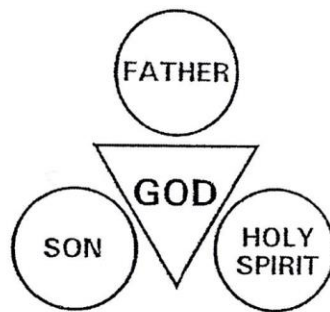
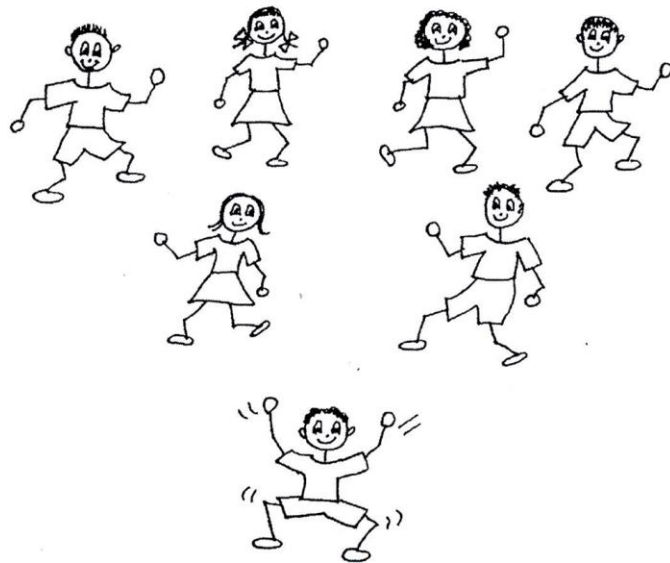


# Even When God's Commands Seem Unusual, Obey God!

4-24-20



**GOD IS FOR US!**



Zillions of years ago God knew what would be best for us! He knew the best time and place for us to be born. He knew the best parents and family for us to have. He knows the best time and way for us to leave this world and to come home to be with Him. While we are living on earth, God has the best plan for our lives. In order to know God's plan and how to follow it, He wants us to know His thinking which we find in the Bible. Then He wants us to obey it. God keeps life simple for us - know and obey!

*2 Peter 3:17-18a You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

*1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.*



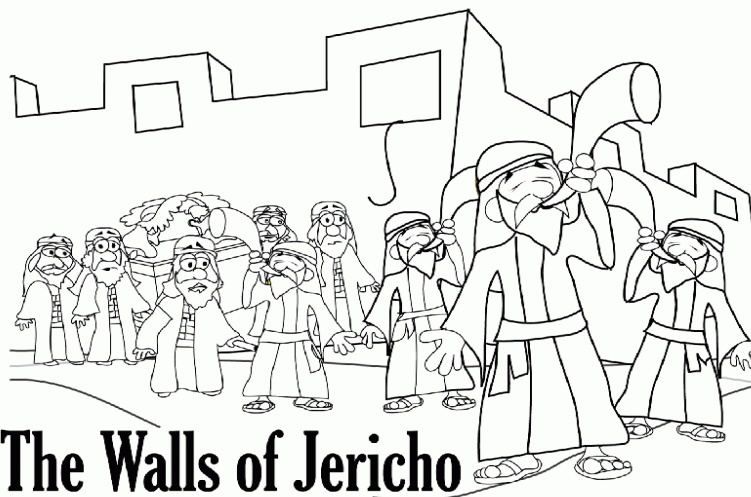
Sometimes God's ways don't make sense to us. However, God's ways and thoughts are supernatural! That means only God can think up these special ways and thoughts. We have to learn them by learning and knowing God's thinking in the Bible. God the Holy Spirit gives us the power to learn, know and obey God's ways.

