Grow Group Resources

Sermon Summary: Faith That Makes Walls Fall - Joshua 6:1–20

- The story of the Israelites marching around the walls of Jericho is a powerful example of what it means to trust God. In Hebrews 11:30, we are reminded that, *"By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days."*
- Jericho was a fortified city with strong walls that seemed impossible to overcome. Yet God promised His people victory and gave them unusual instructions: march around the city once a day for six days, then seven times on the seventh day, blow the trumpets, and shout. The Israelites obeyed, and the walls came crashing down.
- This story teaches us important lessons about faith and how we are called to live as followers of God.

- **The Foundation of Faith**
  - Our faith is not based on our own strength, abilities, or how strongly we believe. It is based on the faithfulness of God.
    - God speaks: He gives direction and instruction to His people.
    - God is faithful: When He makes a promise, He keeps it.
    - God knows the plan: He sees the beginning and the end, even when we cannot see what lies ahead.
    - God is present: Just as He was with the Israelites, He promises never to leave or forsake us.
    - We don't put our faith in our faith; we put our faith in the faithful One. It is God's power, not the strength of our belief, that accomplishes the impossible.

- **Faith Trusts God Even When…**
  - The Israelites demonstrated four important examples of faith:
    - **Faith when things seem impossible**: They trusted God despite the intimidating walls of Jericho. We are called to trust Him even when our circumstances seem overwhelming.
    - **Faith when it feels risky**: Following God may mean facing criticism, rejection, or losing something comfortable. We must trust Him even when obedience comes with a cost.
    - **Faith when nothing happens:** For six days, the Israelites marched around the city without seeing any change. They continued to obey. We need a *day one to six kind of faith*, not just a day seven faith. Trust God even when prayers seem unanswered and circumstances remain unchanged.
    - **Faith when it doesn't make sense:** Marching around a city was not a logical military strategy. Yet they trusted God's wisdom over their own understanding. God's plans for our finances, marriages, families, and lives may not always make sense to us, but we can trust the One who knows everything.

- **Faith Obeys**

- Faith is more than believing certain facts about God. Biblical faith is trust put into action through obedience.
- The Israelites didn't just hear God's instructions; they followed them. Each morning, they got up and took another step of obedience without knowing exactly when the breakthrough would come.
- We are challenged to ask ourselves:
  - What is God asking me to do?
  - What steps of obedience do I need to take today?
  - Am I willing to follow Him even when it is difficult?
- Faithfulness is demonstrated through everyday decisions: leading our families, raising our children, being diligent at work or school, honouring others, and living according to God's Word.
  - As we take daily steps of obedience, God can break down strongholds in our lives, including pride, lust, envy, fear, and covetousness. These choices don't just affect us; they can also create a legacy of faith and freedom for future generations.
- God's presence provides the power for our daily obedience.

- **Faith In Jesus' Work**
  - The ultimate message of this sermon points us to the cross. Just as the Israelites trusted God's plan for victory, we must trust God's plan for salvation through Jesus Christ.
  - Jesus' death on the cross broke down the dividing wall between us and God, bringing forgiveness, freedom, and a restored relationship with Him.
  - Salvation is not something we earn through good works, our family background, or religious achievements. It is a gift received through faith in Jesus and His finished work on the cross.
  - Ephesians 2:8–9 reminds us: "For by grace you have been saved through faith... it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."
    - Just as the Israelites received the promised victory by faith, we receive eternal life through faith in Jesus.

- **Keep Walking by Faith**
  - The walls of Jericho remind us that God is able to do what seems impossible. Our responsibility is to trust Him, follow His direction, and remain obedient even when we cannot see the results. Sometimes the greatest victories come after many ordinary days of faithfulness.
  - Don't give up on day five. Don't stop on day six. Keep trusting God, keep obeying His Word, and keep taking the next step.

Discussion Questions

1. Open up your discussion time wth a word of prayer inviting God to lead the conversation and reveal the Son.
2. Read Joshua 6:1-20 out loud.
    A. What questions arise while you hear this story?
    B. What stands out to you from the text?
3. Who is someone you consider a role model of faith, and what have you learned from watching how they follow God? How can their example encourage your own walk with Jesus?
4. The Israelites faced the seemingly impossible walls of Jericho. What are some "walls" or challenges you are currently facing that require you to trust God?
5. The Israelites continued marching for six days without seeing any change. Have you ever experienced a season where you were trusting God but saw no results? What helped you keep going?
6. God's instructions didn't make sense from a human perspective, yet the Israelites obeyed. Is there an area of your life where God is asking you to trust His ways rather than your own understanding?
    A. What are some Bible stories that speak about this idea?
7. The sermon reminds us that faith is more than believing; faith obeys. What is one practical step of obedience God might be calling you to take this week? What makes that step difficult?
8. Our faith is ultimately in Jesus and His finished work on the cross, not in our own efforts. What does it look like in everyday life to put your trust fully in Jesus rather than trying to earn God's love or approval?
9. Ask for the prayer need in the group and close with a time of thanks and prayer.