

### 13.04 Jericho (Joshua 5:1–15; 6:1–27)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. It also indicates answers to questions.

#### Visuals and Tools:

- “Joshua” Flash-a-Cards by A Beka Book, Pensacola, FL, 1985, and/or pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional needed materials.

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Tips and terms are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *Jericho*: a strong, wicked city located about 5 miles west of the Jordan River and 7 miles north of the Dead Sea. Jericho is thought to be the oldest city in the world and is 850 feet below sea level. The city had two walls made of mud brick thirty feet high. The outer wall was six feet thick and separated from the inner wall by about 12 to 16 feet. It was time for God’s judgment to fall upon this wicked city. [✓For teacher’s information but not necessarily for children is the fact that their worship included public prostitution and the killing of children as sacrifices.]
- *to devote to destruction*: at the command of God, to destroy totally a city and its inhabitants because of wickedness
- *spoil*: items taken from a conquered enemy
- *ark of the covenant*: the gold throne of God. When not in the Holy of Holies of the tabernacle, it was covered so that no one could see it.

#### Scripture: (ESV)

Joshua 5:1 As soon as all the kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the Lord had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the people of Israel until they had crossed over, their hearts melted and there was no longer any spirit in them because of the people of Israel.

2 At that time the Lord said to Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise the sons of Israel a second time.”  
3 So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth. 4 And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the males of the people who came out of Egypt, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way after they had come out of Egypt. 5 Though all the people who came out had been circumcised, yet all the people who were born on the way in the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt had not been circumcised. 6 For the people of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, the men of war who came out of Egypt, perished, because they did not obey the voice of the Lord; the Lord swore to them that he would not let them see the land that the Lord had sworn to their fathers to give to us, a land flowing with milk and honey. 7 So it was their children, whom he raised up in their place, that Joshua circumcised. For they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way.

8 When the circumcising of the whole nation was finished, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed. 9 And the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” And so the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day. [This lesson does not include verses 3–9.]

10 While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho. 11 And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. 12 And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce.

13 When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before

him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?" 14 And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" 15 And the commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

6:1 Now Jericho was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in. 2 And the Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor. 3 You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus shall you do for six days. 4 Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. 5 And when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, everyone straight before him." 6 So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the Lord." 7 And he said to the people, "Go forward. March around the city and let the armed men pass on before the ark of the Lord."

8 And just as Joshua had commanded the people, the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the Lord went forward, blowing the trumpets, with the ark of the covenant of the Lord following them. 9 The armed men were walking before the priests who were blowing the trumpets, and the rear guard was walking after the ark, while the trumpets blew continually. 10 But Joshua commanded the people, "You shall not shout or make your voice heard, neither shall any word go out of your mouth, until the day I tell you to shout. Then you shall shout." 11 So he caused the ark of the Lord to circle the city, going about it once. And they came into the camp and spent the night in the camp.

12 Then Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. 13 And the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the Lord walked on, and they blew the trumpets continually. And the armed men were walking before them, and the rear guard was walking after the ark of the Lord, while the trumpets blew continually. 14 And the second day they marched around the city once, and returned into the camp. So they did for six days.

15 On the seventh day they rose early, at the dawn of day, and marched around the city in the same manner seven times. It was only on that day that they marched around the city seven times. 16 And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "Shout, for the Lord has given you the city. 17 And the city and all that is within it shall be devoted to the Lord for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent. 18 But you, keep yourselves from the things devoted to destruction, lest when you have devoted them you take any of the devoted things and make the camp of Israel a thing for destruction and bring trouble upon it. 19 But all silver and gold, and every vessel of bronze and iron, are holy to the Lord; they shall go into the treasury of the Lord." 20 So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they captured the city. 21 Then they devoted all in the city to destruction, both men and women, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys, with the edge of the sword.

22 But to the two men who had spied out the land, Joshua said, "Go into the prostitute's house and bring out from there the woman and all who belong to her, as you swore to her." 23 So the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab and her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. And they brought all her relatives and put them outside the camp of Israel. 24 And they burned the city with fire, and everything in it. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the Lord. 25 But Rahab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

26 Joshua laid an oath on them at that time, saying, "Cursed before the Lord be the man who rises up and rebuilds this city, Jericho. "At the cost of his firstborn shall he lay its foundation, and at the cost of his youngest

son shall he set up its gates.”

