

# THESE WALLS

## JERICHO



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Age 15-18 year olds



## Did you know?

### SCRIPTURES

**Joshua 6:1-5**

"Now the [walls] of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. Then the Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in."

### LET'S TALK FACTS

- Do you know why it was so important for the children of Israel to defeat Jericho and tear down its walls?
  - God had promised his people land that would solely belong to them.
  - Land was vital in these days for establishing a heritage, protection, and prosperity.
  - The Canaanites were in the way of God's people moving forward and possessing the land he was giving them.
  - Jericho was one of the first battles of the younger generation after 40 years of not seeing the promise fulfilled for their parents.

## WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR ME?

God had promised his people land and a future. Except they had difficulty with obedience. Time after time, they disregarded what God asked them to do. The old testament records numerous occasions in which they collectively went against Moses, the leadership God placed in their life. Eventually, the older generation completely lost the chance to see the promise fulfilled for themselves. It became apparent that only their children would as long as they could obey, have faith, submit to their leaders, and learn how to move forward in the face of unbelievable odds.

That sounds like an easy trade off, but is it really? Teenagers know how challenging it is to submit, follow their elders, and keep the faith. In every situation, obedience became a problem for the older generation **not necessarily** because they **wanted** to be rebellious. It was more because they were struggling with **desires**, a **lack of faith**, and they truly believed **they knew what was best**. Reflect for just a moment on that. Do you struggle with similar things?

You have a beautiful future before you. God has promised his people such wonderful things. Furthermore, you have reached an age of passage. It is your time in many ways. This is why it is so important to learn valuable lessons from the children of Israel in the old testament. While uncomfortable, you need to ask yourself, "Am I obedient? Do I struggle with desires that may hinder my future? Am I lacking faith in God's ability to perform miracles in my life?"

### CHALLENGE

Answer those questions honestly. Here's why. The younger generation of God's people were standing right before their future, their moment, and their chance at making a life for themselves. **The walls of Jericho stood in the way**. In order for **those walls** to come down, they had to **obey**, **cleanse** themselves, act on **tremendous faith**, and **face unbelievable odds**. What is standing in your way right now? What is coming in between you and your moment?

## WHERE DO I START?

*Make some personal connections to Jericho!*

### Obedience

Why is it that leadership in our life always seems to know the right answer? That's a hard pill to swallow more times than not. What makes it even harder is our pride and personal desires often stand in the way of simply obeying. Yet, it is one thing that will hinder your ability to step into your future. That's crazy! Joshua told the people to march around the walls silently for 6 days. Then, on the seven day to march around 7 times and then shout. Let's be honest. That sounds dumb to my flesh. Yet, they obeyed. They listened. They did what they were asked to do, and the walls that blocked their future came down. Sign me up for obedience!

### Faith

I bet it was hard to believe that the walls could really come down even though God had already done so much for this group of people. It was vital for them to believe that he would bring down those walls. If they hadn't had **faith**, they might not have had **obedience**. We have to believe in the power of our God to do **impossible** things for us.

### The Unknown

What you don't know is not always bad. They did not realize that the Canaanites were terrified of what their God could do! There are many unknowns right now, and I can promise you one thing, Hell is terrified of what God can do for you!