

General Church Education



# Family Lesson: Joshua 6 **The Fall of Jericho**

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## Family Lesson 6 - A

*The Fall of Jericho*  
*Joshua 6*

**FAMILY TALK:  
THE CONQUEST OF JERICHO**

Rev. Donald Rose

Standing silent near the Jordan River were the great walls of the city of Jericho. Behind those walls was a secret — a secret very valuable to know. The brave leader, Joshua, who had taken command when Moses died, had led the children of Israel across the Jordan River. As he considered those strong walls, he was not dismayed or afraid, because he knew the secret. How did he know? Well, he had sent two messengers (or spies) over the river to go into the city to learn what there was to learn. There they were helped by a woman named Rahab, who told them the secret.

The secret was this: everyone in that great city was trembling with fear. They were afraid of the children of Israel. Here is what the woman had told the two spies of Joshua:

I know that the Lord has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. (*Joshua 2:9-11*)

The spies hurried back and told that secret to Joshua; and what a difference it made to know it.

Imagine yourself standing in the woods and seeing a big animal. How would you feel? Perhaps afraid. But how would you feel if you knew that if you just shouted out loud, that animal would run away as fast as he could? You would feel very different.

And did the children of Israel shout in this story? Not at first. They were told to keep quiet until the right time and then to shout. For six days they did this: they marched one time completely around the city, the only noise being the noise of their ram's horns, which they blew as trumpets. They carried the ark with the Ten Commandments inside. On the seventh day they went around

the city, not only once but seven times, and on the seventh time they were to shout with a great shout.

If the people inside the city were already afraid, we can imagine they got more and more afraid as each day they looked out from the walls to see this procession of people carrying the ark of the Lord.

And with the noise of their shout, those walls that had seemed so strong just fell down flat; and the city of Jericho, which seemed hard to take, was taken with ease.

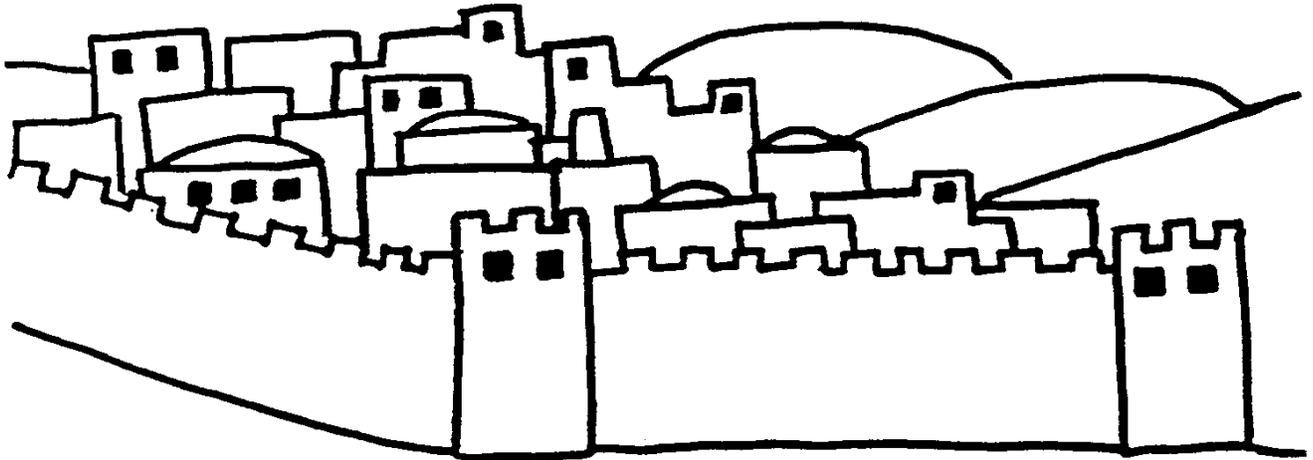
You may have heard of the story of *The Golden Heart*. In this story a boy is not afraid, because if evil spirits scare him he shows a special golden heart he has, and the bad spirits to whom he shows it become very much afraid of him. This story comes from the true story of people in the other world being protected from evil spirits. They were given breastplates in the form of a heart made of gold. And if evil spirits came near, they would draw aside their garments and show the golden heart, and the evil spirits would be afraid and would do no harm (*Spiritual Diary* 4732).