*Isaiah 55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are my ways your ways," declares the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts."*



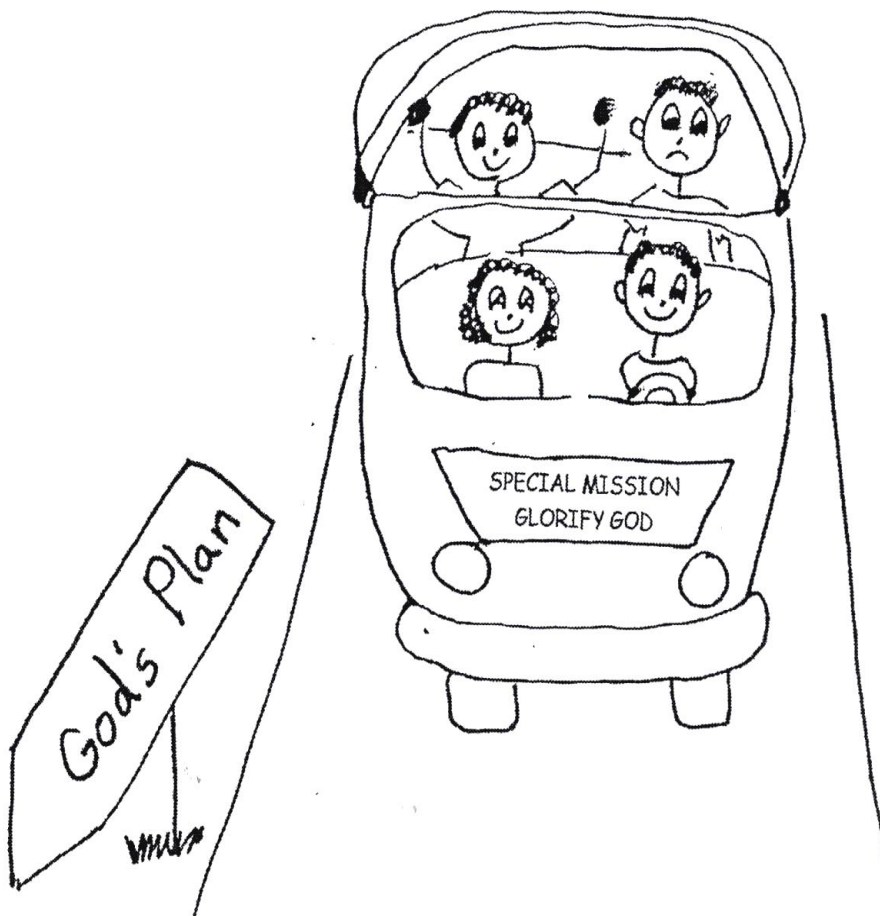
In the Old Testament, Joshua was told how to defeat the people of Jericho. The city of Jericho was all closed in behind walls and the people could not go out and no one could come in. They thought they were protecting themselves from the sons of Israel. However, God wanted the sons of Israel to take the city. The way He wanted them to do this was very different from what we would think!

*Joshua 6:3-5 "You shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do so for six days. Also seven priests shall carry seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark; then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. It shall be that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people will go up every man straight ahead."*



