

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

## *The Promised Land*

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### JERICHO

#### Joshua 6

#### Elementary Lesson

#### Year One, Quarter Three, Lesson Nine

[0340]

AIM: to use the story of Jericho to teach my class that there is no limit to what God can do.

OBJECTS TO HAVE:      A barbell, or a picture of barbells  
                                 A picture of a pole vault  
                                 A stopwatch, or a watch with a second hand  
                                 A picture of a walled city  
                                 A picture of a pile of rubble  
                                 Your Bible

POINT OF CONTACT: This morning, I want to show you what it means to have a *limit*. First, let me show you some weights. Have you ever seen someone lifting weights? Have you ever lifted weights? Let me tell you what happens when somebody lifts weights. You start out with some weights that are really light. They're really easy to lift. Then after you lift the light weights for a while, you go to some that are a little bit heavier. These are still sort of easy, but they're tougher than the light ones. You lift these weights for a while, then you go to some heavier ones. You keep adding more weights, and more weights, and more weights, a little bit at a time. Finally, the weights get so heavy—say 100 pounds—that you can't even lift them off the ground anymore. So you say, "Well, I guess 100 pounds is my...**limit**."

How many of you know what it means to pole vault? Pole-vaulting is a kind of jump contest that athletes compete in. They hold a long pole in their hands and they run up to a stick that is set up in the air. They put the pole on the ground, and they use it to try to jump over the stick. If they can jump over the stick without knocking it down, then the stick gets raised even higher, and the athlete tries again. The stick gets raised higher and higher, until finally the athlete reaches his **limit**. Let's say an athlete can jump over the stick when it is 15 feet high, but when they raise it to 15 feet and 1 inch, he knocks the stick down. The athlete would say, "I guess 15 feet is my **limit**." That's as high as he can jump.

Do any of you like to run races? It's fun to run a race as fast as you can while somebody times you with a watch. Then, you go back and run again, and you try to run it even faster. Let's say that you can run 100 feet in 15 seconds. Then you go back and try really hard, and you do it in 13 seconds. So you say, "I'm going to beat that! I'll do it this time in 10 seconds!" You run as hard as you can, but you only do it in 11 seconds. You try again, and you do it in 12 seconds. You try again and again, but the best time you can make is 11 seconds. So you say, "I guess for today, 11 seconds is my **limit**."

No matter what you try to accomplish in life, there will always be a **limit** to how much you can do. You should always try harder to do more, and to do it better and faster, but there will always be a **limit**.

But that is one of the big differences between God and us: **God has no limits!** There is no limit to what God can do. Let me tell you about some people who found out that God has no limits.

STORY: Two weeks ago I told you how the children of Israel were ready to go into the Promised Land. I told you that Joshua, the leader, sent two men into a city called *Jericho*. These men were called spies. It was their job to look the land over, and find out what it would take to fight a battle against them. Does anybody remember what the city of Jericho had all the way around it? A great big what? That's right, a great big wall. There were doors and gates in that wall, but if those doors and gates were closed, there was no other way into the city. How were the children of Israel going to get over that great big wall? They couldn't knock that wall down. The wall was way too high to climb over. There was no way to tunnel under the wall. And because the wall went all the way around the city, there was no way to go around it. How were they going to get inside to fight the battle that God had told them to fight? There were limits to what they could do.

After the spies returned, all of the children of Israel had to cross the Jordan River, to get ready to enter into the Promised Land. Last Sunday I told you about how God helped them cross the Jordan River.

Now the people are ready to fight the first battle that God had told them to fight, against the city of Jericho. The people looked up at those big, thick walls, and they wandered, “How are we going to get past those big walls?” The night before the battle was to begin, Joshua went for a walk in the dark. As he walked, he prayed and asked God to help him know how they were going to defeat this city with the big wall around it.