The answer to the following question you know, and it is like a great secret that should be made known. Which is stronger — one angel or a thousand evil spirits? It doesn't matter how many evil spirits there are, for an angel has the Lord for protection (*Heaven and Hell* 229). A thousand evil spirits “**cannot stand against a single ray of light from heaven**” (*Heaven and Hell* 137).

Knowing this truth gives each of us courage strong enough to shout for joy and makes us sure enough to say, “I will fear no evil.”

The Golden Heart by Amena Pendleton is available from  
The General Church Book Center, Cairncrest, P.O. Box 743, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009  
Telephone (215) 914-4920, e-mail [bookctr@newchurch.edu](mailto:bookctr@newchurch.edu)

***The Fall of Jericho***  
***Joshua 6***  
**LEVEL 1 – THE WALLS OF JERICHO**



Before reading this poem to your little ones, have them build the walls of Jericho out of blocks. You may want to show them the actions before they act out the story from the Word.

I'm going to tell you a story  
About the walls of Jericho.

*Point to wall of blocks*

If you haven't heard this story  
Shake your head "No, no, no!"

*Shake head "no."*

It's a story from the Word  
On the Lord's strength and success.

*Point to the Word*

If you want to hear the story  
Shake your head "Yes, yes, yes!"

*Shake head "yes."*

The bad people in the city of Jericho  
Were hiding behind a great, strong wall.

*Pretend to hide behind wall of blocks.*

They thought they were safe  
And that the wall couldn't fall.

So good Joshua asked the Lord  
What could he do?  
Because the children of Israel  
Wanted to pass on through.

*Pretend you're Joshua talking to  
the Lord.*

The Lord said for six days march around  
the wall.

*March around blocks six times.*

But be sure you don't make any noise.  
Now let me see you march quietly  
All the girls! All the boys!

*Put finger on lips to show  
quiet.*

On the seventh day the Lord said  
"Shout! Every woman, every man."  
Now let me hear you shout  
Just as hard as you can!

*Shout during the 7th time around the  
blocks.*

They shouted so long and so hard  
That the walls fell down.  
And then the children of Israel  
Marched through that town.

*Knock the wall of blocks down*

*March through Jericho.*

So shout and laugh when you're  
happy,  
But be quiet when you pray.  
And the Lord will always help you  
If His words you obey.

*Pretend to shout and laugh.*

*Fold hands and be silent as if  
praying.*

## ***The Fall of Jericho***

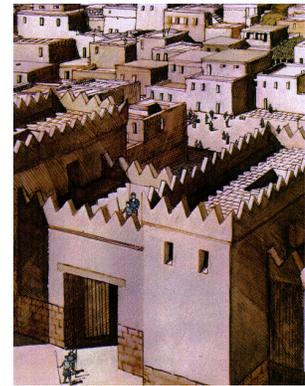
### ***Joshua 6***

#### **LEVEL 2 – ACTING OUT THE STORY**

##### **1. Construct the “city” of Jericho**

To make the “houses” of Jericho use different-sized cardboard boxes (upside down) with doors and windows cut out.

Make walls around the city using blocks or other objects.



##### **2. Make a “ram’s horn”**

Roll up a piece of paper for a ram’s horn, or use a cardboard paper towel tube.

##### **3. Construct the ark**

Cut out and fold the pattern of the ark on page 2.

##### **4. Read the poem and act out the story**

The following poem by Lori Soneson Odhner should be read a few times in order for the child or children to think of ways they can act out the poem, marching around their homemade “Jericho” with their ram’s horns and ark, at last causing the walls to fall down.



The walls of Jericho were shut, none came out and none came in.

Joshua called the people for the marching to begin.

We'll take the ark and seven horns and round the city we'll go.

For seven days we'll march around the walls of Jericho.

You shall not shout or make a noise or speak a single word.

For all the children of Israel must listen to the Lord.

1st day, 2nd day, 3rd day, 4th day, 5th day, 6th day—

The 7th day they woke up with the rising of the sun.

