

The Silent Battle

Joshua 6; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 487-498

Did you ever feel so excited you couldn't sleep? Or have you ever woken up extra-early on an extra-special day? That's how it may have been the day that the army of Israel marched for the first time around Jericho.

Long before daybreak the Israelite soldiers and priests arose. After a hurried breakfast, the soldiers dressed for battle. Soon they lined up behind the golden ark of the covenant. Four priests in spotless

white robes stood ready to lift the poles of the ark to their shoulders.

When Joshua, the leader of Israel, appeared, he encouraged all the people.

"Do not give a war cry," Joshua directed. "Do not raise your voices. Do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout." A war cry always helped the soldiers feel brave, and it scared the enemy. But Joshua wanted the soldiers to rely only on God.

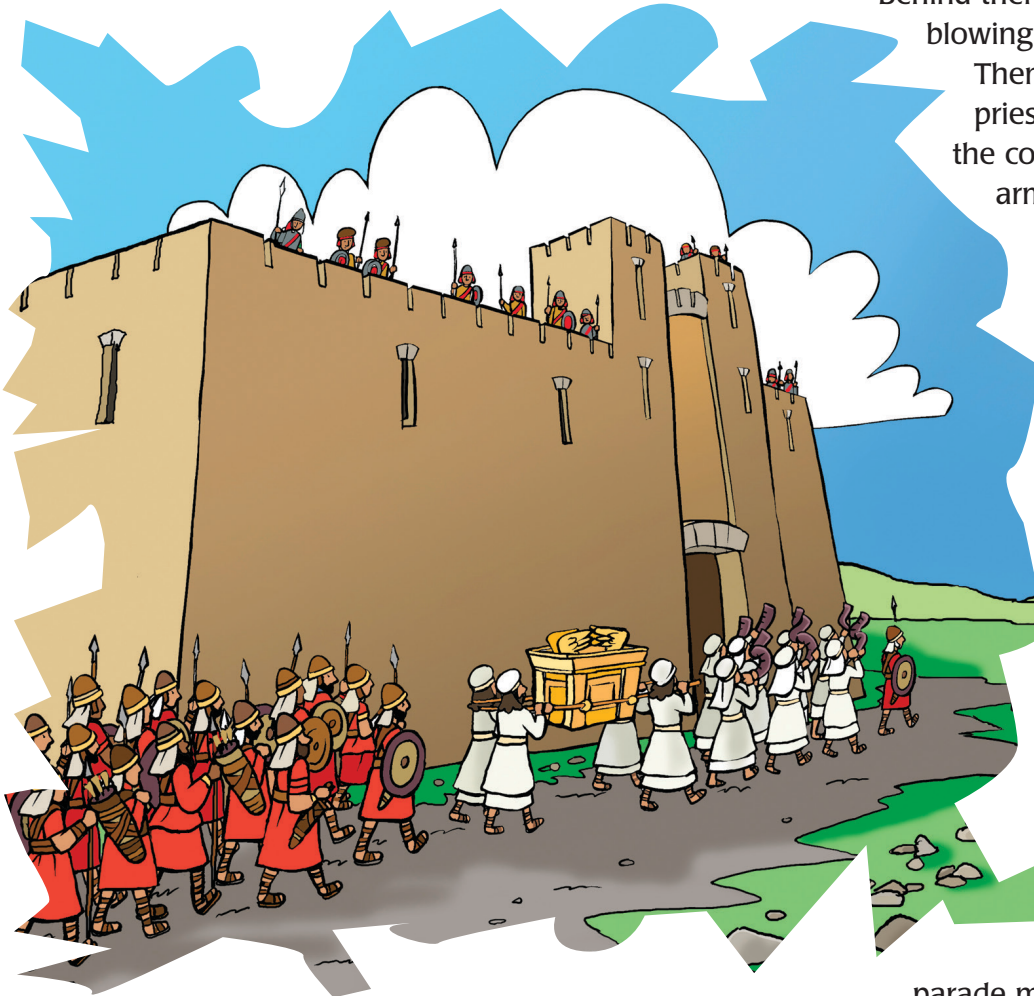
Soon the long parade marched away. A small group of armed soldiers led the way.