You know, that is what you and I ought to do every day, and especially when we have reached our limit. When there is some problem that looks too big for you, don’t get all upset and quit. Don’t get mad at God and mad at people. It’s only natural that there will be problems in your life that you cannot solve. Why? Because you have **limits**. Sometimes you are going to reach your limits, and you are going to find out that there is nothing you can do to solve your problems. When that happens, it is time to go alone and talk to God. Of course, you should take time to talk to God every day. But when you have a special problem that you just don’t know how to solve, you should take some extra time to go all alone and talk to God about your problem. Tell Him that you have reached your limit, and that you need Him, because He has no **limits**. God will help you.

As Joshua walked alone and prayed, suddenly the Lord began to speak to him. Joshua took his shoes off and bowed down in God’s presence. The Lord said, “Joshua, the victory has already been won. All you have to do is follow the game plan that I will give you.” Wow! If they just follow the instructions that God gives them, they are guaranteed to win.

God said, “Here are your instructions: On the first day, have seven of the priests carry trumpets in their hands. Have the Ark of the Covenant behind them. Have them lead the soldiers of your army around the wall of the city of Jericho one time. When they are finished walking all the way around the city, they can return to the camp. They are done for the day. On the second day, have them do the exact same thing. Have them do it again on the third day, the fourth day, the fifth day and the sixth day. Then on the seventh day, have them march around the wall seven times. After seven times of marching around the wall on the seventh day, have the priests blow their horns, and as the priests blow their horns, have all of the people shout a loud shout. When they do...the walls will come crashing down, and you can go in and defeat the city of Jericho.”

It sounded like a silly plan, didn’t it? Should they really expect the walls to fall down just because they marched around them? Would this plan of God’s really work?

That wasn’t for them to decide. It was their job to follow God’s instructions. God had promised that if they followed His instructions, they would win the battle. God could make those walls fall down, because **God has no limits**.

The children of Israel did exactly what God told them to do. On the first day they got up and marched, but nothing happened. On the second day, they got up and marched, and nothing happened again. The third day they got up and marched, and nothing happened again. The fourth day, the fifth and sixth days, they did as they had been commanded, and nothing happened. On the seventh day, the army of Israel marched around the walls of Jericho seven times, and then played the trumpets and shouted with a great shout, just as God had commanded them. And all of a sudden...the walls came crashing to the ground. The armies of Israel ran into the city and destroyed everyone and everything that God had told them to destroy. The only ones left from the whole city were Rahab and her family, just as the spies had promised.

What problem do you have that you think is too big for you? You know what? It probably **is** too big for you. But it’s not too big for God. Nothing is too big for God, because there are **no limits** on what God can do.

So when you face a big “wall,” and you don’t know what to do about it:

- 1) Pray and ask God to help you.
- 2) Find out what God expects you to do about it.
- 3) Obey God, and trust Him to take care of it.

Let’s learn our memory verse: **Luke 1:37 – *For with God nothing shall be impossible.***

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

*The Promised Land*

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## **JERICHO**

### **Joshua 6**

#### **Teen and Adult Lesson**

#### **Year One, Quarter Three, Lesson Nine**

**[0340]**

*Teacher, choose one of the following truths to expand upon in teaching this portion of Scripture to your teen/adult class. Teach and apply the truth that you choose using statements and illustrations that are most helpful and applicable to your students.*

