



FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors: Dennis & Diane Gordon

Bible Journeys Volume 7 Choosing The Promise #4 CHOOSING TO MOVE (Jericho)



Joshua 5 & 6

**LIVING BY DOUBT LEAVES ME WANDERING ABOUT
BUT LIVING BY FAITH GIVES ME POWER OVER SIN &
TELLING GOD'S PRAISES GIVES ME VICTORY TO WIN**

SCRIPTURE READING *(Read Aloud Together)*

1 John 5:2-4

*“By this we know that we love the children of God,
when we love God, and keep his commandments.*

*³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:
and his commandments are not grievous.*

*⁴ For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and
this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”*

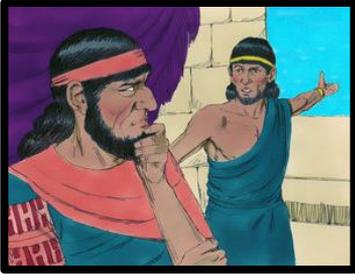
1. INTRODUCTION: The Israelites had to face the impossible, to cross the flooded River Jordan to get to the Promised Land. When we are faced with the impossible, God wants us believe His word, and go after the blessings He has given. The Israelites had to be still and listen and then follow after the presence of God in the Ark. When we face the impossible, God wants us to be still and listen and stand in faith as we watch while He accomplishes all that He created us to be. God parted the impossible River when the priests set their foot in the water and stood while He held back the flood of water. When you choose to praise Him, God will make a way for you where there is no way and do wonderful amazing things in your life!

ORDER OF SERVICE:

1. Light Candles/Opening Prayer
2. Kid Songs/Bible Craft/Story
3. Adult Fellowship Break
4. Prayer & Worship Set
5. Bible Lesson & Group Prayer
6. Blessing Songs & Benediction

2. GOD'S PEOPLE ARE EASILY TEMPTED BY PRIDE.

Joshua 5:1 “And it came to pass, when all the kings of the Amorites, which were on the side of Jordan westward, and all the kings of the Canaanites, which were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of Jordan from before the children of Israel, until we were passed over, that their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more, because of the children of Israel.”



When God gives us a great victory, a great temptation comes with it to suppose that we are entitled to special favor by God - pride. Pride is one of the biggest tools of the enemy to destroy God's people:

Proverbs 16:18-19 “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. ¹⁹ Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.”

The Israelites who came out of Egypt were proud and haughty, and in dire need of cutting away foolish disobedience from their hearts.

Joshua 5:2-6 “At that time the LORD said unto Joshua, Make thee sharp knives, and circumcise again the children of Israel the second time. ³ And Joshua made him sharp knives, and circumcised the children of Israel at the hill of the foreskins. ⁴ And this is the cause why Joshua did circumcise: All the people that came out of Egypt, that were males, even all the men of war, died in the wilderness by the way, after they came out of Egypt. ⁵ Now all the people that came out were circumcised: but all the people that were born in the wilderness by the way as they came forth out of Egypt, them they had not circumcised. ⁶ For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people that were men of war, which came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD: unto whom the LORD swore that he would not shew them the land, which the LORD swore unto their fathers that he would give us, a land that floweth with milk and honey.”

Since Satan is always at work to deceive and then to destroy and devour us, how do we avoid falling into the trap of the enemy?

3. GOD'S PEOPLE WILL PREPARE TO MOVE WITH GOD.

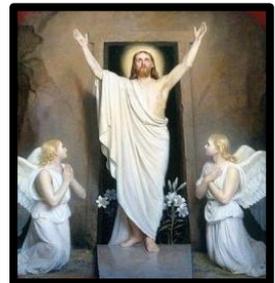
It is so important for us to learn and study the 'old paths' showing God's ways in the Old Testament, because God has not changed! We live under the grace of salvation by faith in the blood of Jesus shed for us, and no longer perform 'works' of daily blood sacrifices, but Jesus is still the same God today as He was yesterday. Our God still observes our words and our actions, that show what we believe. Those who show by their words and actions that they do not have faith in God, just like the complaining Israelites, will also die wandering in the desert, without reaching the Promised Land.

Joshua 5:7-9 "And their children, whom he raised up in their stead, them Joshua circumcised: for they were uncircumcised, because they had not circumcised them by the way. ⁸ And it came to pass, when they had done circumcising all the people, that they abode in their places in the camp, till they were whole. ⁹ And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day."

Circumcision is a picture of all sin being cut away from God's people, committing ones whole self completely to God.