Behind them came seven priests blowing ram's horn trumpets.

Then came four more priests carrying the ark of the covenant. The rest of the army followed.

As the Israelites approached Jericho, they saw that the city gates were tightly closed. Soldiers lined the top of the city walls, their weapons ready. But before reaching the walls, the Israelites turned and began marching around the city. When the priests rested their trumpets for a few minutes, the only sound was the tramp of hundreds of feet.

The Israelite parade marched all the way



The Message

In God's family we
all work together.

Memory Verse

"How good and
pleasant it is when
God's people live
together in unity!"

(Psalm 133:1).

around Jericho. Then they headed back to camp. The soldiers on the walls lowered their weapons, completely puzzled. What was going on?

The next day the same parade left the Israelite camp and marched toward Jericho. First, soldiers. Then seven priests playing trumpets. Next, priests carrying the ark. And finally, more soldiers. The trumpets blared. The soldiers marched. No one said a word. Each soldier knew that he was helping, just by marching and not saying a word. Again the parade circled the city. Again they marched back to camp, leaving the people in Jericho bewildered. What kind of war was this?

The same parade wound its way around Jericho on the third day. And the fourth day. And the fifth day. And the sixth day. The people locked in the city could hardly stand it.

At sunrise on the seventh day the long parade of soldiers and priests formed once more. They left the Israelite camp and moved toward Jericho. The walls of the great city were again lined with soldiers. The parade circled the city once. But it did not return to camp as it had before. Instead, the soldiers and priests took a second turn around the city. Then they marched around it for the third time.

The Israelite army marched all the way around Jericho four times. Five times. Six times. Seven times. Then the parade stopped. The priests put the trumpets to their lips and sounded a mighty blast.

"Shout!" Joshua commanded. "The Lord has given you the city!" The soldiers threw back their heads and shouted with all their might. That's when the completely unexpected—the

absolutely, positively impossible—happened. With a deafening rumble the walls of Jericho gave way and fell down. The Israelites rushed into Jericho and took the city.

God had given Jericho into Israel's hands. The victory was God's, but the Israelites had played their part. They had worked together as Joshua instructed.





S A B B A T H

DO With your family, make a “City of Jericho” out of rocks, sticks, etc. Make a parade of soldiers and priests out of pebbles or seeds. Read your lesson story together. When you read about the walls falling down, shout, and make your “Jericho” walls fall down.

READ Read Psalm 133:1 together. Teach it to your family.

SING Sing “I’m in the Lord’s Army” or some other marching song.

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship, read Joshua 6:1-16. Who won this battle for Israel? (Joshua 6:16). Check one:

____ Joshua ____ God and the army of Israel ____ God
____ The army

THINK What part did the army of Israel have in the victory?

DO Make 13 brick-shaped cutouts. Write one word of your memory verse on each. Write the text on one. Arrange the bricks in order. Save them.

M O N D A Y

READ With your family, read Joshua 6:16-20. Unity means everyone working together. Did the soldiers in this story show unity? (Circle Yes or No.)

They formed a parade. Yes No

They marched in the same direction. Yes No

They kept quiet. Yes No

They shouted when Joshua told them to. Yes No

DO Arrange your memory verse “bricks” in order. Say the verse together.

T U E S D A Y

DO With your family, gather some small sticks or twigs. Break one with your bare hands. Now hold four sticks together. Try to break them all at once. Can you do it? Was it easier or harder? Why? In unity there is strength.

DO Name six things you can do to show unity in your family. Name three things families do that show unity in their church. Read Ephesians 4:2, 3 together.

PRAY Pray for unity in your family and church.

W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE For family worship, read Hebrews 11:30 together. How did the Israelites show faith, trust, and unity at Jericho?

SING Write a last line and sing the following to the tune “Are You Sleeping?”
Marching ‘round Jericho, marching ‘round Jericho,
Trusting God, trusting God.
(Softly) Give a mighty (loud) SHOUT! Give a mighty SHOUT!