- I. **OUR FIRST ACTION IN AN IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION SHOULD BE TO ASK GOD FOR HIS PLAN.** If what you are doing is acceptable to God, then God has a plan for you to succeed, and you ought to seek His face until He shows you His plan. If what you are doing is not acceptable to God, then God has no plan for your success, and you should change what you are doing.
- II. **GOD HAS NO LIMITATIONS.** If you are living a surrendered and obedient life, God will take you through to the destination that He has for you. You will imagine a thousand obstacles, but the only obstacle to God is our failure to believe and obey Him.
- III. **GOD REMOVES OUR OBSTACLES WHEN WE FOLLOW HIS INSTRUCTIONS.** No matter how bizarre or irrelevant God's instructions may seem to us, it is our responsibility to obey His instructions. We may ask, What does church attendance have to do with me finding a job? What does tithing have to do with me getting out of debt? What does soul winning have to do with me marrying the right person? The answer is, obedience is EVERYTHING to God. If we are not living obedient lives, we cannot expect God's blessings upon our lives. God does not require perfection, for none of us can deliver perfection. God does require a sincere effort of obedience. We can ALL live obediently.
- IV. **GOD REQUIRES ME TO FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS OF MY GOD-GIVEN AUTHORITIES.** Notice that God did not give the instructions to the people; He gave them to Joshua. That is the pattern found throughout the Bible—God gave instructions to His man, and His man gave the instructions to the people. If the people waited until they personally heard the instructions from God, they never would have conquered Jericho. It was their duty to recognize that God had put His hand on Joshua's leadership, and therefore to obey Joshua's instructions. You are not submitted to God's authority until you have submitted to the God-given authorities in your life; and if you are rebelling against the God-given authorities in your life, you are rebelling against God. A person who cannot or will not follow instructions cannot and will not be blessed by God.
- V. **GOD ALWAYS DELIVERS LIKE HE SAID WOULD.** 6:21-25. They completely destroyed the city, but they saved Rahab and her family. This woman put her full confidence in the words of these men who represented the God of Israel, and she was not disappointed. When you put your faith in God's Words, He always comes through.

# Jericho

**Joshua 5:13-6:27**

**[0340]**

## *God Breaks Down the Walls*

### I. JOSHUA 5:13-6:5 JOSHUA RECEIVES INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE LORD

5:13-15 The LORD shows up as Joshua prays

6:1-2 The LORD guarantees victory

6:3-5 The LORD gives Joshua the battle plan

### II. JOSHUA 6:6-14 JOSHUA WALKS ISRAEL THROUGH SIX DAYS

6:6-7 Joshua instructs the priests and the people

6:8-11 The priests and the people follow Joshua's instructions

6:12-14 Israel marches once a day for six days

### III. JOSHUA 6:15-27 ISRAEL TAKES JERICHO ON THE SEVENTH DAY

15-19 Joshua instructs the people on the seventh day

20-25 The LORD gives Israel complete victory

26-27 Joshua pronounces a curse on Jericho

***For with God nothing shall be impossible.***

**LUKE 1:37**

# Jericho

## JOSHUA 6

[0340]

Circle the letter next to the correct answer to each question from the Scripture passage and from today's Bible story.

1. Joshua had already sent two of these into Jericho:  
a. bombs                      b. spies                      c. letters
2. Jericho had this all around it:  
a. rosebushes                      b. a moat filled with alligators      c. a large wall
3. The Israelites crossed this before they got to Jericho:  
a. The Jordan River                      b. the Brooklyn Bridge                      c. the Atlantic Ocean
4. Joshua didn't know how to get through the wall of Jericho, so he did this:  
a. he cried                      b. he watched a YouTube video about Jericho      c. He prayed
5. Who did Joshua meet as he walked and prayed?  
a. The LORD                      b. the mayor of Jericho                      c. a shepherd
6. What did the LORD tell Joshua to do?  
a. give up                      b. take off his shoes                      c. say some magic words
7. What did the LORD give to Joshua?  
a. a magic sword      b. a rocket launcher      c. instructions for how to defeat Jericho
8. What did the LORD tell Joshua and Israelites to do the wall of Jericho?  
a. march around it      b. climb over it                      c. beat it with sledge hammers
9. How many days were the Israelites supposed to march around Jericho?  
a. one day                      b. thirty days                      c. seven days
10. What happened when the Israelites had obeyed God's instructions?  
a. nothing happened                      b. the wall disappeared                      c. the wall fell down flat

*For with God nothing shall be impossible.*

LUKE 1:37

# Jericho

JOSHUA 6  
[0340]

*The answers to today's puzzle*

1. Joshua had already sent two of these into Jericho:  
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