

God Gives Jericho to His People

Joshua 5 - 6

PPT Title

God Gives Jericho to His People

Main Point: The Lord will accomplish what He plans to do.

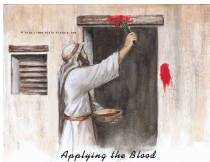
PPT Verse

Key Verse: *Then the Lord spoke to Joshua. He said, "I have handed Jericho over to you. I have also handed its king and its fighting men over to you."* - Joshua 6:2

Props: bread of some sort that is crumbled up, a real-looking sword, a horn or kazoo

NO MORE MANNA (Joshua 5)

Ask: Who remembers what the Passover was?



Say: The Passover was God's PROVISION for the Israelites to be safe from the tenth plague back in Egypt. Because Pharaoh's heart was hard, he would not let the Israelites go free, no matter how many opportunities God gave him. So, God sent the worst plague. During the night, God passed through Egypt and the oldest son in each house died. Even the first born male animals were killed.

But God instructed the Israelites to kill a perfect, male lamb or goat and place its blood on the doorframe of each of their homes. God "PASSED OVER" every home with blood on the doorframe (Exodus 12:3, 5-7, 12-13).

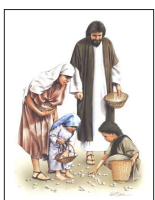


One year after the Israelites left Egypt, God told them to celebrate a feast to remember the Passover (Deuteronomy 16:1-3,6). This was an offering to God (Numbers 9:13). On the night of the Passover, God also told the people to celebrate the Passover Feast once they entered the Promised Land:

*"Obey all of these directions. It's a law for you and your children after you for all time to come. **The Lord will give you the land, just as He promised. When you enter it, keep this holy day.** Your children will ask you, 'What does this holy day mean to you?' Tell them, 'It's the Passover sacrifice in honor of the Lord. He passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt. He spared our homes when He struck the Egyptians down.'*" - Exodus 12:24-27

Ask: Have you ever had to eat the same thing over and over, day after day? What if you were given the same type of bread, at every meal, every day of your life?

Teacher: Show your crumbled bread. Lift it high and sprinkle it as though it is falling from the sky while you talk about the manna.



Say: While they were in the desert, God sent special, sweet, bread-like flakes for the Israelites to eat. The Israelites had eaten manna every day during their forty years in the desert (Exodus 16:35). Remember, none of the Israelites who were slaves in Egypt were alive to enter the Promised Land, except for Joshua and Caleb. This new generation of Israelites had been born out in the desert. They had never known a day without manna.

Note to teacher: The Bible does not say they ate manna exclusively, just that the manna continued throughout their 40 years of wandering.

Say: Except for Joshua and Caleb, these Israelites had never celebrated the Passover Feast. After Joshua led the Israelites across the Jordan River, they celebrated the Passover. Joshua had LISTENED to the command God had given forty years before. This feast was a time to remember God's provision. The day after they ate the Passover feast, the people ate fruits and vegetables from the land of Canaan. They also ate bread without yeast in it. Then something amazing happened - the manna stopped coming (Joshua 5:12). Manna has never fallen from the sky since. **Teacher:** Hide your bread.



It was really important for this generation to celebrate the Passover, so they could REMEMBER how God had provided safety for their parents and grandparents, because they were not alive to see the plagues God sent on Egypt. Remembering God's miraculous provision would help them to be brave. God always wants us to REMEMBER His power and faithfulness!

THE FALL OF JERICO (Joshua 5:13 - 6:27)



Say: Back in these days, many cities had a wall going around it to keep out enemies. But this wasn't a wall like we have in our houses today. These were huge walls. The walls were made of stone or brick. They were high so that no enemy could climb up. They were VERY thick walls. They were so thick that often, homes were actually built into the wall. The city of Jericho had one of these walls around it.



God had promised Joshua and the Israelites that He would give them the whole land of Canaan (Joshua 3:10). **Teacher:** Refer to map. The Bible tells us that the people in the land of Canaan had heard about God stopping the flow of the Jordan River so the Israelites could cross over, and all the kings in the land were very scared (Joshua 5:1). The Bible said it was as if their hearts melted and they lost all of their courage. **Teacher:** Point to Jericho. Because the king of Jericho was so nervous about the Israelites, the gates of Jericho were shut tight and guarded closer than ever. Joshua stood near the city of Jericho. No doubt, he was looking at the city, thinking about how they could attack it.



Suddenly, Joshua looked up and saw a man in front of him. **Teacher:** Hold up your sword each time you talk about the commander. The man held out a sword in his hand, and he was ready for battle. Joshua asked him, "Are you on our side, or on our enemies' side?"

"I am not on either side," he replied. "I have come as the commander of the Lord's army." Then Joshua fell with his face to the ground. He asked the man, "What message does my Lord have for me?"

The commander of the Lord's army replied, "Take off your sandals. The place you are standing on is holy ground." So Joshua took them off. - Joshua 5:14-15

Ask: Where have we heard the words, "Take off your sandals, The place you are standing on is holy ground," before? *Moses.*



Say: When God appeared to **Moses** from the burning bush, God told Moses that he was standing on holy ground (Exodus 3:5). At the burning bush, Moses received orders from God to confront Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Here, we see Joshua is about to receive orders to confront the armies of Canaan and lead the Israelites into the Promised Land.



Surely, Joshua was not expecting this man to be a messenger from God. It is interesting that the commander said he was not on either side. He was there to do God's work. Joshua fell with his face to the ground. No one can come this close to the presence of God without realizing how holy God is and being filled with fear because of how sinful we are!