Colossians 2:11-12 "In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: ¹² Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."

Gilgal literally means "a place of rolling away". Their unbelief and sin was rolled away, like the stone covering the tomb of Jesus was rolled away when Jesus rose up triumphant over death and the grave! When hard trials and losses come, and they will, God's word shows us that everyone is expected to have a season of grieving. However, those who genuinely believe, will obey the word of the Lord by cleansing away all the filthiness of sin and unbelief, abiding in Jesus until they are whole, listening for His voice, then in that faith they will move forward, triumphant in the new life Jesus gives!



4. GENUINE FAITH IN JESUS GENERATES NEW LIFE

Unlike the generation before them who murmured against Moses and God and died in the desert, this new generation had faith in God shown by their obedience to do everything that God commanded them to do, with willing hearts. They obeyed God by crossing the Jordan on the 10th day of Nissan, and in the midst of the fearfully great challenge before them, they kept the Passover of God, by putting their faith in the blood of the Lamb of God yet to come.

Joshua 5:10-12 “And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ And they did eat of the old corn of the land on the morrow after the passover, unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the selfsame day. ¹² And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.”

Jesus wants you to give all your troubles to Him and thank Him for taking care of them for you, because He loves you and will never leave you. **When you consecrate yourself to God you will be ready** to hear Him speak to you, then like the Israelites, you will be **ready to MOVE FORWARD into the battle ahead,** and **ready to watch the Lord your God perform impossible miracles in your life.** Joshua was ready and waited for marching orders from God.

Joshua 5:13 “And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?”



Before God came to earth, God appeared in various forms of angels called Theophanies, in order to speak to holy men of old, and they knew the man speaking was God!

Hebrews 1:1-2 “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,”

5. OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME TODAY AS HE WAS YESTERDAY AND FOREVER.

Joshua 6:1 “Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in.”



The gates of Jericho were locked because the people were terrified of the Israelites, so no one went out, and no one came in. Joshua was out walking around Jericho, probably praying about what to do next, and when he looked up, he saw a man in front of him with his sword drawn! It was Jesus appearing as an angel.

Joshua 5: 14-15 “And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? ¹⁵ And the captain of the LORD’S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.”

Suddenly Joshua knew that this was his creator, God, the same who created by the breath of His mouth and he fell down to worship Him!

Psalms 33:6 “By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. 9 For he spake, and it was done; he commanded and it stood fast.”

Colossians 1:15-17 “Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn (by birthright) of every creature. ¹⁶ For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in the earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”

Joshua immediately fell to the ground and worshiped this man who came in the glory of God, recognizing that He was God. He surrendered to His Lord and asked Him, “What does my Lord want?” Jesus told him, “Take the sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy.” And so Joshua took off his sandals. Where Jesus is – is holy. Won’t you surrender your heart to the Lord, like Joshua? Jesus will come to you and make the place where you are holy if you ask Him to.

6. BEFORE YOU CAN DESTROY ALL POWER OF THE ENEMY, PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD.

*Luke 10:19-20 “Behold, **I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy:** and nothing shall by any means hurt you. **20** Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits (fallen angels we call demons) are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.”*

When you give your heart to Jesus, He calls you His very own child, and does not tell you that every destructive thing that comes your way is His will so you should accept every evil thing as being His will and thank Him. No, Jesus gave all His disciples, including us, His disciples today, you and me, authority to trample on all the yucky stuff the devil tries to do to you, to destroy the works of the devil and rejoice! This is the same message God gave to Joshua.

*Joshua 6:2-5 “The Lord said unto Joshua, **See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.** ³ **And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days.** ⁴ **And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams’ horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priest shall blow the trumpets.** ⁵ **And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.”***



God gave Joshua marching orders because Joshua was completely surrendered to Him. Jesus told Joshua exactly how to win the battle! Jesus loves you, and tells you how to win the battles you are facing!

*Joshua 6:6-710 “And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto 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 unto the people, Pass on, and compass the city, and let him that is armed pass on before the ark of the LORD.”***

Did you catch that? Before you can destroy all power of the enemy, you must be armed with the mighty spiritual armor of God!

7. WE ARE NOT TO BE BULL DOZERS SHOUTING OUR POWER TO THE ENEMY, BUT WE MUST BE STILL BEFORE THE LORD AND WAIT FOR HIS DIRECTION.

Joshua 6:8-10 “And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams’ horns passed on before the LORD, and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them. ⁹ And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the rereward came after the ark, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets. ¹⁰ And Joshua had commanded the people saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout.”

