

VGROUP STUDY GUIDE
"JOSHUA: TAKING ON THE ENEMY"
JOSHUA 6: 1-21
FEBRUARY 12, 2023

Focal point: "All talk, no action." Are you familiar with that phrase? I'm afraid I'm more than familiar with it. I've spent a rather large portion of my life as the living motto! It's very easy to spot problems, to spot what's wrong with everything. Let me show you how good you are at this: What do you see as Carolina's greatest weakness of the football team? What are some problems you see in your workplace? What are some problems you see in politics?

It's easy to point out what's wrong. What's hard is actually doing something about it. Why do you think that is? Let's look at our text and see how Joshua and the Israelites were proactive when it came to the enemy.

TEXT:

*Now Jericho was strongly fortified because of the Israelites—no one leaving or entering. **2** The Lord said to Joshua, "Look, I have handed Jericho, its king, and its fighting men over to you. **3** March around the city with all the men of war, circling the city one time. Do this for six days. **4** Have seven priests carry seven ram's-horn trumpets in front of the ark. But on the seventh day, march around the city seven times, while the priests blow the trumpets. **5** When there is a prolonged blast of the horn and you hear its sound, have all the people give a mighty shout. Then the city wall will collapse, and the people will advance, each man straight ahead." **6** So Joshua son of Nun summoned the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant and have seven priests carry seven trumpets in front of the ark of the Lord." **7** He said to the people, "Move forward, march around the city, and have the armed troops go ahead of the ark of the Lord." **8** After Joshua had spoken to the people, seven priests carrying seven trumpets before the Lord moved forward and blew the trumpets; the ark of the Lord's covenant followed them. **9** While the trumpets were blowing, the armed troops went in front of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard went behind the ark. **10** But Joshua had commanded the people: "Do not shout or let your voice be heard. Don't let one word come out of your mouth until the time I say, 'Shout!' Then you are to shout." **11** So the ark of the Lord was carried around the city, circling it*

once. They returned to the camp and spent the night there. **12** Joshua got up early the next morning. The priests took the ark of the Lord, **13** and the seven priests carrying seven trumpets marched in front of the ark of the Lord. While the trumpets were blowing, the armed troops went in front of them, and the rear guard went behind the ark of the Lord. **14** On the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days. **15** Early on the seventh day, they started at dawn and marched around the city seven times in the same way. That was the only day they marched around the city seven times. **16** After the seventh time, the priests blew the trumpets, and Joshua said to the people, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city. **17** But the city and everything in it are set apart to the Lord for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and everyone with her in the house will live, because she hid the men[b] we sent. **18** But keep yourselves from the things set apart, or you will be set apart for destruction. If you take any of those things, you will set apart the camp of Israel for destruction and bring disaster on it. **19** For all the silver and gold, and the articles of bronze and iron, are dedicated to the Lord and must go into the Lord's treasury." **20** So the people shouted, and the trumpets sounded. When they heard the blast of the trumpet, the people gave a great shout, and the wall collapsed. The people advanced into the city, each man straight ahead, and they captured the city. **21** They completely destroyed everything in the city with the sword—every man and woman, both young and old, and every ox, sheep, and donkey.

Several steps the Israelites took to take on the enemy:

They followed God's instructions (vv. 1-5)

1. What were the instructions they were given? Would those instructions have concerned you? Why do you think the instructions were like they were?
2. What instructions from the Lord have you received (or that you see in Scripture) that seem counterintuitive? Why is it important to follow God's instructions? *Read Ps. 119: 9-11.*
3. Why could the Israelites have confidence in God's instructions? What instructions had they received the past where they could have confidence in what God was telling them to do? *Read Joshua 3: 15-16.* What other examples did they have? What examples do you have in your life of God following through on the instructions He gave you?

They waited on the Lord (vv. 6-14)

1. What examples do you have from your life where you had to wait on the Lord? Why is waiting difficult? How did the Israelites have to wait?

2.If they were patient, what was supposed to happen? Back in v. 1 we're told the walls were "strongly fortified." How would marching around the city and blowing horns have made you feel? What would you rather see your military leaders doing?

3.Share an example of how patience paid off for you.

They expected victory (vv. 15-21)

1.You see the faith of the people in these verses. They'd been called to a strange task. But they did it anyway because they believed it when God said they were going to win. *Read v. 16.*

2.Are you expecting a victory w/God? Are you expecting for God to do what He says He'll do?

3.What do you think kept the Israelites marching around the city, blowing trumpets day after day?

4.Why did they have an expectation of victory? Do you have one? If so, why?