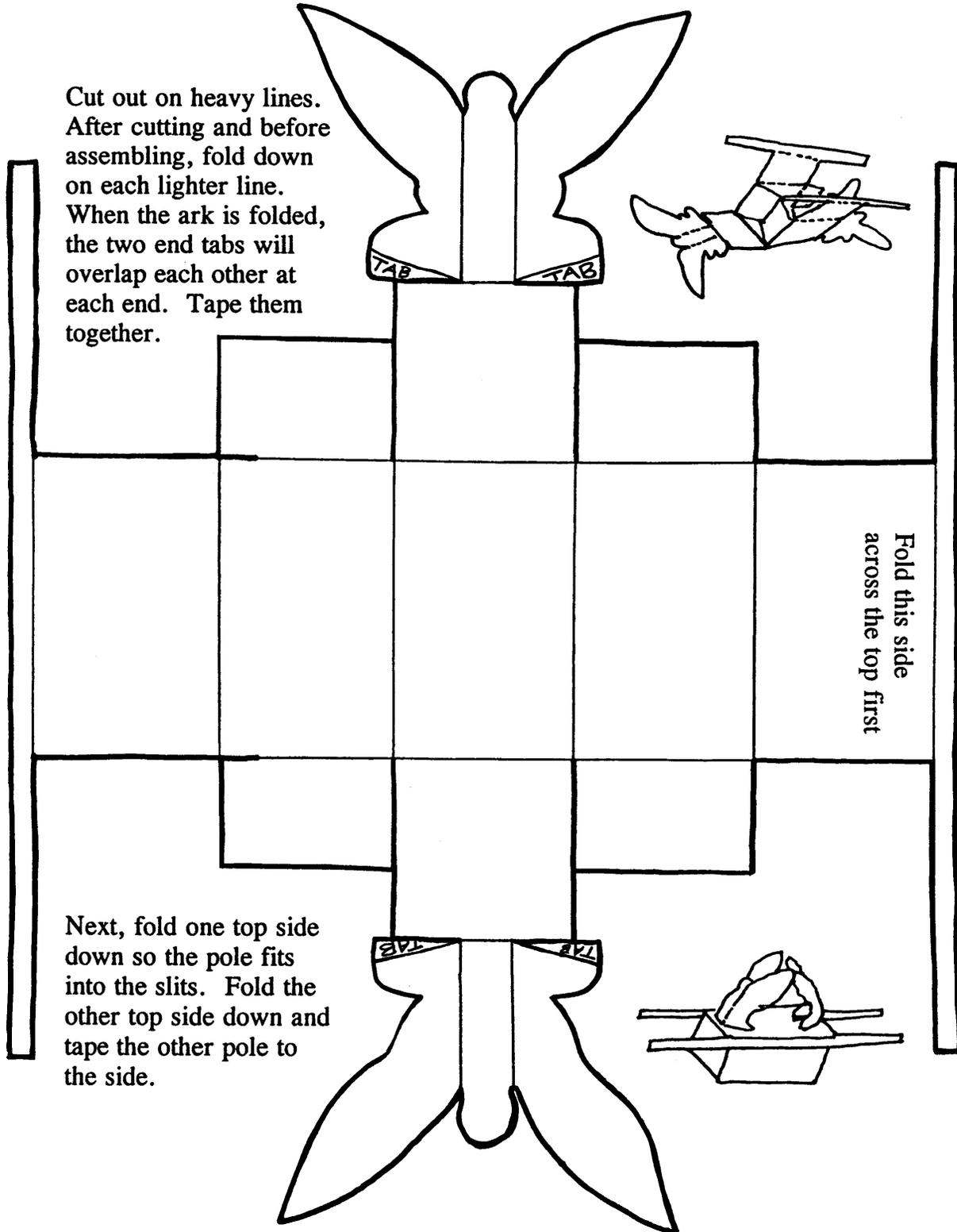
When all the people gathered, the marching was begun.

For seven times they marched around so early in the morn.

Then Joshua said to shout out loud, and “blow your mighty horns!”

And so the people blew their horns and shouted all around.

*And then the walls of Jericho fell flat upon the ground!*



## ***The Fall of Jericho***

### ***Joshua 6***

## **LEVEL 3 – STEP BY STEP TO THE PROMISED LAND**

### **Materials Needed**

Scissors

Penny or small stone

## **JERICHO**

### **Step by step to the Promised Land:**

*Here is a link to a **game board** for this activity.*

*(You could also use any board that you have at home from another game)*

1. Cut out all the cards on the next two pages, and glue or tape them together.
2. Place them in one pile with the question side facing up.
3. Place a penny or small stone at **START** on the map (or on your own game board).
4. Pick up the first card. Try to answer the question.
5. For each question you get right, move your marker one step toward the Land of Canaan.

