



Community Group Study: When Walls Fall

Getting Started

Do you have a story of a time when God acted in a way that was totally unexpected in your life? Or, do you know of such a story (aside from the Bible) in another's life? Tell the story.

Read Joshua 5:13-6:20

Discussion

Excavations have shown the walls of Jericho to have been 14' thick and 11' high, with a sloping section of wall at the top which extended 35' higher still.

This city was the first obstacle the people of Israel faced after crossing the Jordan.

From Josh 6:3-4, what was the plan God's army captain revealed to Joshua?

Read Isa 55:8-9. Are we expected to understand God's commands in order to obey Him?

Why or why not?

In general, how do you do with obeying commands when you don't understand them or think they're foolish? Explain your answer.

At God's command, Noah built an ark before it started to rain. Gideon went against the Midianites, whose numbers were like a swarm of locusts, with 300 men bearing trumpets and empty water pitchers (Judges 7). And the Israelite army marched around a walled city blowing trumpets.

In each of these examples, what did the people have to do?

Who actually brought about the intended result? Use Heb 11:7, 30, 32-34 to help you answer.

When God's people obey, it brings great blessings.

What did the people do right after crossing the Jordan (on dry ground! – Josh 4:23), as their first acts in the Promised Land? Use Josh. 5:2-3, 10 to answer.

Why was this important? Why didn't God just go ahead and remove Jericho without the week of marching and trumpets and shouting?

Read John 14:23-24 and 1 John 5:3.

What does a person do when he or she genuinely loves God?

What evidence is there when a person does not love God? What does loving God do for our relationship with Him?

Application

Read 1 John 5:1-2. What effect should our love for God have on our relationships with other believers? How can you put this into practice during this time? Be specific – what does this look like for you?

What marching orders, what commands of God, are you struggling to obey? Are there any commands that don't make sense to you?

Do you believe you're serving God, or are you waiting for God to serve you? What are you expecting from God? What are you praying for/about?

Just as He was in the Old Testament stories, God is living and active and in control today. How have you seen God make a way in recent weeks? List at least 5-7 blessings you've experienced during this time.

Take time to pray. Remember to thank God for the blessings. Ask Him to help you know the joy of obedience, and to show you ways to serve and to minister to others.