, His people were called to total obedience, marked by an unwavering trust in Him.

**SHARE:** Highlight two primary points from these verses, emphasizing the connection between absolute obedience and God’s provision and protection in our lives.

- The people obeyed God completely, even when it didn’t make sense.

- God did the work as the Israelites watched Him fight their battle.

**ASK: What potential victory is God asking you to trust Him to provide?** (p. 39)

**PRAY:** Note that God did something that only He could do—and that they trusted Him enough to make it happen. Review Joshua 6:20 and share that this is the memory verse for this session.

**READ: Enlist a volunteer to read Joshua 6:22-25**, instructing the group to discover a promise fulfilled.

**SHARE:** Highlight Joshua’s actions toward Rahab and her family. Summarize the following to provide additional insights into God’s grace:

- **(6:25)** Verse 25 indicates that once they completed the necessary purity rituals, Rahab’s family members were received into the Israelite congregation. By her faith, Rahab experienced the Lord’s mercy. She also became a part of the Lord’s chosen nation and the lineage of Christ. Her story provides a picture of what God still does for people, rescuing them from destruction and placing them within His family by faith.

**DISCUSS:** Encourage adults to read through the verses again and to identify how God dealt with the rest of Jericho’s people and their possessions. Use the information below to facilitate a brief discussion on why the Israelites burned Jericho and put its precious metals in the Lord’s treasury.

- **(6:24)** The Hebrew verb translated “burned” always denotes literal burning

and often designates the resulting destruction. As commanded (v. 19), Israel placed “the silver and gold . . . bronze and iron into the treasury of the Lord’s house.” The conquered people and possessions were placed under the ban, meaning objects and people were given to the Lord, or they were destroyed. Although “Lord’s house” usually refers to the temple, it refers to the tabernacle in this context since Israel had not yet built a temple.

**ASK: What victories does God promise His people today?** (p. 39)

**CHALLENGE:** *The God who faithfully delivered Jericho to Israel and faithfully protected Rahab and her family is the same God we serve. And He still works to provide for His people and to protect them. Consider areas in your life where you need to see God move. Determine how you can trust Him the way Israel and Rahab trusted Him.*

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## CHALLENGE

**SUMMARIZE:** Review these points from this week’s Bible passage:

- We should obey God’s directions, even when they don’t make sense.
- We experience victory in life when we obey God completely.
- We can trust God to do what only He can do.
- We can live in victory by trusting in God’s promises.

**APPLY:** Encourage the group to look for ways to express trust in God this week. Distribute copies of **Pack Item 12** (*Handout: Winning Strategy*). Direct them to record at least one situation they are praying about in the first column of the handout. Challenge them to continue praying through that issue during the week and to fill out the other spaces for that issue as God reveals His plans to them. Suggest that they continue using this handout to address other areas where God is moving in their lives.

**DISCUSS:** Guide the group to discuss the **Apply the Text** activity on page 39. Ask: **How can remembering what God has done in the past encourage you to trust Him now?**

**CHALLENGE:** Urge adults to consult the **Explore the Bible Prayer Guide** (QR code on page 15) for suggestions on how to pray these verses back to God.

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## AFTER THE SESSION

Reinforce the session by texting or emailing the group a link to the VeggieTales song, “Keep Walking” from *Josh and the Big Wall*. Include this reminder: *Keep walking and trusting in God—because God gives His people victory when they trust and obey Him.* Encourage adults to read and reflect on the **Apply the Text** questions on page 43.