Note to Teacher: Moses hid his face (Exodus 3:6); Zechariah was gripped with fear (Luke 1:12); Mary was greatly troubled (Luke 1:26); Peter fell to his knees at Jesus' feet (Luke 5:8)

Say: The commander was about to give Joshua some great news, and some very unusual instructions. First, the great news:

Then the Lord spoke to Joshua. He said, "I have handed Jericho over to you. I have also handed its king and its fighting men over to you." - Joshua 6:2

God had already promised never to leave Joshua or the Israelites (Joshua 1:9). This statement was confirmation that God was keeping that promise. Next, the unusual instructions:

"March around the city once with all of your fighting men. In fact, do it for six days. Have seven priests get trumpets that are made out of rams' horns. They must carry them in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times. Have the priests blow the trumpets as you march.

"You will hear them blow a long blast on the trumpets. When you do, have all of the men give a loud shout. The wall of the city will fall down. Then the whole army will go up to the city. Every man will go straight in." - Joshua 6:3-5

Wow. That is a very strange way to raid a city! This kind of plan is not found in any military handbook anywhere. A plan like this - and the POWER to make it work - could only come from God. The Bible says that God's ideas are WAY better than our ideas (Isaiah 55:9)! Surely, marching around the city was not one of the options Joshua was thinking of earlier. But when God sent His message, Joshua LISTENED!



Right away, Joshua sent the priests to get the Ark of the Covenant. He told seven of them to carry trumpets in front of the Ark. He also ordered his military men to march along with them. Then Joshua gave the order to, "Move out!"

When Joshua had spoken to the men, the seven priests went forward. They were carrying the seven trumpets as they marched in front of the ark of the Lord. They were blowing the trumpets. The ark of the Lord's covenant was carried behind the priests. Some of the fighting men marched ahead of the priests who were blowing the trumpets. The others followed behind the ark and guarded all of them. That whole time the priests were blowing the trumpets.

But Joshua had given an order to the fighting men. He had said, "Don't give a war cry. Don't raise your voices. Don't say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!" - Joshua 6:8-10

The men carried the Ark around the city once, then returned to camp and spent the night. They did this the next day, and the next, for six days total. On the seventh day, the men arose at sunrise and marched around the city seven times. The seventh time around, the priests blew a long blast on their trumpets. Joshua told the men that everything in the city would be devoted to God. Only Rahab and the people in her home would be spared, because Rahab hid the spies.



Joshua warned all the people to stay away from the gold and silver and valuable things. Those things would go into God's treasury. Joshua warned them that if anyone went near these things, they would be destroyed, and bring big trouble to all of the Israelites.

Teacher: Have the kids on one side of the room stand up. Tell them they will be "the walls of Jericho." (Optional: Have the kids on the outer edges of this group join hands to be a continuous wall.) Tell the other half they will be "the shouting Israelites." **Say:** We'll pretend it is the seventh day and we have marched around Jericho seven times. Israelites, When I blow my horn, shout! Jericho kids, you fall down when you hear the shouts.



Say: The Bible says: *On the seventh time around, the priests blew a long blast on the trumpets. Then Joshua gave a command to the men. He said, "Shout! The Lord has given you the city!"* - Joshua 6:16

Teacher: Blow your horn! Israelites shout! Walls fall down!



Say: The walls fell down! In a walled city such as Jericho, many of the soldiers would have stood guard on top of the wall. When the walls crumbled, it would have killed those soldiers, and many more who were just inside the walls. This would have destroyed a great portion of Jericho's army. The Israelite fighting men charged straight in and destroyed every living thing as they were commanded. Joshua told the spies to go get Rahab and everyone who was in her home.



So the young men who had checked out the land went into Rahab's house. They brought her out along with her parents and brothers. They brought out everyone else who was there with her. They put them in a place that was outside the camp of Israel. - Joshua 6:23

Ask: Who remembers the promise that the spies made to Rahab? *If she didn't tell anyone that they were there spying, they would not harm her or her family.* Did the spies keep their promise? Yes!

Say: Rahab lived among the Israelites from then on.



Then they burned the whole city and everything that was in it. But they added the silver and gold to the treasures that were kept in the Lord's house. They also put there the articles that were made out of bronze and iron. - Joshua 6:24

Say: Joshua proclaimed a curse on anyone who would ever try to rebuild the city of Jericho. Look at the last verse in Joshua 6:

So the Lord was with Joshua. And Joshua became famous everywhere in the land. - Joshua 6:27

Ask: Did God keep His promise to be with Joshua? Yes!

Say: God had also promised to exalt Joshua, or to make Joshua famous (Joshua 3:7). We even know Joshua's name today - thousands of years later! God ALWAYS keeps His promises!

Application: God sent Joshua to do a BIG job. God did not leave Joshua to do this task alone. God had the PLAN, and the POWER to make it happen. The only thing Joshua had to do was

OBEY. When God has a plan for you, you can rely on Him to be with you. All you have to do is obey God in every step. You can leave the results up to Him!

Application: The spies came in the name of the Lord. Rahab respected them because of God's name. These two men had never even met this woman before, yet she knew of their God. They made a promise to her and they kept it.

We never know what is going on in a person's life. They may be wondering about God. They may want to know more about this Jesus they have heard about. When people know that you are a Christian, they link your behavior to the Lord. Your behavior will either honor God, or dishonor God. The way you treat others may draw them to God, or push them away from God.

PPT Main Point

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