Joshua called the priests together and told them to take up the Ark of the Covenant. Seven priests with ram’s horns marched in front of the Ark of the Lord, blowing their trumpets during the march around the city. Armed soldiers marched in front of the priests and a rear guard marched behind the priests carrying the Ark of God. The Israelites were to follow very quietly, and not make any noise at all. This teaches us to be still and know that God is God!

Joshua 6:11-16 “So the ark of the LORD compassed the city, going about it once: and they came into the camp, and lodged in the camp. ¹² And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD ¹³ And seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually, and blew with the trumpets: and the armed men went before them; but the rereward came after the ark of the LORD, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets. ¹⁴ And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days. ¹⁵ And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times. ¹⁶ And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city

8. GOD'S PEOPLE ARE TO SEPARATE THEMSELVES FROM EVERY UNCLEAN THING & OBEY GOD'S VOICE.

Joshua 6:11-17 “And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.”

Rahab believed God, and because she believed she was no longer a cursed thing! Stop believing the devil and believe God! What God has cleansed, no man can call cursed because we are saved! But listen to God, who tells us in Revelation that we are not to touch any unclean thing, and He will receive us like He received Rahab.

Joshua 6:18-21 “And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. ¹⁹ But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD. ²⁰ So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. ²¹ And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword.”

When Satan hears us constantly praising God and telling of His goodness in the midst of our battles, we destroy his power to hurt us! Stop agreeing with the devil! And stop your complaining! The Israelites marched quietly around the city with the priests blowing the trumpets, every day for seven days. On the seventh day, they rose up very early and at Joshua's command, the people shouted, and the city fell flat!

9. OUR GOD LIVES IN THE PRAISES OF HIS PEOPLE.

Psalm 22:3 “But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.”

Our God who is the same yesterday and today and forever, lives in the praises of His people! Whenever you come to an impossible mountain in your life, praise the Lord! God is as sovereign today as He was yesterday, but that does not mean we are to sit idly by following vain Greek philosophy that teaches everything that happens, both good and evil, is the will of God. We have only to look at God’s word to see that is not true, because if that were true, then God would not have told Joshua to have the Israelites march around the city 7 times and shout praises to Him...they had to show their faith by their obedient action – and only then would the walls fall down. God tells us to fight the good fight of faith, believing that He will answer our prayers!



OBJECT LESSON: 10 Boxes/12’ Length of String/Bold Marker/Praisaphones

(Bring 10 boxes to class, one nested inside the next. Tie the 12’ length of string securely through the lid of the largest box with the string laying flat on the floor leading to the place where you will be standing. Stack the remaining boxes on top to form a tower, writing one word on each box – Sickness, Meanness, Pride, Evil, Bad Words, Bullying, Need, Sadness, Selfishness, Pain.)

“The walls of Jericho were as impossible to conquer as some of the problems we worry about. Can you think of a big problem that is impossible without Jesus to help you?”

“Jesus will give us victory over every problem when we ask Him to fix it and praise Him for His goodness! Let’s march around the wall with our trumpets, just like Joshua and God’s people marched around Jericho! On the 7th time, we are going to shout praises to God because He always answers our prayers! “Are you ready to shout praises to God like the Israelites?”

*(Pass out “trumpet” praisaphones) **Let’s march!**” (March around the wall, proclaiming “1 time”, “2 times”, and so on. On the 7th time around, slip out of line and go to where you have placed the end of the string. Secretly give the string a tug as you lead the shout of victory and the walls (boxes) will come tumbling down!*

We praise You Jesus for you always answer our prayers! Shout praises to God for victory over every need! (Return to seats.)

10. ALL WHO BELIEVED WERE SAVED AND THE FAME OF GOD'S PEOPLE SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE LAND!

***Joshua 6:22-23** “But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot’s house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her. ²³ And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel.”*

Everyone in Jericho was to be killed, but God honored Rahab’s faith, and He kept His promise to Rahab, so before the march, Joshua told the two men who had spied out the country, to go into the city, and bring out Rahab and her family to safety, because she had believed God and helped the messengers. God will honor your faith in Him.

