

## GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 16

### QUESTION 1

- a) The description in this verse is that of an impenetrable fortress.
- b) Built on a hill, potential attackers of Jericho were put at a great disadvantage. There were also two rings of city walls; the outer one 6ft thick and the inner one 12ft thick.
- c) Back in **2:8-11** and **5:1** we saw how that the inhabitants of Canaan feared Israel. However, they also had time to prepare their defence.
- d) The description of the tightly shut city here also presents a seemingly hopeless situation for Joshua.
  
- e) Verse 1 introduces the next words given by the Lord in verse 2. It is God who will gain the victory.
- f) More to the point; God has “*given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valour”.*
- g) Notice that the Lord doesn’t diminish the extent of the challenge!
- h) On the other hand victory has already been promised (see **Deuteronomy 9:1-3**).

### QUESTION 2

- a) It is true that God had given Abraham’s descendants the land. However it does seem harsh to just remove those already living there.
- b) The scriptures are clear in giving us the background to this invasion. Their sin against God brings judgement on the nations: (see **Leviticus 18:24-25**; **Deuteronomy 18:9-14**).
- c) Of course the people of Israel had to be careful not to think they were above reproach. This was not a reward (see **Deuteronomy 9:4-6**).

### QUESTION 3

- a) Surely the element of surprise is a more powerful weapon in warfare.
- b) Great numbers of people simply marching around the city walls would make them sitting ducks.
- c) Usually with such a formidable defence, an invading force would lay siege on the city for several months leading to starvation and surrender.

### QUESTION 4

- a) Seven in the Bible is the number of perfection and also of completion.
- b) It is also associated with the activity of God; e.g. six days creation, seventh the rest of completion.
- c) Notice in this verse that the Ark of the Covenant goes before them; signifying the presence of God leading His people.
- d) Remember that Joshua was a military man. He would have been good at strategy. And yet God gave every specific detail to be followed. The number seven would have reminded Joshua and the people that God was in control.

### QUESTION 5

- a) The people of Israel are to know that it is not them who gives the victory but God.
- b) This way they will not be able to point to any self-achievement; simply the fact that they obeyed God.
- c) The instruction that all the people should then go straight into the city indicates that it will not be a case of a breach of the wall here and there; but access from all sides. The walls of Jericho will be completely destroyed!

### QUESTION 6

- a) Often what God tells us to do seems to be contrary to what we think is needed to resolve a situation. Trust and obedience is the right response.
- b) Sometimes we do not understand the reasons why God commands us to do certain things. His ways are always perfect.
- c) As Irving Jensen wrote of Joshua: *"If he wanted God's end in the design, he must accept God's method"*.
- d) God's power is sufficient even though He often uses us to fulfil His purposes.
- e) We also see here the unity of the people. The men of war marched together; trusting God's promises: *"O Church, arise, and put your armour on; hear the call of Christ our Captain. For now the weak can say that they are strong in the strength that God has given"* (Townend/Getty).