

STRONG & COURAGEOUS

23

AN ISRAELITE'S GUIDE TO WINNING BATTLES

JOSHUA 6-7

FOR CHILDREN:

Have a family game night and play Jenga. After your first game read Joshua 6:1-16 & 20. It maybe seems that God gave the Israelites some strange instructions - marching once around the city for six days, then seven times on the seventh day, ending with a shout. But then, the theme of the book of Joshua is obedience to God's instructions. Sometimes God's instructions will seem strange, or different from what the rest of the world is doing. Sometimes God's instructions will mean waiting on His timing, not rushing in on our own. But God's instructions are always the best for us and for our future; because God loves us more than anyone else and we can always trust His leading!

WEEKLY AFFIRMATION:

God, I Will Follow You!

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE:

"Shout! For the Lord has given you the city."

JOSHUA 6:16

FOR THE GROWING CHRISTIAN:

Read Joshua 7:10-13. When the Israelite soldiers invaded Jericho after the walls fell they were to kill all the inhabitants (*save Rahab & her household*), and all the livestock. All the precious materials were to be "taken into the treasury of the house of the LORD." This was to be a kind of first fruits offering to God. Obeying this command would show a trust in God to provide for the people in the future. But Achan could not resist his greed. He gave in to self-sufficiency instead of God-sufficiency. He took what was not his to have and held on to things that he should have surrendered to God. There are a number of warnings here: First, greed and envy do not only destroy us, but hurt those we care about. Second, self-sufficiency weakens our childlike dependence on God. Third, we must be ready to let go of all that must be surrendered to God. This not only includes our fears or concerns, our vices and sinful urges, but also our desires and dreams. In reality, everything must be submitted to God. Take time in prayer with the Lord this week to ask Him to reveal what He desires you to hand over to Him.

FOR THE MATURE CHRISTIAN:

Read Joshua 9:3-16. The Gibeonites were a tribe that were, by God's command, to be completely destroyed. Yet they devised a ruse to convince the Israelites that they were aliens. They fake stale bread and worn out sandals to back up their lie. The Israelites check the bread, but they don't go to the source of complete knowledge and wisdom - God Himself. So they make a covenant to keep alive a people God told them to kill. What do we learn? First, God must always lead. Strength and courage must not come from a rugged independence, but from dependence on God's leading. Second, God's author placed this encounter (*deceptive Gentiles that fear God*), after the record of Achan (*a deceptive Israelite that does not fear God*). Therefore we see that salvation for both Jew and Gentile, comes only by humility before God and acceptance of His grace!

JUNE 2025 GROWTH GOALS

- ☐ Read the Book of Joshua.
- ☐ Watch the Bible Project video on the Book of Joshua (*available on the website*).
- ☐ Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- ☐ Seek out a few individuals in your church family or sphere of influence and share with them a comforting promise from God's Word.