

Bible study passage: Joshua 6 (Jericho)

Audience: Adult believers

Big Idea: The battle against evil belongs to God and we are to take his side

Question type		Questions	Relevance to passage
Warm up (decide last)		<i>Have you ever been asked to pick a side? Were you comfortable doing so?</i>	<i>Gets us thinking about the concept of being on someone's "side" and the pros and cons of that.</i>
Context		<i>Where are we up to in the history of Israel? What's the meaning of the prior talk with the angel?</i>	<i>God's army being separate from Israel's foreshadows the battle and raises the question of who is actually fighting this battle.</i>
Topic 1... <i>Ceremony to destroy walls (2-5)</i>	Draw attention to	<i>Who told everyone what to do for the battle? Is there any symbolism to the instructions?</i>	<i>The manner of battle and symbolism of 7s shows this was God's battle and the Israelites were just joining in.</i>
	Draw out meaning	<i>What does this say about who's battle it is? What role does Israel play?</i>	<i>[BT God's character] The battle was God's to fight (likewise with our sin). [BT fulfilment] Israel serves God and receives land as a blessing (we receive eternal life).</i>
Topic 2... <i>Contents of the city (17-19)</i>	Draw attention to	<i>What was Israel to do with the contents of the city?</i>	<i>Since the battle belonged to God, everything inside belonged to him, whether for destruction or looting.</i>
	Draw out meaning	<i>Why couldn't they take any of the treasure for themselves? Why did they have to destroy everything else?</i>	<i>[BT fulfilment] The land was to be literally purged, both in judgement but also to prevent their sin leading Israel astray too. (Jesus puts an end to sin once and for all)</i>
Topic 3... <i>Rahab's family is spared (22-25)</i>	Draw attention to	<i>What was the one thing they didn't destroy?</i>	<i>[BT story] Jesus is a descendant of Rahab (Matt 1:5) whose family was spared for fearing the true God.</i>
	Draw out meaning	<i>Was Rahab spared for being a good person?</i>	<i>[BT good example] A pagan with an immoral life, yet feared God, and is later praised for her faith (Heb 11:31, James 2:25).</i>
Summary		<i>What does this story tell us about God's dealing with people, both the Israelites and Canaanites?</i>	<i>[BT God's character] He is to be feared by all. Everyone is to take his side, turning to him in repentance and obedience.</i>
Implications		<i>How have you expected God to side with you/your plans? What could you do to align yourself with his plans?</i>	<i>Repent of attempts to manipulate God into doing what we want and see how we can align our lives with God's own plans.</i>

Talk passage:*Joshua 6 (Jericho)***Audience:** *Adult believers*

Introduction (decide last)		<i>Illustration of a situation where it is not simple to pick a side, such as in politics or war (to contrast with picking God's side).</i>
Context		<i>Israel is about to conquer their first city in the land promised to them long ago.</i>
Big Idea		<i>The battle against evil belongs to God and we are to take his side.</i>
Point 1... <i>God is the commander (2-5)</i>	Explain	<i>Marching ceremony is symbolic, not strategic. It points to who Israel is serving and the trust they have in him.</i>
	Illustrate	<i>A wedding involves lots of ceremony but the ceremony isn't the important thing, the important thing is what it points to.</i>
	Apply	<i>[BT fulfilment] God saves his people, they don't save themselves. We respond in obedience to his plan.</i>
Point 2... <i>The spoils belong to God (17-19)</i>	Explain	<i>Since the battle belongs to God, he decides what happens to the enemy and their spoils.</i>
	Illustrate	<i>An employee might be heavily involved in the work of a business, but the outcomes of that work belong to the business owner.</i>
	Apply	<i>[BT God's character] Not only do we not do the saving, we also don't earn any of the blessings God lavishes on us. Everything we have belongs to God, and anything we receive is a gift.</i>
Point 3... <i>God shows grace to those who turn to him (22-25)</i>	Explain	<i>Rahab is clearly identified as a prostitute, she was not a good person. [BT story] Yet she leads to the birth of Jesus.</i>
	Illustrate	<i>A raging river does not consider whether a boat has gone against its flow in the past, but only that it does so now.</i>
	Apply	<i>[BT theme] Whether you are a Jew or gentile, or you grew up Christian or aren't one yet. All that matters is turning to God now.</i>
Conclusion		<i>Are you trying to manipulate God to be on your side? Safety and blessing is found by taking God's side and serving him.</i>