

Word notes Sunday 18/9/2011 Helen Parker
Joshua and the Fall of Jericho

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Text: Joshua 6:1-5

The Fall of Jericho is one of those great triumphant moments in the history of Israel, but there is a lot more to this victory than a lot of marching and shouting. As we look back into the earlier chapters of the book of Joshua we can see this was preceded by: 1, planning and knowing what is ahead, 2, getting right with God - & in the right place and 3, seeking then following God's instructions. The whole nation could have just settled by the Jordan safe, rescued from Egypt but then they would have only have second best. To fully inherit what the Lord has for us we should follow their example.

Planning – Josh 2:1-4. Joshua sent in 2 spies who met with Rahab the prostitute. Because of her willingness to trust God they were saved and so was she. Note how God is at work in the planning stage not just protecting the spies but rescuing others whose hearts He has prepared.

Getting in the right place – Josh 3:14-16. The nation of Israel had to exercise their faith by doing something – crossing the Jordan at a time when it was in full flow. The Priests set out first and they had to follow, all needed to trust. Having done so the men were circumcised (Josh 5:2,3). This was a new generation to that which left Egypt and they were expected to come **fully** into the covenant and obedience. It also meant a period of rest while they recovered.

Seeking and following God's instructions – Josh 5:13-6:5. Because of their obedience the commander of the army of the Lord met with them. NB – he was not on anyone's "side" but came to take charge of the situation. Only after they had shown their faith and been obedient even in a way that seemed not to help their cause were they ready to march under the Lord's banner. After following what appeared to the inhabitants of Jericho to be a crazy stunt they saw the massive walls fall.

God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think. (Eph 3:20)

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

Jericho was a fortified city that stood slap in the way of the Israelite's entrance into the Promised Land. Seemingly unassailable it had to fall for them to attain the fullness of God's promise.

- Are there promises from God that you are yet to receive? What are they and what "Jerichos" stand in your/our way (personally or together as a church)?

The 3 options for dealing with these are 1: Don't bother and settle for second best, 2: Try to battle them in our own strength and 3: the Joshua strategy outlined above.

- What are the consequences of options 1 and 2?
- How easily do you follow these solutions?
- How can we employ the Joshua Strategy? Try to be specific in your answer relating to real events/promises/obstructions.
- Does anyone have a testimony to share of how they moved into a promise from God seeing a Jericho defeated?

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

How would you explain to a friend or neighbour what the difference is between a Christian and a non-Christian? Is a Christian any better than a non-Christian? What would you say if they asked "Why should I become a Christian"?