

# The Battle Belongs to the Lord

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Sunday Plan

SCRIPTURE

Joshua 5-6

MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 11:30

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*Before God gives sends us to serve, He strengthens our identity. Before He calls you to trust Him, He reminds you who you are and whose you are.*

## Welcome & Introduction

### SAY

*“Picture a championship football game. The team has trained for months. The crowd is roaring. Your team has first and goal at the one with only less than a minute to play. But before they run onto the field for the deciding score the coach calls them into the sidelines.*

*He doesn’t talk strategy. He doesn’t talk plays. He talks **identity**.*

*He says things like:*

- *‘Remember who you are.’*
- *‘Remember what team you belong to.’*
- *‘Remember the work you’ve put in.’*

*Only after that does he give them the game plan.*

*Then imagine the coach asks them to do something wild:*

*They are to line up in a most unusual formation with linemen spaced far apart and the quarterback is to take a knee. The team doesn’t understand but carries out the instructions. This is repeated on 2nd and 3rd down, but the team still trusts their coach has a winning plan. Then on fourth down they align in the same formation and rush to the goal line and score in a way no one had ever seen before.*

*What would you think of such a tactic with the game on the line?”*

Take a few quick responses.

### TRANSITION

- Joshua 5 is the sideline moment: God reminding Israel who they are, renewing their identity, removing shame, preparing their hearts.
- Joshua 6 is the unique formation followed by the impossible play: march around the walls, blow trumpets, shout — and watch God do what only He can do.

## Covenant Renewal

Joshua 5:1–9

### Teaching Points

- Israel had just crossed the Jordan in a miracle, but God didn’t send them straight into battle. He paused them for spiritual renewal.
- Obedience sometimes feels uncomfortable, but it leads to freedom. Circumcision was painful, inconvenient, and risky on the eve of a battle — but it was obedience and reinforced their identity as a people set apart for God.
- Circumcision was a physical mark of the covenant God established with Abraham and all of his offspring. Those who were born during the 40 years in the wilderness had not been circumcised. Before fulfilling covenant land promises the men rededicated themselves and renewed this covenant rite.

### DISCUSSION

1. Others had seen the miraculous crossing of the Jordan and word of it spread among Canaan’s inhabitants. What effect did this have upon them as Israel approached them?
2. Read Genesis 17:3–10 — Why was it important that the Israelite men obeyed the covenant

**DISCUSSION**

requirement to be circumcised before engaging in the first battle in Canaan?

3. In verse 9, God said He had rolled away the disgrace of Egypt from them. Why would that be important as they had finally entered into the Promised Land?
4. What ritual do we observe today that serves as a covenant renewal?

**KEY TRUTH**

God removes the shame of the past so we can walk into the future. Verse 9 is the heart of this passage: “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” God doesn’t just save us — He heals the parts of us that still feel like slaves to our past failures and gives us a new identity. Part of our victory in Christ is the secure knowledge that those past failings have been completely washed away.

## Farmers Market

Joshua 5:10–12

### Teaching Points

- The Passover in the Promised Land is a full-circle moment: They left Egypt after Passover and now they celebrate Passover in the land God promised.
- God’s promises lead to new responsibilities. In the wilderness, God provided everything directly. In the land, Israel would plant, harvest, and steward what God gave. On their first day in Canaan God truly gave Israel a taste of the land and of being a new nation.
- Moving forward sometimes means letting go of what was familiar. The manna stopping wasn’t a loss — it was a sign that Israel had arrived.

**DISCUSSION**

1. Why do you think God stopped the manna once Israel entered the land?
2. As a parent adjusts how they interact with children as they mature, God does the same with us spiritually. How does it feel when God changes the way He provides or guides you? Exciting? Scary? Both?
3. What’s one “new responsibility” God might be inviting you to take on as you grow in your faith?

**KEY TRUTH**

God’s provision changes as our season changes. For 40 years, God fed Israel with manna. But once they entered the land, the manna stopped and the produce of Canaan began. This teaches that God provides differently in different seasons — and that’s a sign of growth, not abandonment.

## Pulling Rank

Joshua 5:13–15

## Teaching Points

- The Hebrew word “*sar*,” translated as Commander or Captain can also mean “prince” and conveys the highest possible rank, be it military or government.
- Joshua falls facedown before the Commander. Before the walls of Jericho fall, Joshua falls — in worship, humility, and submission.
- Just like Moses at the burning bush, Joshua is told to remove his sandals. This teaches us that God can meet us anywhere — school, home, practice — and that His presence transforms ordinary places into holy moments.

