

# JOSHUA 6-11

## WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE



### WEEK IN REVIEW

Joshua is marked by success as we see God working on behalf of the Israelites. However, when there is sin, there are always consequences. We see wins and a few losses for God's people as they conquer the Promised Land. This section of Joshua begins with the famous Battle of Jericho. The Israelites were to conquer this city first, as it was the most wicked. The Lord gave Joshua a battle plan, and it wasn't your typical plan of attack. Joshua and his men were instructed to march around the city for six days in silence and then on the seventh day blow trumpets and give a mighty shout. Hearing that military strategy might have sounded crazy! No weapons? Marching? Shouting? This couldn't be right. But Joshua obeyed and immediately put this plan into action. Surely enough, the walls of Jericho fell, and they had the victory! Sometimes God asks us to do things that don't make sense or might sound ridiculous. However, God's instructions are true and always lead to life!

Although the Israelites had the victory here, they let their guards down and disobeyed God. Joshua sent about three thousand men to attack a city called Ai, but were defeated as a result of their sin. God instructed them to set apart things for destruction, and not to keep them, but a man named Achan took some things for himself. These things were associated with evil and worship of false gods. Achan lacked integrity. Integrity is doing what is right when no one is watching. The sin of one man caused a whole nation to be defeated. God takes our sin seriously, it affects others, and it always has consequences. The Lord, however, is also marked by grace and mercy. He gives the Israelites the victory the next time they fight Ai, and they even get to keep what they had recovered from that battle. Joshua built an altar of remembrance and renewed their commitment to the Lord.

When the surrounding kings heard about what had happened at Jericho and Ai, they were afraid. There was a group called the Gibeonites who acted sneaky as a way to avoid conquest. They used deception which is causing someone to believe something that is not true. The Gibeonites wore costumes: old patched sandals, worn-out sacks, and had dry bread. They came to Israel and said, "We have come from a distant country; make a treaty with us." The men of Israel agreed, but did not consult the Lord first. They trusted their gut without seeking God. However, the Gibeonites were still put to work and served the Israelites under the protection of this treaty for generations. In the next battle, Joshua pleaded with the Lord for a miracle and He delivered. Israel was running out of daylight to win, so God made the sun stand still! We serve a God who is in control of all things. God is in the business of doing the impossible. If He can make a way for them, He can make a way for us too!

## FAMILY GUIDE

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| <b>BIG IDEA:</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● God is in the business of doing the impossible!</li> </ul>   |
| <b>KEY STORIES:</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Conquest of Jericho</li> <li>● Defeat at Ai</li> <li>● Conquest of Ai</li> <li>● Deception by the Gibeonites</li> <li>● Sun Standing Still</li> </ul>  |
| <b>KEY VERSES:</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Joshua 6:3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days.”</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Joshua 8:1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Take the whole army with you, and go up and attack Ai. For I have delivered into your hands the king of Ai, his people, his city and his land.”</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Joshua 9:14</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “The Israelites sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the Lord.”</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Joshua 10:13</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies.”</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <b>WORDS TO KNOW:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Deception</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Causing someone to believe something that is not true</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Integrity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Doing what is right when no one is watching</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Impossible</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Something that can’t be done</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |

## Reflection Questions

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| <b>1.</b> | How did the Israelites conquer the city of Jericho?             |
| <b>2.</b> | How did the Israelites disobey the Lord against Ai?             |
| <b>3.</b> | What is deception? How did the Gibeonites deceive Israel?       |
| <b>4.</b> | What miracle did the Lord perform for Israel to win the battle? |