27 So the Lord was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land.

### **Introduction/Review:**

In our last lesson we learned about Israel’s crossing the Jordan River. How did God make that possible? [He caused the water to heap up on the north side. The river bed was dry. Everyone passed over on dry ground.] Joshua set up a memorial pile of rocks in the river bed and had twelve men take large rocks from the river to Gilgal, ✓located just a bit northeast of Jericho, so that all Israel could remember this miraculous event.

### **Story:**

Jericho and all the cities west of the Jordan had heard how God had dried up the Jordan River, and they were now more terrified than ever of the Israelites! In fact, Jericho was in lockdown: its gates were shut so that no one could come in, and no one could go out.

#### ***Passover***

Back at Gilgal, it was the fourteenth day of the first month. Can you remember what event had taken place on that very date about forty years before? What feast had been celebrated at the time of the exodus? [Passover.] What does *Passover* mean? [Pass over—God’s passing over the houses of those who had put lamb’s blood on their doors while He destroyed the firstborn of every Egyptian family.]

Having just arrived in the promised land, Israel’s celebration of the Passover ✓was significant this year. God had protected and provided in getting them out of Egypt and actually into the land He had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The very next day after Passover, the manna ceased and the people ate from the produce of the new land (unleavened cakes and parched corn). No more sweet wafers (“angels’ food”) sent from God. Forty years they had eaten it and complained about it; now it was gone.

#### ***Commander of the Lord’s army***

Joshua, standing near Jericho, suddenly saw a man appear with a drawn sword. How frightening! Joshua dared to ask, “Are you for us, or for our enemies?”

The man said, “No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord.”

Joshua, knowing he was standing before God Himself, fell on his face to the earth, worshiped, and said to the man, who was Jesus before His earthly birth, “What does my lord say to his servant?”

The commander of the Lord’s army ordered Joshua, “Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.” Joshua took off his sandals.

Then the Lord said to Joshua, “See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor. These are the instructions I give for conquering the city: March around the city, going in this order—first, some of the soldiers; next, seven priests blowing rams’ horns; then the four priests carrying the ark of the covenant; last, the rest of the soldiers. March around the city once a day in this order for six days.

“On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times. You shall be silent—not a word shall go out of your mouth until I tell you. When the priests make a long blast with the ram’s horn, *then* all the soldiers shall shout loudly, and the city wall will fall down flat. The soldiers shall go straight up and slay every person and animal in the city.

“But remember this: do not take anything for yourself from this city for it is devoted to destruction. If you take anything for yourselves, you will bring trouble upon Israel. All the silver and gold and bronze and iron you may take *only for the Lord*, not for yourselves. They are holy to the Lord; they shall go into the treasury of the Lord.”

## ***Israel's army***

Joshua passed on all of these instructions to the people. What were the instructions? [Soldiers, seven priests with rams' horns, priests carrying the ark of the covenant, and more soldiers would go around Jericho once a day for six days. On the seventh day they would go around seven times. At God's signal they would shout, go up and conquer. Nothing could be taken for personal spoil, but gold, silver, bronze, and iron could be taken for God's treasury.] Those instructions were clear.

So the first day they set out from Gilgal to march around Jericho once. First came some silent soldiers. Next were the seven priests blowing rams' horns. Then the four silent priests carrying the ark of the covenant marched. Finally, more silent soldiers followed.

This vast array of thousands marched silently (except for the horn blowers) around the city of Jericho. When they finished one circuit, they went back to their camp at Gilgal.

Early the next morning, the same thing happened. First came some silent soldiers. Next were the seven priests blowing rams' horns. Then the four priests carrying the ark of the covenant marched. Finally, more silent soldiers followed. They circled Jericho once and went back to camp at Gilgal.

Early the third morning, the same thing happened. First came [have students complete the sentences at the printed dashes] — [some silent soldiers]. Next were — [the seven priests blowing rams' horns]. Then the — [priests carrying the ark of the covenant marched]. Finally, — [more silent soldiers followed]. They — [circled Jericho once] and went — [back to camp at Gilgal.]

Early the fourth morning [repeat and have students complete the sentences for the fourth, fifth, and sixth mornings] the same thing happened. First came — [some silent soldiers]. Next were — [the seven priests blowing rams' horns]. Then the — [priests carrying the ark of the covenant marched]. Finally, — [more silent soldiers followed]. They — [circled Jericho once] and went — [back to camp at Gilgal.]