### DISCUSSION

1. Why do you think the Commander didn't say He was on Israel's side, but instead said He was the Commander of the Lord's Army?
2. Why is it important to let God lead instead of asking Him to bless what we already decided to do?

### KEY TRUTH

God shows up as Commander, not consultant. Joshua meets the “Commander of the Lord's Army,” and the message is clear:

God isn't here to take sides — He's here to take over. We need to see that God isn't someone we add to our plans; He's the One we follow.

## Circling the Prey

Joshua 6:1–11

## Teaching Points

- Obedience is often repetitive and unexciting — but powerful. This teaches us that faithfulness in the “boring” days matters deeply.
- God fights battles we cannot win on our own. Jericho was locked up tight — humanly impossible to conquer. God's instructions made it clear: “This victory will be Mine, not yours.”

### DISCUSSION

1. Why do you think God gave Israel such an unusual battle plan instead of a normal military strategy?
2. What's an area in your life where obedience feels repetitive, slow, or “boring,” but you know God is asking you to stick with it?
3. Why do you think God told the people to stay silent while they marched? What might silence teach us today?

### KEY TRUTH

Marching around a city in silence wasn't a military strategy — it was obedience training. We need to see that God sometimes asks us to do things that feel strange or counterintuitive because He's shaping our trust, not our comfort.

# Tearing Down Strongholds

Joshua 6:15–21

## Teaching Points

- The walls didn't fall because of one big moment, but because of persistent obedience.
- God's holiness means He takes sin seriously. The destruction of Jericho is hard, but it shows that God is holy and just. Jericho wasn't neutral — it was deeply corrupt and opposed to God.

### DISCUSSION

1. Why do you think God waited until the seventh day — and the seventh lap — to bring the walls down?
2. What's an area of your life where you feel like you've been "marching" without seeing results? How might this story encourage you?

### KEY TRUTH

Breakthroughs in life often comes after long obedience in the same direction.

## Living Faith

Joshua 6:22–25

## Teaching Points

- Your past doesn't define your future — your faith does. Rahab's past was messy (she was a prostitute per James 2:25, but God rewrote her story. She went from an outsider to part of God's people, and eventually part of the lineage of Jesus (Matthew 1:5).
- Obedience today can bless generations tomorrow. Rahab's act of courage didn't just save her — it saved her entire family. We often underestimate how our choices impact others, but Rahab shows that faith has a ripple effect.
- God's mercy shines even in moments of judgment. Jericho faced destruction, but Rahab's household was spared. In this we see that God is both just and merciful.

### DISCUSSION

1. How does Rahab's story challenge the idea that your past mistakes define who you are?
2. What's one way your faith today could impact someone else in your family or friend group?

### KEY TRUTH

God remembers those who trust Him, even when the world forgets them. Rahab wasn't a leader, a warrior, or someone with a clean reputation — but she trusted God when no one else in Jericho did. This shows us that faith, not status, is what God honors.

# Whose Side Is God On?

Joshua 5:13–15

## Teaching Points

- Before the battle of Jericho, Joshua encounters a figure with a drawn sword. Joshua asks the obvious question: “Are you for us or for our enemies?” The answer is stunning: “Neither. I have come as the commander of Yahweh’s army.”
- This figure tells Joshua to remove his sandals because the ground is holy, the same command God gave Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3:5). The parallel is intentional: just as God commissioned Moses, He now commissions Joshua.
- The passage teaches something students need to hear: God doesn’t fight for our agenda. He has His own. Our job is to align with Him, not recruit Him to our side.

### DISCUSSION

1. Why do you think God answered “Neither” instead of just saying “I’m on your side”?
2. How would it change the way you pray if you stopped asking God to bless your plans and started asking Him to show you His?

### KEY TRUTH

God is not our assistant. He is the commander. We serve in His army, not the other way around.

## Memory Verses & Closing

### Memory Verses

- Hebrews 11:30

Challenge for the Week: Identify one “wall” in your life — something that feels impossible, intimidating, or stuck. Examples:

- a habit you can’t break
- a relationship that feels tense
- a fear you can’t shake
- a prayer that feels unanswered
- a step of obedience you’ve been avoiding

Each night, ask God to break down this wall in your life and bring victory.  
Close in prayer.