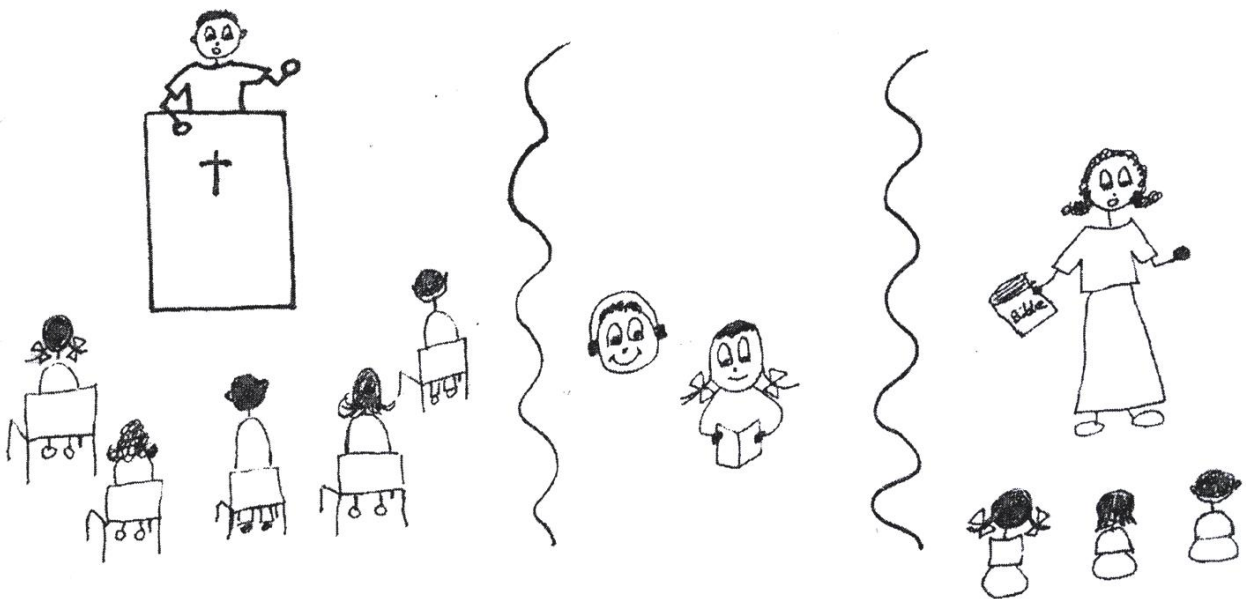
Joshua obeyed God and the walls of Jericho came tumbling down! Sometimes when God tells us how to defeat our "enemies" we think He must be kidding. Then we want to take things into our own hands; we want to be in charge. We think we can do the job better than God can. Woops! Wrong idea! **God** is telling us to put things in **His** hands and realize that **He** is in charge. He wants us to follow **His** plans for our lives. **God** will knock down our "walls". **He** will guide our ways!

*"Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10*



Our biggest enemy is our flesh - sometimes called our old sin nature or our old man. God tells us how to defeat this enemy. He wants us to lay aside or stop doing what we were used to doing in our old man - in our former manner of life. He wants us to live in the new man in union with Jesus Christ. In order to lay aside or put away our old man, we have to be renewed in our mind. This happens when the Holy Spirit changes our old ways of thinking through the Word of God. This is how we put on our new man and grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

*Ephesians 4:22-24 "...that in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old man, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new man, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."*