DO Make the “brick” cutouts fall. Drop them as you say your memory verse. Ask God to help you trust Him more.



THURSDAY

DRAW

Draw a picture of a church with people holding hands and praying inside. Under the picture, write: "The church that prays together is strong together."

DO

As a family, link hands and make a circle. Have each person take a turn being left outside the circle and trying to get in. Then let the person come inside the circle and don't let them get out. How is this like a church family? Read 1 Corinthians 3:9, first part, together.

DO

Look in a mirror and say your memory verse.

FRIDAY

SHARE

Act out your Bible lesson as a family. Who will be Joshua? Read Joshua 6 together. Count how many times the parade marched around Jericho.

THINK

What were people doing together as they marched? What do you do with others at your church?

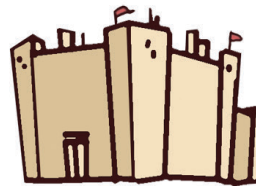
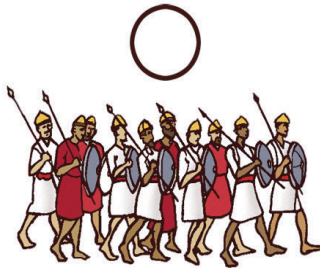
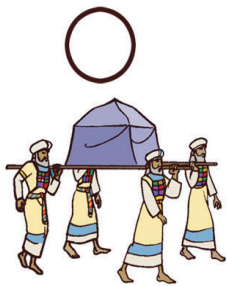
DO

Design a family flag that illustrates unity in God. Write your memory verse on it. Wave it before your family and say the memory verse. Then thank God for unity in your family.

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PUZZLE

Directions: The parade of Israelites marched around Jericho. Joshua told them how to line up to march. After studying your lesson, put a number in the circle by the marchers to show the order in which they marched, starting with the first.

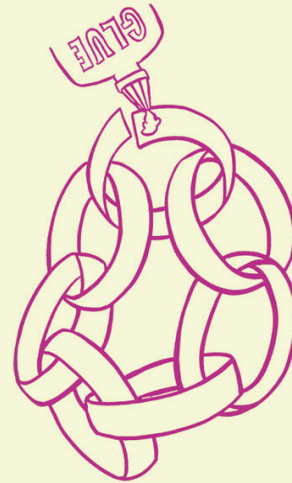


Jericho's walls were more than 40 feet (14 meters) high!

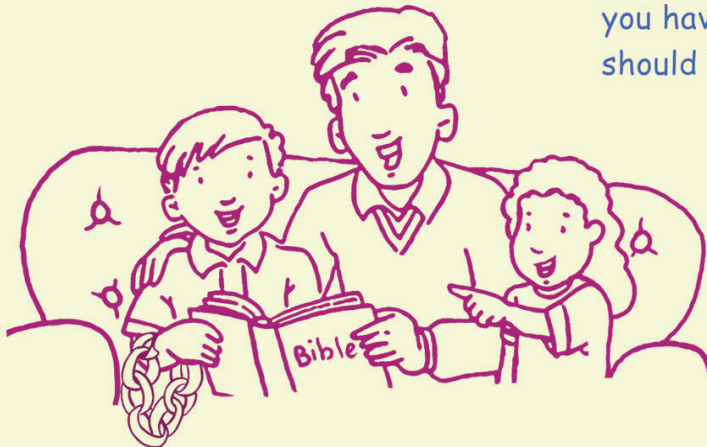




5. Link the next strip through the first circle and glue or staple it.



6. Continue adding links to the chain until you have used all the names. The last link should have the name "Jesus."



7. Share your community chain at family worship. Discuss:
- How is this chain like our church? Even though there are different colors and widths of links, they form a chain when linked together in faith.
 - How does Jesus complete our chain?
 - Every link is important. How do I show others in my church that I care?
 - What can I do to help add links to our chain?



8. Pray for a different person in your chain each day.