You might not know all the answers to start with. Each answer is on the back of the card.

When you have read it, put the card back on the bottom of the pile, question side up.

When you've gone through all the questions once, you will go through them again, and may remember more of the answers.

6. Keep answering questions and moving one step for each correct answer until you reach Jericho.

For 400 years, the children of Israel had been held captive in what country?	What river did the Israelites have to cross to get into the Land of Canaan?	What sound did the Israelites make on their first 6 days marching around Jericho?
What man led the children of Israel out of Egypt?	Who led the children of Israel into Canaan after Moses died?	What kind of horns did the 7 priests in front of the ark blow at Jericho?
When the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, what miracle did the Lord perform?	What was the first city the children of Israel conquered in the Land of Canaan?	What sound did the Israelites make on their seventh time marching around Jericho on the seventh day?
At Mount Sinai, the Lord gave Moses the _____.	For how many days did the Israelites march around the city of Jericho?	What happened when all the children of Israel shouted around Jericho?
The 10 Commandments were kept in a beautiful golden box called _____.	How many times did the Israelites march around Jericho on each of the first 6 days?	Could the Israelites have conquered Jericho without the Lord?
What was the name of the tent in which the ark was kept?	How many times did the Israelites march around Jericho on the seventh day?	What could be saved out of Jericho after the Israelites had conquered it?
For how many years did the Israelites wander in the wilderness?	What did the priests carry around Jericho?	<b>STEP BY STEP TO THE PROMISED LAND</b>

No sound	The Jordan	Egypt
Ram's horns	Joshua	Moses
They shouted	Jericho	He divided the waters so they could walk on dry land
The walls fell down	7	Ten Commandments
No	1	The Ark
Gold, silver and Bronze vessels, for the Lord only	7	The Tabernacle
	The Ark	40 years

**Fall of Jericho**  
**Joshua 6**  
**LEVEL 4 -- INNOCENCE**

The Lord teaches that only those who have innocence can enter heaven.



“Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for of such is the kingdom of God...Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.” Mark 10:14-15



**What is innocence?**

The Lord is often called the “Lamb” in the Word because a lamb stands for innocence.

- ❖ All innocence is from the Lord.
- ❖ Innocence is a willingness to be led by the Lord.
- ❖ Innocence consists in being led by the Lord and not by self. All who are in heaven love to be led by the Lord.
- ❖ From innocence comes all the good of heaven.

*Put a ( ) by any of the following quotes that sound like they might have come from an innocent person.*

\_\_\_\_\_ “I hate being told what to do. Nobody has any right to tell me what is right or wrong. Whatever I want is right for me.”

\_\_\_\_\_ “Things today sure are a lot different than they were when I was young, but I know the Lord is in charge so I guess this is OK.”

\_\_\_\_\_ “I won’t do that because it’s against the Ten Commandments.”

\_\_\_\_\_ “This magazine says religion is out of date in modern America, so I won’t go to church.”

\_\_\_\_\_ “Scientists now are saying the universe began with a huge burst of incredible energy, so great it remained pure energy for some time and for a great space. Wow! Sounds like God touching creation!”

Answer “yes” or “no.”

Must innocent people be children? \_\_\_\_\_

Are innocent people happy? \_\_\_\_\_

Can we still look to the Lord’s leadership even when we are “as strong as rams?” \_\_\_\_\_

**The Rams’ Horns**

The rams’ horns helped Israel conquer Jericho. The Lord will help us conquer our own troubles.

Blowing on the ram’s horn is a picture of someone speaking up for what is right. If we trust the Lord **we** can be brave enough to speak up for what is right!

Give an example of a time you have done this, or someone you know has done this.

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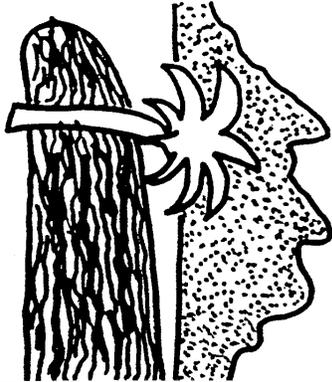
**Flashcards:** Cut up the cards on pages 4 and 5 – one page has the pictures, the other has the meanings.

First practice matching each picture with a meaning  
(answers are on p.3).