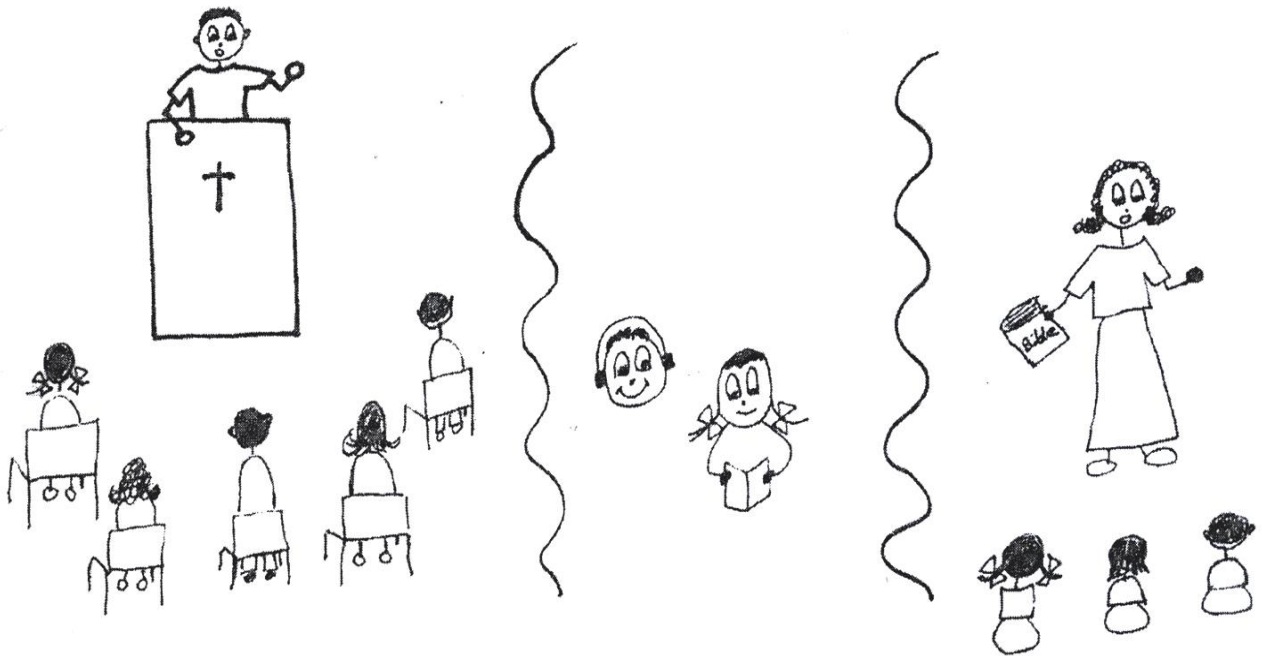


God's almighty, supernatural wisdom and power is what we must use to defeat our spiritual enemies. So many things in our lives seem impossible. They are impossible without God's wisdom and power. If we go off on our own using our human thinking and power, we will fail. God will let us fail so that we can see that we need Him and His thinking. Joshua obeyed God, even though in his thinking it probably seemed an unusual way to capture the city of Jericho.



*Isaiah 55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are my ways your ways," declares the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts."*

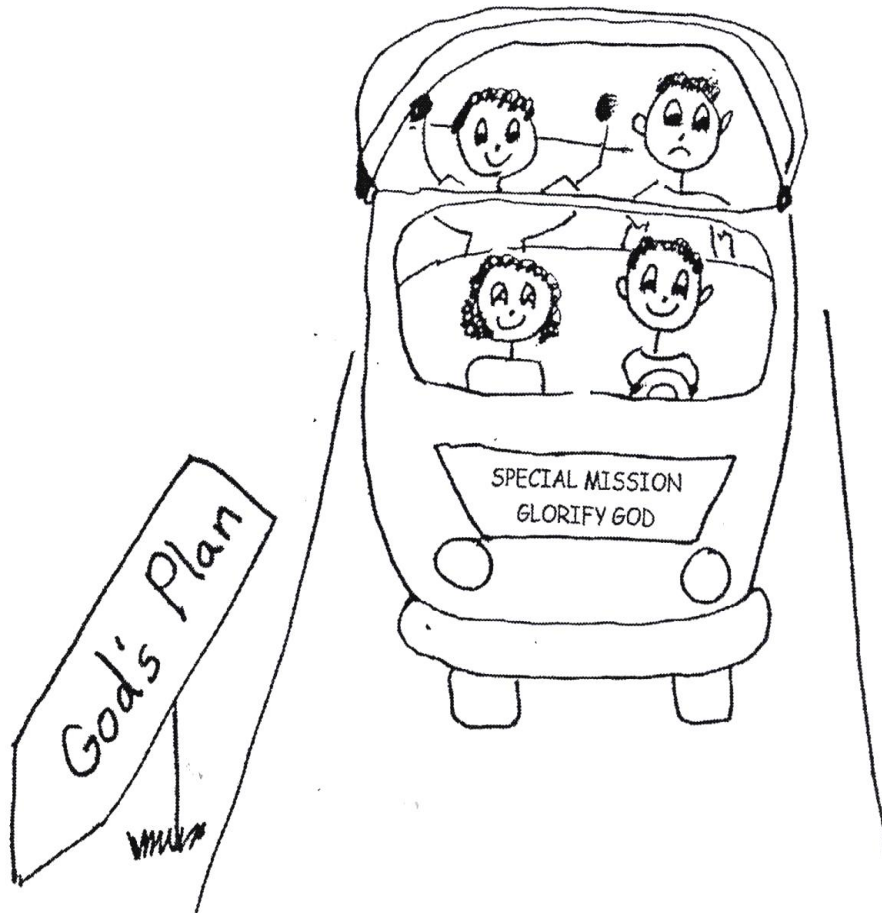
God wants us to obey His ways, even when we don't understand\* how His ways will work. We know God is all knowing and all powerful. Therefore, He knows the best plan for our lives and He has the power to get us through the plan. Through the power of God the Holy Spirit we are to learn the Word of God and obey it! This will bring glory to God and God will keep us on the right road! \*Go to [allaboardgodstrain.org](http://allaboardgodstrain.org) and read *Do not Lean on Your Own Understanding*.



***Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.***



*Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.*



In God's plan, nothing is impossible!

# Activity Page

Help Joshua and his people enter into the city of Jericho.

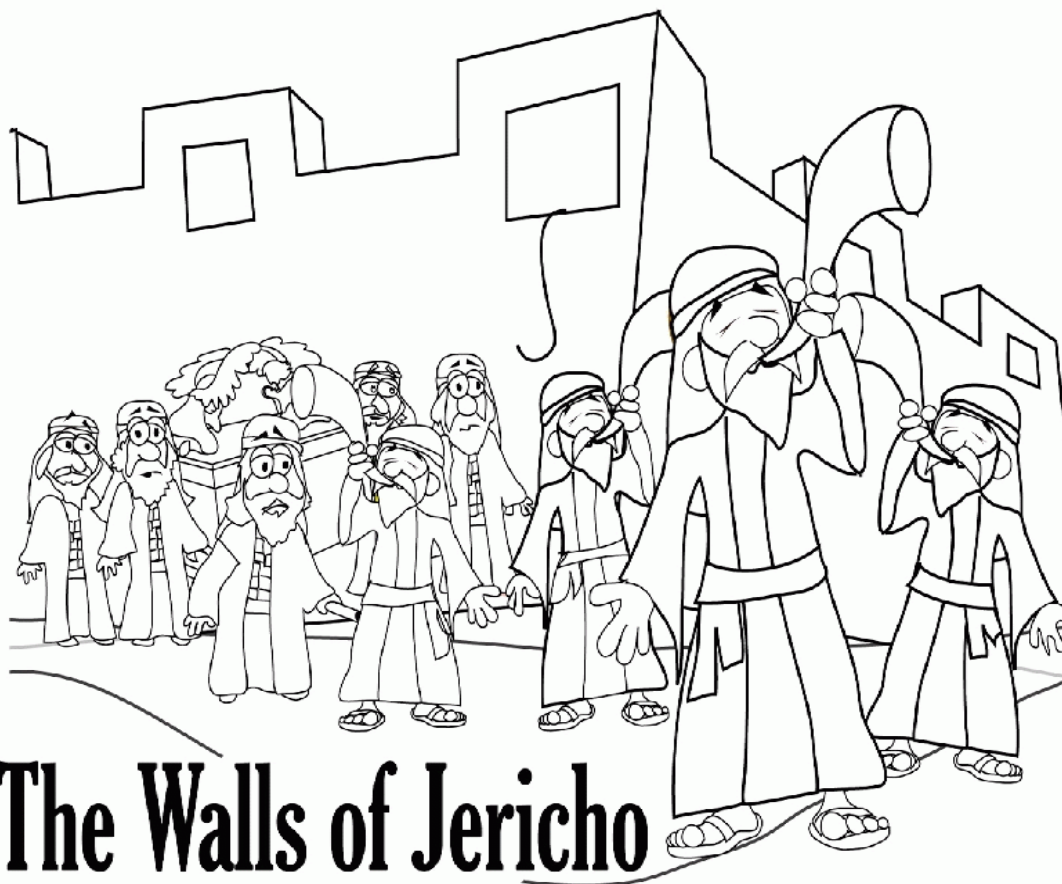
## WALLS OF JERICHO



"March around Jericho," God said to Joshua, a new leader. Joshua obeyed God, and entered into Jericho. (Joshua 6:1 - 20)



Coloring Page



**The Walls of Jericho**