

Selfies IN THE BATTLE

SELFIES IN THE BATTLE, PART 3: THE VICTORY MARCH

We all face problems in life—walls that feel too big to climb and battles that seem impossible to win. Today, we find God giving His people one of the strangest battle plans in history: march, stay silent, blow horns, and shout. No swords. No siege. Just obedience and faith. Before the walls of Jericho ever fell, the victory was already secured—because God had declared it. This story reminds us that when we follow God’s plan, even when it doesn’t make sense, the victory is won before the battle begins.

BIG IDEA: When we follow God’s plan, the victory is won before the battle has begun.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What’s the strangest instruction you’ve ever been given that actually worked out in the end?
2. When was a time in your life that you had to trust someone’s plan even though it didn’t make sense?
3. When is the last time you felt under-qualified and overwhelmed?

When we feel under qualified and overwhelmed, we might be exactly where God wants us. These moments force us to pray like everything depends upon God. They also drive us to our knees. In times like this we move to a place of raw dependence on God. It is this raw dependence on God that is the raw material in which God performs His greatest miracles.

4. With your Bible or Bible App, read [Joshua 5:13-15](#).

¹³ When Joshua was near the town of Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with sword in hand. Joshua went up to him and demanded, “Are you friend or foe?” ¹⁴ “Neither one,” he replied. “I am the commander of the LORD’s army.” At this, Joshua fell with his face to the ground in reverence. “I am at your command,” Joshua said. “What do you want your servant to do?” ¹⁵ The commander of the LORD’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did as he was told. [Joshua 5:13-15 \(NLT\)](#)

5. Who was the most intimidating person you ever met? Tell the group about that meeting. Where is Joshua when he meets this intimidating person? Think about this incident and put it in the context of today. (An American general in Afghanistan close to enemy territory is approached by a person with a gun drawn.) What do you think Joshua is thinking? How do you think Joshua feels?
6. Joshua encounters the “Commander of the Lord’s Army.” Why is this moment significant before the battle begins? What does it teach us about worship preceding victory?
7. The Commander tells Joshua, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” How does recognizing God’s presence prepare us for battle?
8. Compare *Joshua 5:15* with *Exodus 3:6*. What is similar about these situations? What is different?
9. With your Bible or Bible App, read [Joshua 6:1-2](#).

¹ Now the gates of Jericho were tightly shut because the people were afraid of the Israelites. No one was allowed to go out or in. ² But the LORD said to Joshua, “I have given you Jericho, its king, and all its strong warriors.” [Joshua 6:1-2 \(NLT\)](#)

10. Why is it important that God spoke of victory in the past tense—before a single wall fell? How can this truth encourage us in our own battles?

There are moments when you need to stop praying and start praising. God has already done it. Even though Jericho is still standing—God has already done it. It is past tense!

11. With your Bible or Bible App, read [Joshua 6:3-5](#).

³ You and your fighting men should march around the town once a day for six days. ⁴ Seven priests will walk ahead of the Ark, each carrying a ram's horn. On the seventh day you are to march around the town seven times, with the priests blowing the horns. ⁵ When you hear the priests give one long blast on the rams' horns, have all the people shout as loud as they can. Then the walls of the town will collapse, and the people can charge straight into the town." [Joshua 6:3-5 \(NLT\)](#)

12. Where do you think Joshua came up with this battle plan?

The plan that we're getting ready to read in chapter 6 is the plan told to Joshua at the end of chapter 5. If you and I want to hear from God, then we need to be near God and be willing to listen and do what He says—no matter how crazy the plan is. You and I will never fight God's battle God's way if we don't spend time alone with God.

13. Prayer is not about outlining your agenda for God. It's about finding out God's agenda for you. When we pray most of our prayers, who's agenda are we really focused on? How can we become more focused on God's agenda?

14. With your Bible or Bible App, read Joshua 6:10.

"Do not shout; do not even talk," Joshua commanded. "Not a single word from any of you until I tell you to shout. Then shout!" [Joshua 6:10 \(NLT\)](#)

15. The Israelites were commanded to march around Jericho in silence for six days. Why do you think God required silence? What role can stillness and listening play in spiritual warfare?

16. How can our words either strengthen or sabotage our faith during seasons of waiting?

17. In Isaiah 55:8–9, God reminds us that His ways are higher than ours. What makes it hard to trust God when His methods don't make sense?

⁸ "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. ⁹ For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts." [Isaiah 55:8–9 \(NLT\)](#)

18. The Israelites' faith grew with every lap around Jericho. What are some ways God uses repetition and perseverance to build faith in us?

19. Have you ever stopped "marching" around something God called you to keep circling? What helps you keep going when you don't see results right away?

20. Joshua 6:20—When the people shouted, the walls collapsed. Why is worship often the final key to breakthrough? How can worship shift your perspective in the middle of your own battle?

THINK ABOUT IT

What is something you have *not* been circling in prayer that you now feel you need to engage with a whole new level of seriousness? What steps will you take to circle this matter in prayer, and how can your group members come alongside of you?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Joshua prayed circles around his Jericho. What "Jericho" are you currently circling—an area that feels impossible without God? Take a moment and draw a map or picture of an area, relationship, goal, or something else that you believe God wants you to circle in prayer. It could be as simple as the name of a person, or a drawing of your neighborhood or workplace. How can you practice faith, silence, and obedience this week as acts of trust? What would it look like for you to declare victory now, even before you see results?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Now the gates of Jericho were tightly shut because the people were afraid of the Israelites. No one was allowed to go out or in. But the LORD said to Joshua, "I have given you Jericho, its king, and all its strong warriors." [Joshua 6:1-2 \(NLT\)](#)