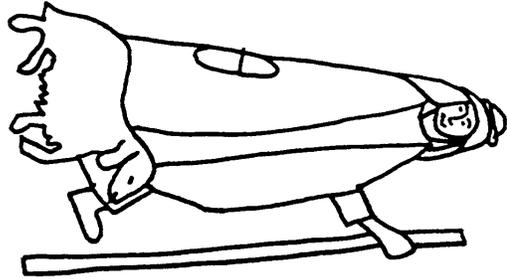
Then use the cards for a memory game or a card game like “Go Fish.”

PICTURE	MEANING
<b>Walking</b>	<b>Living</b>
<b>Ram</b>	<b>Innocence which has developed strength</b>
<b>Joshua</b>	<b>Truth fighting</b>
<b>Palm Tree</b>	<b>Victory over evil comes from the Lord</b>
<b>Jordan River</b>	<b>Truths that get you started</b>
<b>Jericho</b>	<b>Everything is from the Lord OR (in a bad sense) denying this truth</b>
<b>Ram's Horn Trumpet</b>	<b>Speaking up for what is right</b>
<b>Seven</b>	<b>Holy</b>

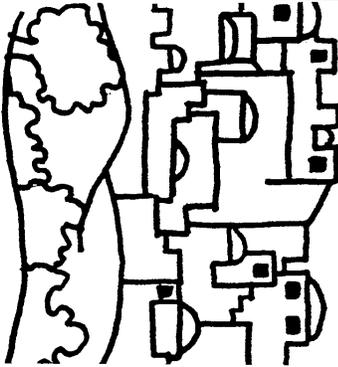
JORDAN RIVER



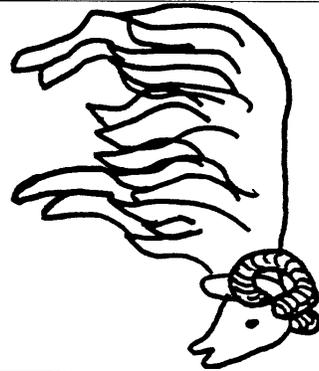
WALKING



JERICO



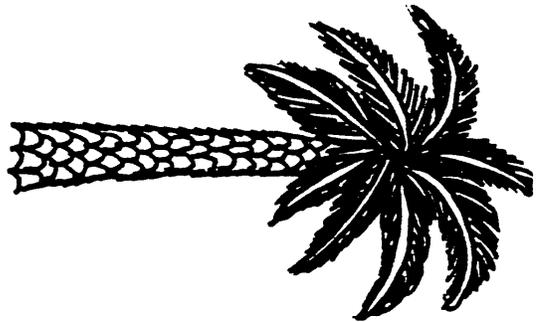
RAM



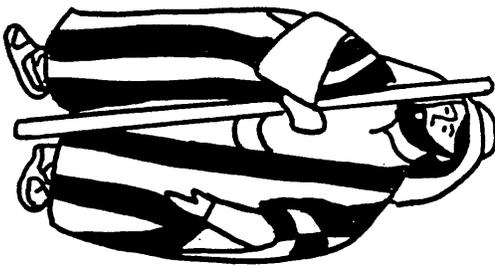
RAM'S HORN TRUMPET



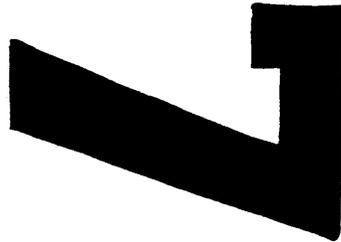
PALM TREE



JOSHUA



SEVEN



<p><b>Victory over evil comes from the LORD</b></p>	<p><b>Truth fighting</b></p>	<p><b>Innocence which has developed strength</b></p>	<p><b>Living</b></p>
<p><b>Holy</b></p>	<p><b>Speaking up for what is right</b></p>	<p><b>Everything is from the Lord OR (in a bad sense) denying this truth</b></p>	<p><b>Truths that get you started</b></p>

## ***The Fall of Jericho***

### ***Joshua 6***

#### **LEVEL 5 – THE IMPOSSIBLE WALLS**

Do you remember the story of the twelve spies who, right after the exodus, went to the Holy Land? Do you remember how ten of those spies were afraid of what they learned, but how Joshua and Caleb claimed that with the Lord on their side they could conquer the Land? Was it impossible or not?

