

**WELCOME (15 minutes)**

- **Ice Breaker:** How do you usually react to being suddenly surprised – audibly gasp, scream, wet your pants, in silence, start crying, unphased, etc?

**WORSHIP (10 minutes)**

- Sing #9, “**Faithful God**” from the **2014 SG Worship CD**.

**WIN (15 minutes)**

- **PRAY** for your list of people who don't yet know Jesus as their Savior.
- **PLAN** something to do to reach out to these people (*and maybe have fun together!*)

**WORD (25 minutes)**

**Read:** In this session, we'll read the story of the fall of Jericho. The Israelites were commanded to obey God and follow His unusual instructions in the face of unfavorable foolishness to confound the worldly wise. We will see the power of an unseen God over visible might! And in the story of Rahab, we see God extending mercy and grace to anyone who will trust in Him.

**Read:** “Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe.” – Augustine (354-430)

***Have everyone open their Bibles to Joshua 6.***

Point #1 – God promises victory over His enemies – Read Joshua 6:1-5

**Discuss:** The city of Jericho was locked down! Its gates were tightly shut up because the inhabitants were fearful of Joshua and the Israelites. But the God who fights for Israel has a master key to every door in the universe and can open doors that are closed. When God has led you in a specific direction, how do you hold fast to His instructions when others doubt whether or not you have heard from God at all?

**Discuss:** Have someone read aloud 1 Corinthians 1:27. God used a seemingly foolish battle plan to accomplish His purpose. But throughout this action plan we see that the Israelites must be involved. How do you weigh what you believe God is calling you to do with the doubts or concerns you hear from other people? What are some ways believers can remind one another to focus on and obey God's plans instead of focusing on themselves and/or what others think?

**Read:** “Faith obliterates time, annihilates distance, and brings future things at once into its possession.” – Charles Spurgeon (1834-1872)

Point #2 – The people prepare for victory over God’s enemies and obey – Read Joshua 6:15-21

**Discuss:** The people shouted *BEFORE* the wall fell – not after. They shouted in faith, believing God had given them the city. Believers must not wait until the battle is over or until the wall has fallen – they must shout in their current situation! The people could not utter a word until Joshua gave the order to shout at the sound of the long trumpet blast. Perhaps God wanted the Israelites to display their faith in action before using voices to illustrate a lesson. How does faith “in action” give added credibility to expressing our faith “in words”?

**Discuss:** God moved at the sound of the shout and brought the walls down in such a convincing way that the text says the wall fell FLAT. The wall that was so thick that houses could be built within it, the wall that was so wide that a chariot race could take place on top of it as chariots rode side by side without falling over – that wall fell down flat. God works His victories through human obedience – the army marched, seven selected priests blew the shofar, and the masses shouted – it was only then that the wall fell. FAITH PRODUCES WORKS! Why do you think God chooses to work through our obedience rather than apart from us?

Point #3 – God delivers a remnant from among His enemies – Read Joshua 6:22-25

**Discuss:** When Rahab is mentioned in Scripture, she often receives an infamous designation. She is called Rahab “the prostitute” (Joshua 2:1; 6:17; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25). Interestingly enough, it is only when Rahab is associated with Jesus in His genealogy in Matthew 1:5 that this dubious designation is dropped. What’s the significance of Jesus having a woman in His ancestry who was once a prostitute? How is God’s grace to the undeserving on display in this story?

**Discuss:** Despite her sordid past, Rahab was an effective witness. She brought her father, mother, brothers, and all her extended family members into her house. Because they were in the house with the scarlet cord in the window, they were spared. (Joshua 2:18) Like Rahab, believers are called to share the good news with unbelievers. We are to call people “into the house”, letting them know they can be spared from the judgment of God through the blood of Jesus if they come inside. It is easy for Christians to adopt an “us versus them” mentality with the world. How does God’s promise to save people – even among His enemies – change our mind-set?

***For next time encourage everyone to read Joshua 7-12.***

## **WORKS (25 minutes)**

- Break into smaller groups of **2 or 3’s of the same gender** to pray for each other.