

NEW GROUND: SACRIFICE
LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Sermon Date: Sunday, February 1, 2026

Sermon Passage: Joshua 6

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This Week's Main Takeaway

Joshua 6 confronts us with a strange command and a costly obedience. God tells Israel to take Jericho not with swords raised, but with silence. No battle cries. No strategies shouted across the ranks. Just walking day after day around walls that looked immovable. And the command was clear: don't speak, walk.

This Week's Memory Verse

Joshua 6:10 (NIV), "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!"

Five Inductive Questions

1. GOD :: What does this passage imply about *God*?

We can learn much about God's character and nature from this chapter. First, God, our sovereign and warrior King (v. 2, "I have delivered Jericho into your hands"), tells Israel to take Jericho not with swords raised, but in silence—no battle cries. No strategies shouted across the ranks. Just walking day after day around walls that looked immovable (vs. 1-5). The battle is the Lord's, and He has already won. One commentator says, "In Joshua 6:1, the city of Jericho is completely shut up so that there is no entry and no exit for human travel. There is only one threat: *God*. He is the only one who can pass through what is impassible. When doors are shut, he is able to open them." Second, in verses 20-27, we also see that God is full of grace and judgment. God just does not let sin go unpunished, and He dealt with the sin of the Canaanites. He destroyed the city. Yet, Rahab and her family were saved, despite their sinful pasts. The text also reminds us of the importance of holiness before the righteous God (v. 25).

2. MAN :: What does this passage imply about *man*?

Joshua 6 confronts us with a strange command and a costly obedience. In this passage, one commentator says this: "All that is needed is the participation of Joshua and the people. They need to participate in what God has already consummated. This is known as divine-human instrumentality. They are to do what they are told to do." Even when God's ways are unconventional, we are to submit to His will (vs. 6-19). Notice the community element in this passage. It was Joshua

and the people. Rahab and her family. What can we learn from their example? Life is better in community with other believers listening and obeying His will, learning and growing, and sacrificing our desires for His.

3. PROMISE :: Is there a *promise* to claim in this passage?

First, notice the connection between Joshua 1 and Joshua 6—the Lord kept His declaration. One commentator says, “In Joshua 1:5, God assured Joshua, “I will be with you, just as I was with Moses.” And in Joshua 1:9, God said to Joshua, “The Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” What a word of affirmation and comfort: “And the Lord was with Joshua” (Joshua 6:27). The chapter ends on this note: “His fame spread throughout the land.” The other six nations of Canaan would hear about Joshua.”

Second, Joshua did not fight the battle of Jericho alone. One commentator puts it this way: “It was Yahweh’s battle to fight. Joshua fought the battle only because God allowed him to participate in the fight that was not Joshua’s to win.” Much like Rahab received mercy, in Jesus (our substitutionary atonement), He became sin and received death, while we who were sinners received eternal life (Romans 6:23).

4. COMMAND :: Is there a *command* to obey in this passage?

God’s command to His people was clear: don’t speak, walk. One commentator says, “God orders them to march around the Jericho walls one time each day. No one is to make a sound. The only noise to be heard is the sound of feet. Such silence had to be challenging for a people known for their murmuring. Their silence must have been deafening to the people of Jericho who stood on top of the walls and looked down.”

We must remember this: “No obedience, no victory. The people destroyed every living thing in Jericho, humans and animals, and saved the valuables to be used in the building of the tabernacle.”

5. REPENT :: Reflecting on this portion of God’s Word, what can I *repent* of this week?

Are you following God, alongside a community of believers? Even when God uses unconventional ways, will you be faithful? Will you walk in obedience?

Sources:

Exalting Jesus in Joshua (Holman Publishers)

CSB Study Bible Notes (B&H Publishing)