Two things made their hopes sound impossible. One was the physical size of the people who were in the land, and the other was the size of the walls that surrounded their cities. The people listened to the report of the ten spies, and in fear refused to go on. Joshua tore his clothes and insisted that it was not impossible. If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us (*Numbers 14:8*). But the people gave in to fear and discouragement. Years later Moses would remind them that giving in to discouragement was what had caused their long, miserable forty years of wandering in the wilderness.

When they reached the Jordan, Moses spoke to the people before he died, reminding them of all that had gone before. This is recorded in the book of Deuteronomy where he stated that they should have been confident. They had said,

*“Where can we go up? Our brethren have discouraged our hearts, saying, ‘The people are greater and taller than we; the cities are great and fortified up to heaven’” (Deuteronomy 1:28).*

In this chapter, the sixth chapter of the book of Joshua, we find the people at last confronting those walls which had worried them for so many years. What do you suppose had been in their minds? What was it that had worried them? Perhaps they had pictured a horrible scene at those walls. Did they see themselves pelted with stones and spears from above? Did they picture themselves trying to scale the walls or trying to batter them down in long and arduous battle?

We may be sure that they never thought that what happened would happen—that the walls would fall down flat, and they would walk right in and take the city with ease from a people who, instead of being terrifying, were terrified.

Now reflect on the kinds of things that cause us to worry—things that may seem impossible for us. Consider this important question: can you get to heaven? An angel would have a ready answer for you. It is the Lord’s answer. Yes, of course you can. You were born for heaven, and the Lord in His Providence is ready to bring

you there. The answer of evil spirits, on the other hand, is no you can't. Some of the miserable moments of your life may be when you feel, for a while that you are discouraged. At these times you might believe the evil spirits' lies or their falsities. In fact, any time we believe in a falsity it can cause us worry and discouragement.

In the Word falsities are represented by walls. Of course, walls also have good meanings in the Word—notably the walls of the New Jerusalem which protect the good within. But when the city is an evil city such as Jericho, the walls have an opposite meaning. They mean falsities—things which protect evil (*Arcana Coelestia* 8815e, *Apocalypse Explained* 700:15).

How easy it is to accept falsity, to accept lies from hell. And how discouraging that is for us. Have you ever looked back and seen what a waste it was to have worried so long about something that was not really difficult when you came to it? The message of the Lord's Word is a message of hope, and an announcement that life is not impossible. **"With God all things are possible"** (*Matthew* 19:26). A whole chapter in the book *Heaven and Hell* is devoted to the proposition that it is not so difficult to live the life that leads to heaven as people believe it is.

What do the Writings say to a person who thinks he or she can't have faith?

**"If anyone thinks within himself or says to someone else, "Who can have that inner acknowledgement of truth which is faith? I can't." I will tell him how he may have it. Shun evils as sins and approach the Lord and you will have as much as you want (*Doctrine of Faith* 12)."**

Can we shun sins? Do you know what the word, "shun" means? To shun means to avoid, to run away from, to not allow yourself to be exposed. And when we shun evils as sins, we are in fact running away from selfishness.

But can we shun our own selfishness? To dramatize the answer to this, the Lord said that we could say to a mountain or to a towering tree, **"Be thou thrown into the sea (*Matt.* 17:20)"** and it would be done. He spoke of what would seem impossible to give an unforgettable picture of what we can do with the Lord's help. Surely the falling of the walls of Jericho, which represents conquering the lies and discouraging falsities of evil spirits, is another similar unforgettable picture.

## **Application**

Write here at least two things that teenagers typically worry about or fear. Also, pick a quotation from the Word that might alleviate each fear. (Choose from the quotations below or find some in the Word that you particularly like).

Fear 1. \_\_\_\_\_

Quote \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Fear 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Quote \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1. “Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him” (*Psalm 37:7*).
2. “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (*Luke 12:32*).
3. “When the Lord is with any one, He leads him, and provides that all things which happen, whether sad or joyful, befall him for good: this is the Divine Providence” (*Arcana Coelestia 6303*).
4. “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God stands forever” (*Isaiah 40:8*).
5. “Your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His justice and all these things shall be added to you” (*Matt. 6:32, 33*).
6. “For those who desire love truly conjugal, the Lord provides likenesses; and if they are not given on earth, He provides them in the heavens” (*Conjugal Love 229*).