## ***Victory***

The seventh day was the climax. Excited soldiers and priests got up at dawn, marched to Jericho, silently (except for the rams' horns) circled Jericho seven times, and waited for the signal—a long blast on the trumpet. When Joshua called out, “Shout, for the Lord has given you the city!” the men all shouted loudly and triumphantly, and Jericho's walls fell down flat. ✓I take that to mean that the foundations of the walls crumbled to the point that the walls fell flat—either crumbling straight down or falling outward.\* (Don't worry; the Israelites were not close enough to be hurt.)

The soldiers went straight up into the city, where they devoted all—men and women, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys—to destruction. One thing, though, Joshua had to take care of before the city and its inhabitants were destroyed. What or who do you think that was? Yes, it was to rescue Rahab. Joshua sent those two spies who had been hidden by Rahab to Rahab's house where she had gathered her family to be saved. The spies led Rahab and her relatives safely out of Jericho to Gilgal, where they stayed outside the Israelite camp.

After the soldiers had gotten all the gold, silver, bronze, and iron for the Lord and had destroyed everyone, Joshua burned the city with this warning: “Whoever builds Jericho will lose his firstborn son and his youngest son while he is building.”

I wouldn't want to try to build that city, would you? But about 500 years later (from the conquest of Jericho in 1420 B.C. to the reign of Ahab in 920 B.C. = 500 years), a man named Hiel of Bethel did rebuild the city. In spite of God's warning, he persisted even though it cost him the lives of both his oldest and youngest sons as he rebuilt Jericho (1 Kings 16:34).

Joshua, by God's might, conquered Jericho. All the city-nations around heard about this great victory at Jericho and were terrified.

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\*An article in *The National Geographic Magazine* in the 1950s, “Jericho Gives Up Its Secrets,” states regarding an archaeological dig, “The wall as we found it was destroyed so completely that the very stones of its foundations were split and blackened by fire” (p. 865). Although the article attributed this find to a different invasion, it sounds like the biblical description of Jericho’s walls falling flat and being destroyed by fire. Answers in Genesis has an informative article at <https://answersingenesis.org/archaeology/the-walls-of-jericho/>. A *New York Times* article also cites archaeological evidence for the fall of Jericho (<https://www.nytimes.com/1990/02/22/world/believers-score-in-battle-over-the-battle-of-jericho.html>). However, believers do not need secular confirmation of a biblical event when God has carefully detailed it for us in His Word.

### Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:  
He was the Commander of the Lord’s army who appeared to Joshua. Joshua bowed to Him and worshiped Him as God.
- Spiritual “walls” (lying, cheating, hating, jealousy, backtalk, *etc.*) in our lives need to be torn down. [A visual with these words on bricks is found below. These bricks could also be used on a bulletin board entitled “God Can Break Down Walls.”]

### Activities:

- Play dough: rams’ horns; a wall
- Snack: Eat unleavened bread or cakes and parched corn (Corn Nuts<sup>®</sup> or roasted grain prepared by heating it in a frying pan until the kernels expand)  
Or eat prepared Rice Krispies<sup>®</sup> treats after making a wall with them. (Playing with food again.)
- Use boxes to build a wall, and play-act the conquest of Jericho. (This activity could be done without boxes as well.) Students will march around the boxes or around a determined area. Divide the students into four groups. The student[s] in the first group representing soldiers will march first. One or more of this group will carry a toy sword. The next group will be the priests blowing party horns. The third group will have up to four students who represent the priests carrying the ark of the covenant. They might carry blue fabric to indicate the covering of the ark. The last group will be more soldiers, one or more of whom will carry a toy sword.  
  
Have students march silently (except for the horn blower[s]) and then go back to their seats at “Gilgal.” Do this six times. The seventh time, they will march around seven times, wait for the long blast on the trumpet, shout, and break down the walls.  
  
Remind them that *God* made the walls fall. In acting out the conquest of Jericho, some students might say, “Here is some gold; take it to the Lord’s treasury. Here’s some food or clothing. Can’t take that,” *etc.* Two students will rescue Rahab and her family.
- Estimate the size of Jericho. Secular sources say it was 9 acres; that is at least 3.6 square city blocks (<https://www.convertunits.com/from/acres/to/square+city+block+%5bMidwest+U.S.%5d>). Or it could be 5.6 square city blocks if figuring by square feet per acre (43,560 ft.<sup>2</sup>). This number times 9 = 392,040 ft.<sup>2</sup>. Converted to city blocks, it is 5.6 square city blocks (<https://www.convertunits.com/from/square+city+blocks/to/square+foot>). Identify the perimeter of this area by naming particular blocks where you are located.
- Sing some of the Jericho songs found below.
- Musical Chairs game: One chair is available for each student so that no one is eliminated. Teacher can either stop playing music or interrupt the rhyme to signal the children to find a seat.