***Joshua 6:24-27** “And they burnt the city with fire and all that was therein: only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of brass and of iron, they put into the treasury house of the LORD. ²⁵ And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father’s household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho. ²⁶ And Joshua adjured them at that time, saying, Cursed be the man before the LORD, that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho: he shall lay the foundation thereof in his firstborn, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it. ²⁷ So the Lord was with Joshua; and his fame was noised throughout all the country.”*

Rahab believed God in her heart and **chose to MOVE herself into action because of her faith in God’s word**, by tying the red cord in her window! **Joshua chose to MOVE upon his faith by rallying the Israelites to obey the word of God by marching around the city of Jericho**. So how does the faith of Rahab and of Joshua apply to our faith? **Real genuine faith in God and His word is shown by your choice to MOVE into action**. Let’s show God by our words and actions that we believe what we pray, and live our lives praising Jesus, and showing our faith in God like Rahab, and **God will remember us and call us to rise up at His coming!**



11. A FALSE FAITH IS EVIDENT IN THOSE WHO ARE DECEIVED TO THINK THEY BELIEVE, BUT GENUINE FAITH IS MADE EVIDENT BY WORDS AND ACTIONS:

How does having faith like Joshua apply to us today? The Israelites who died in the desert without receiving God's promise are like Craig, and those who act upon their faith like Joshua are like Collin:

Craig believes in God, but nothing ever seems to go right for him. He prays, but before the answer comes, he complains about the thing he just asked God to change. Then he complains that God never answers his prayers! Craig does not understand. He thinks that he has



faith because he believes in God. Problems and challenges come to Collin too, but he prays and asks God to change them, then he praises God and tells everyone about what his good God is about to do for him! Collin is always excited about what God is doing in his life like Joshua, and thankful that God always answers his prayers.

***Hebrews 11:6** “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

What is different about the faith of Craig and Collin? Both Craig and Collin believe in God, but in place of believing that God will do what He says He will do, Craig shows instead, that his faith is really grounded in unbelief manifesting in fear that his problems will win. We then see that Collin has victory over the problems that happen to him, because he believes in his great God who is able to answer his prayers. Before the answer comes, Collin openly praises God for what He is about to do, showing that he believes God. We show by our words and actions what we really believe.

***1 John 5:4**. “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith.”*

Faith in fear brings failure, while faith in God brings victory! Which way shall we follow? Faith in fear? Or faith in God? Amen!

12. God's Purpose & Plan for Me

1. Whoever is truly born of God, will overcome the world by faith.
2. God's people are most easily tempted by pride.
3. God's people will prepare themselves to move with God.
4. Genuine faith in Jesus generates new life.
5. Our God is the same God today in Christ, as He was yesterday.
6. Before you can destroy all power of the enemy, you must be armed with the whole armor of God.
7. We are not to be bull dozers shouting our power to the enemy, but we must be still before the Lord and wait for his direction.
8. God's people are to separate themselves from every unclean thing and obey God's voice
9. When I surrender my whole heart to Jesus, He can do miracles in my life.
10. Jesus will show me how to win the battle when I am surrendered to Him.
11. Jesus will give me great victory when I act upon what He tells me to do.
12. Walls of doubt and sin come tumbling down when I speak praises to God.

*Dear Father God, Thank you for saving me for a great purpose. Help me to have courage and faith to obey what you tell me in my heart even when I do not understand, and to always praise you for all you have done. I ask you to knock down my own walls of sin and fear and doubt, and I praise you, because you are a wonderful God and I give you all thanks and praise you, because you are always faithful to answer my prayers, **In Jesus name, Amen.***

CHILDREN'S SECTION

(10-15 minutes)

1. Sing 2 or 3 children's songs relating to the story.
2. Tell children a brief exciting summary of Bible story as you give them the coloring page, relating God's mighty power to save His people, with God's love and power in their lives.
3. Read the Children's Story aloud, making it real to them.
4. Show them the exciting craft they will be making, tying in God's purpose for their lives.
5. Congregation sings, "The Animals Go Marching" song, as the young children are marched over to "Noah's Ark".
6. Congregation has fellowship time, before beginning adult worship, followed by ministry of the Bible lesson booklet.

14. CHILDREN'S STORY: TERRY THE TIRED CLOWN



Terry had become the class clown, because every time his teacher asked him something he did not know, Terry would groan loudly, or trip on his way to the chalkboard - anything to make the class laugh so he could sit down. Terry felt that being a clown was worth it, because that way no one knew how embarrassed and afraid he felt when the teacher asked

a question and other kids were raising their hands - so Terry kept on being the class clown. But Terry was tired of being a clown and he really wanted to have courage to raise his hand too, so **he prayed that Jesus would help him to be smarter** so he could raise his hand too. Terry heard Jesus talking to him - not in a voice he could hear with his ears, but in a quiet voice in his heart. **Jesus told Terry that he was already smart, but he needed to listen to the teacher and be obedient, and God's Holy Spirit would bring to his memory what he needed to know!** Terry had never felt God's presence with him like that before, and he trusted Jesus to help him.

