

The Promised Land



DailyLife
Five Oaks Church

Week 4: April 1–7, 2017

Day 1

April 3



Pray / Ask God to show you his plans for you today.

GOD PROMISES VICTORY over his enemies and always follows through, even under odd circumstances.

This week we read the story of the fall of Jericho. The Israelites once again are in a bit of a bind and need God's help to conquer the wall. The plan that God is about to reveal to Joshua makes no sense and seems foolish. How can Israel possibly win this battle by simply marching around the city and blowing trumpets? God's instructions are not enough to bring down the wall; the Israelites must follow direction and act in total faith in God.

Whatever your obstacles are, God is willing to conquer them with you. If you are up against a wall, don't try to overcome it under your own strength. Instead, work with God, listen to his commands, and follow his direction, even if he is asking you to do something that diverts you from your plan. If you are obedient to him and patient in his timing, he will prevail with his perfect plan for you.



Read / Joshua 6:1–5



Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

God told Joshua that he had given him Jericho, yet Joshua and the Israelites still had to have faith in God's plan and work for it. How are you working for God's promise to you?

God's commands to Joshua and his army were complicated and were not typical military strategy. Has God ever told you to do something that initially did not make sense? How did you respond, and what was the outcome?

We all fight sin and spiritual battles every day, but God already has defeated the enemy for us. We just need to choose to follow and have faith in him. How does knowing that you are saved through Jesus make your battles easier today?

Day 2

April 4



Pray / Commit to obey God's commands for you today.

WE TRUST GOD to fulfill his promises and extend mercy. For this reason we are to obey, even when the circumstances appear unusual.

In the face of such a great obstacle, Joshua complied with the plan of God. Though he may not have completely understood the plan or its significance, he followed God's commands and moved the Israelites into action. Though the instructions seemed to have an impossible outcome, they marched in faith obediently, circle after circle, around the city for many days.

Many people today pride themselves on being good people and living within reason, but that is not enough. God calls us to live by faith in his plans for us. We are to be obedient to his directions and leadership in our lives.



Read / Joshua 6:6–14



Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

During the marching orders, the Israelites were forbidden to speak, but thoughts of confusion and frustration must have been running through their minds. When have you ever, even just for one minute, looked at the circumstances around you and doubted God's plans? How did you overcome your doubt and continue on?

What is God calling you to do? How do you weigh what you believe God is calling you to do against your fears and insecurities or limitations?

For many days the Israelites marched with both faith and obedience, eagerly awaiting God's plan. Reflect on the relationship between faith and obedience. Can you have one without the other? When God leads you in a specific direction, do you always follow with both faith and obedience?

Day 3

April 5



Pray / Ask God for help in overcoming your obstacles.

FAITH PRODUCES WORKS. God works his victories through our obedience to him.

For six days, regardless of any inward doubt, the Israelites obeyed God. They marched in silence around Jericho's massive wall. Their feet probably were sore, they probably were exhausted, and they most certainly were confused and frustrated. In today's reading, the seventh day is finally here, bringing the final instructions along with the results of the Israelites' faith and obedience to God.

We often have to patiently wait for God's plan to take shape, but when we walk by faith, show obedience, and trust God's commands, we will see God move our walls.



Read / Joshua 6:15–21



Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

God's instructions to the Israelites reveal the importance of words and actions. How do you show your faith by using both actions and words?

God chooses to work through our obedience to him. Reflect on some of the ways you see God's work through your obedience to him.

What walled-in area of your life are you still protecting or hiding behind?
Is God commanding you to do something, but you are ignoring him?
How might God give you victory over those walls in your life?

Day 4

April 6



Pray / Give thanks for God's promises.

GOD IS ALWAYS faithful when we are obedient to him.

The Israelites were commanded to destroy almost everyone and everything in Jericho as judgment for the wickedness of the Canaanites. Not everyone was destroyed, though. Rahab the prostitute and her family were spared. Rahab had sin in her life, but because of her faith in God, she willingly helped the Israelite spies and gave them shelter. Rahab and her family had to wait for days before they knew whether God would spare their lives, but despite her past sins, God saw her faith and actions and saved her and her family.

Waiting on God's timing can be difficult, and his response is not always what we want, but we do know that God is always good and faithful to those who have faith in him.



Read / Joshua 6:22–25



Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

Rahab did not let her fear affect her faith in God and decided to help the spies by hiding them. When have you let fear overcome your faith? How could the outcome in the situation have been different if you had placed your faith before your fear?

Joshua, the Israelites, and Rahab demonstrated deep confidence in God's power. Do you have that kind of confidence, or are you more often surprised when you see God at work?

Rahab had to wait for several days before learning her fate. When you are waiting on God for something, such as an answer to prayer, what is that experience like for you? What has God taught you during those times?

Day 5

April 7



Pray / Give thanks for your salvation through Jesus.

GOD CALLS US to battle against evil in this world using the weapons of prayer, his Word, and our testimony.

It was not easy for Joshua and the Israelites to be obedient to God's commands, but through their obedience, there was victory over the enemy. God's ultimate victory over his enemies takes place through the faithful obedience of his son, Jesus Christ. Jesus gave his life for our sins, and his obedience is an example for us.

Jesus' life teaches us to obey, love others, act justly, be faithful, walk humbly with God, and make disciples. By being obedient followers of Christ through witnessing to others, prayer, and the study of the Word, we participate in God's unusual victories.



Read / Matthew 28:19–20



Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

As we are obedient to God, we can have comfort in the knowledge that he is always with us, always fighting for us. Reflect on a time when you have been obedient and have felt God fighting with you.

In today's verse we are commanded to go and make disciples of all nations and teach them to observe God's commands for us. Who do you know that is not a believer in Christ that you could share your testimony with today? How are you portraying your obedience to God to others today?

What are some of God's unusual victories that you have experienced?

Portions of this study were adapted from Ed Stetzer and Trevin Wax, eds., The Gospel Project Chronological: God Delivers, Vol. 2, Adult Personal Study Guide ESV (Nashville, TN: LifeWay Christian Resources, 2015). Used by permission.

Unless indicated otherwise, all Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®). Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. All rights reserved. ESV® Text Edition: 2016.