Joshua at Jericho, march around it so, so, so.  
Faster, faster, go, go, go.  
Slower, slower, slow, slow, slow.  
Time to stop now, whoa— (unknown internet source).

- Review questions: (Game: If the teacher has a flannel background with a removable Jericho wall, the student who answers a question correctly may “tear” down the wall. Or give students a chance to blow a ram’s horn (if available), cleaning it with a disinfectant wipe before each student who has a turn. Use a party horn if a ram’s horn is not available.)
  1. What special feast did Israel celebrate on the fourteenth day of the first month in Gilgal? [Passover.]
  2. Who was the man with a drawn sword in his hand who met with Joshua? [The commander of the Lord’s army; Jesus.]
  3. Why did Joshua bow before the commander of the Lord’s army? [He recognized Him as God.]
  4. What was Israel’s army to do for six days? [March around Jericho once in silence except for the priests who blew ram’s horns.]
  5. How many times were the men of war supposed to go around the city on the seventh day? [Seven.]
  6. What were the people supposed to do when the trumpet made a long blast? [Shout with a great shout.]
  7. What things were the people allowed to take from Jericho for themselves? For God? [Nothing for themselves; only the silver, gold, bronze, and iron for God.]
  8. What did the two spies do before Jericho was destroyed? [Rescued Rahab and her family.]
  9. What and who were devoted to destruction? [All people and animals; everything not saved for God.]
  10. What was the curse Joshua pronounced on the man who would rebuild Jericho? [His oldest and youngest sons would die as he was building the city.]

**Memory Verse[s]:** (ESV)

- Joshua 1:8—This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

**Handwork:**

- Decorate party trumpets or kazoos with stickers.
- Or find a free printable horn at <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/512495632596363079/> for students to color and cut out. Cut out the printed verse (Joshua 6:8) found below and glue it to the horn.