The next day when the teacher asked a question, Terry did not do anything funny to make the class laugh because he remembered that Jesus promised to help him, and he wanted to please God with all of his heart. Two weeks later Terry was discouraged, but he trusted Jesus to answer his prayer. One day in class, teacher asked a hard question and Terry looked around. No one had a hand raised, but Terry knew the answer! Terry raised his hand and the teacher very cautiously called on him. When Terry stood up, everyone giggled because they were waiting for him to do something funny. But Terry did not do anything funny at all, he just opened his mouth, Jesus helped him, and it felt so good to give the right answer! The teacher smiled, but this time it was because she was very proud of him; and Terry smiled, because he had sought the Lord, and Jesus gave him the victory!



15. GOSPEL CRAFT:

FAITH KNOCKS DOWN WALLS OF SIN

Directions:

1. Give each child 30 Dixie cups, heavy paper plate and paper tube trumpet.
2. Give each child 2 copies of walls of sin (or have them precut in the plate).
3. Cut out Faith Statement and Scripture, and glue to the border of the plate.
4. Cut out the 30 squares of and glue one square to each Dixie cup.
5. Stack cups in a circle with others stacked on top to form a walled city.
6. Say the memory verses out loud through the trumpet as you shake the plate.
7. Watch the power of God's word make the wall of sin come tumbling down!



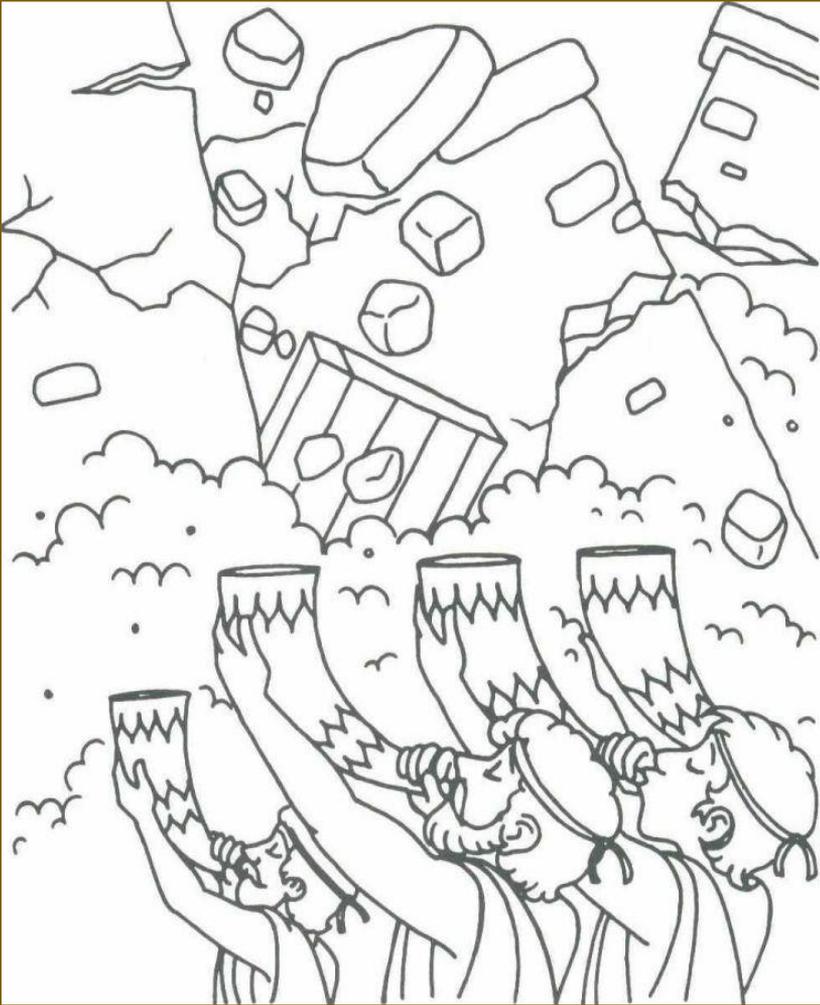
***1 John 5:3-4 "For this is the love of God,
That we keep his commandments:
And his commandments are not grievous.***

***4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world:
And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."***

Joshua believed God's word and obeyed, even when he did not understand, and the impossible walls came tumbling down!

Hebrews 11:6

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”



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