

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 17

QUESTION 1

- a) The basis of their faith was the word of God. Not just trusting in what God was saying now; but doing so on the basis of the faithfulness of His word in the past.
- b) Note that this incident finds its way into the great faith chapter in **Hebrews 11:30**.
- c) Faith is believing what God says even though sometimes it might not seem to make sense.
- d) The very definition of faith demonstrates that we will not understand or see everything (See **Hebrews 11:1**).

QUESTION 2

- a) The people walking around the city may have felt foolish. They would have also felt vulnerable.
- b) Some writers speculate that there would have been those residents of Jericho that would have taunted them. How was marching around the city walls each day doing to change anything?
- c) The military strategists among the people of Israel might would have thought the whole scheme crazy. It would go against all protocol. You don't advertise your presence to the enemy; surprise is the best weapon.
- d) On the other hand we know that the people of Jericho are afraid (see **verse 1**) and this possession is a show of strength.
- e) Although the instructions might have seemed utter nonsense on a human level, there is no record of the people questioning or complaining.
- f) They should of course have known by now that God knew what He was doing. But let us not think that their faith was not tested over those seven days.

QUESTION 3

- a) Out of the ten occasions in this chapter that the Ark is mentioned, nine of them are in our passage. This indicates that its place in the story is important.
- b) Notice that the first thing Joshua does in verse 6 after receiving instructions from God, is to instruct the priests to take up the Ark.
- c) The Ark represented the presence of God among His people.
- d) It had brought them through the River Jordan. It had been the symbol of their past experiences of the power of God.
- e) Whilst the fighting men led the people around the city walls, they would only know victory because God was with them.

QUESTION 4

- a) It was certainly not in order to keep their presence secret! There were trumpets blowing for a start!
- b) This was more to do with focussing on what God is doing. God's people are not to contribute to Jericho's fall; except in their obedience. He will get all the glory (see **2 Corinthians 4:7**).
- c) Back in Numbers 13 and 14 we read how the previous generation forty years earlier had reacted when the 12 spies brought back their report from Canaan.
- d) They had expressed their opinion of the situation and their lack of faith. In **Numbers 14:4** they had even suggested choosing a new leader and heading back to Egypt.
- e) Now, all these years later they were to remain silent and just watch God at work.
- f) Alan Redpath wrote: *"God made the Israelites walk around the great fortification until within themselves they died to every hope of conquest unless God should intervene"*.
- g) There will be a moment to shout (v10 & v16) but that will be in victory; and in God's time.

QUESTION 5

- a) The rams' horns were used to call the nation to worship. This was a reminder that God was leading them.
- b) In **Numbers 10:1** we have silver trumpets made *"for summoning the congregations and for breaking camp"*.
- c) They were also used to remind the people that God would deliver them from their enemies (see **Numbers 10:9**).
- d) Trumpets would be used to lead into battle. It should have been a warning therefore to Jericho.

QUESTION 6

- a) You cannot take short cuts with God's purposes.
- b) Sometimes we do not understand why God works as He does; or indeed delays. This is when blind trust comes in; indeed where faith shines.
- c) Thirteen times they walked around that city without any reason to do it, except that God had said it. This requires endurance of faith.
- d) That is what we are called to exercise; to walk by faith, not by sight: **2 Corinthians 5:7**.

DOES GOD KNOW WHAT HE IS DOING?

"God told Noah to build a boat. He told Abraham to sacrifice his son. He put Joseph into a position of influence by giving him dreams! During the time of the Judges, God told Gideon he needed a smaller army. He defeated the Philistines using a boy with a slingshot. He chose the church's chief antagonist (Paul) to be its chief theologian. This is the same God who chose to take the form of man to give His life for sinful mankind. Paul said, "For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength." (1 Corinthians 1:25) God's ways may seem foolish, but God knows what He is doing."