Jericho

to devote to

destruction



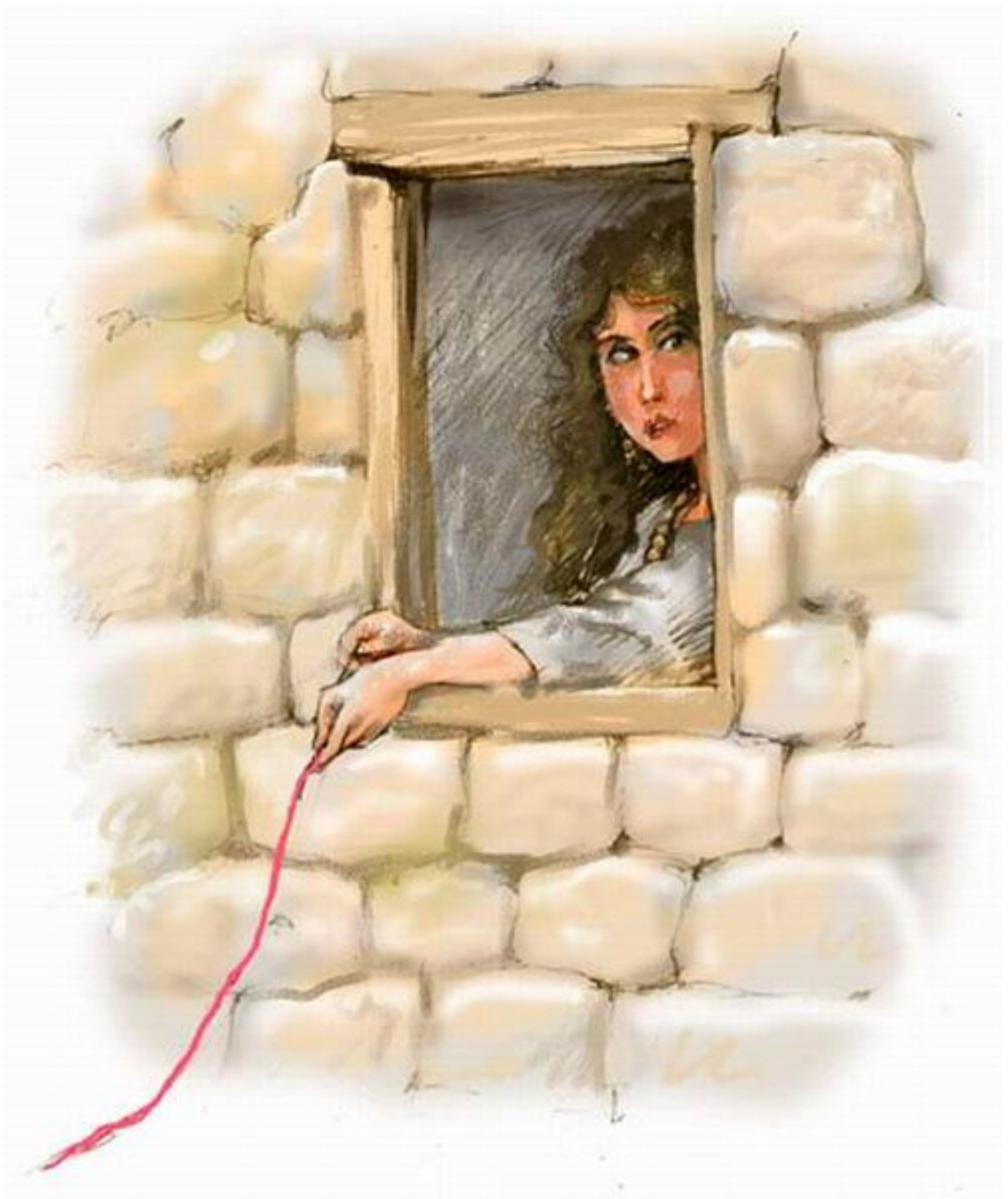
St-Takla.org





<https://blog.spu.edu/lectio/files/2017/08/5.1-marching-around-gericho-large.jpg>





<https://graceintorah.files.wordpress.com/2013/10/scarlet-cord1.jpg>

**Walls of Jericho** (tune: “Mary Had a Little Lamb”; unknown internet source)

What made the walls of Jericho fall, Jericho fall, Jericho fall?  
What made the walls of Jericho fall? God told the Israelites how!

Once each day for six long days, six long days, six long days.  
Once each day for six long days, They marched around the city.

Seven times on the seventh day, seventh day, seventh day,  
Seven times on the seventh day, They marched around the city.

Then the walls of Jericho fell, Jericho fell, Jericho fell,  
Then the walls of Jericho fell According to the Bible.

**Battle of Jericho** (tune: traditional; sing “Joshua *fit* the Battle of Jericho” as in the original if you wish.)

Joshua fought the Battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho,  
Joshua fought the Battle of Jericho, And the walls came tumbling down.

You may talk about the men of Gideon. You may talk about the men of Saul.  
But there’s none like good ol’ Joshua and the Battle of Jericho.

**Ring Around the City** (Tune: “Ring Around a Rosie”; by M. Alexander)

Ring around the city; for the wicked take no pity;  
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7; the walls come down!

**Shout, “Hooray!”** (Tune: “Sound Off”; unknown internet source)

People of God! It’s time to go! Today we march around Jericho.  
We’re marching one, we’re marching two. Soon we’ll see what God will do.

We’re marching three, we’re marching four. They’ll never let us in the door!  
We’re marching five and six and seven. God is watching up in heav’n.

Blow the trumpet loud and clear. The Lord Jehovah is with us here!  
Doodely-doodely-doot-doo-doo! I can give a shout. Can you?

Deedely-deedely-deet-dee-dee! Shout your favorite shout with me.  
The seventh time they marched around, those great big walls came roaring down!

Rocks and boulders tumbled away. The people of God had won the day.  
Let’s shout, “Hooray for God! Hooray! Hooray! Hooray! Hooray!”

**R-A-H-A-B** (tune: “B-I-N-G-O”; first stanza by Sharon Broome; other stanzas by Kathy Hamilton; internet source unknown)

There was girl God used for good, and Rahab was her name-O.  
R-A-H-A-B, R-A-H-A-B, R-A-H-A-B, and Rahab was her name-O.

She hid the spies that came from God with flax upon her roof-O. R-A-H-A-B, *etc.*

The walls of Jericho fell down because of God and faith-O. R-A-H-A-B, *etc.*

But Rahab’s house alone was saved upon the wall of JerichO. R-A-H-A-B, *etc.*

Because of faith she has a place in Jesus’ family line-O. R-A-H-A-B, *etc.*

**Hatred**

**Fussing**

**Back Talk**

**Pride**

**Disobedience**

**Coveting**

**"Me, Me, Me"**

**Whining**

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