

WHEN THE WALLS HAVE TO COME DOWN

Participant handout | Wednesday, October 14, 2026 | Joshua 6:1–16

OUR BIG IDEA God calls us to trust, listen, walk together, and keep moving even when the walls are still standing.

Getting to Know the Story

Who was Joshua? Joshua served with Moses and later led Israel. He learned to lead by first learning to serve. His name means “The LORD saves.”

Where is this book? Joshua is the sixth book of the Protestant Bible. It comes after Deuteronomy and before Judges.

What happened before Jericho? Israel had been enslaved in Egypt, traveled through the wilderness, and crossed the Jordan River. Now a walled city stood ahead of them.

What is the Ark? The Ark of the Covenant was a sacred sign of God’s presence among the people.

Read with care

Joshua tells a story of ancient war. We must not use this story to support harming, conquering, or treating other people as less than human.

Follow the Story: Five Simple Steps

1 Recognize the Wall | verses 1–2

Jericho is closed. The wall is real. Yet God speaks of a future beyond it.

Remember: We can name a problem without believing it will last forever.

2 Listen for God’s Direction | verses 3–5

God gives an unusual plan: walk around the city.

Remember: Before rushing to act, ask what God is calling us to do.

3 Walk Together | verses 6–11

Joshua, the priests, the people, and those carrying the Ark move as a community.

Remember: We have different roles, but we can move toward one purpose.

4 Keep Walking | verses 12–14

The people repeat the walk. The wall does not visibly change.

Remember: No visible change does not always mean nothing is happening.

5 Know When to Shout | verses 15–16

On the seventh day, Joshua tells the people to shout. The wall falls later, in verse 20.

Remember: There is a time to be quiet and a time to speak with courage.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

Faith that moves toward freedom, unity, and change

A Simple Liberation Theology Connection

Liberation theology reminds us that God cares about people who face unfair treatment and systems that hold them down. Faith should move us to work for freedom, justice, and human dignity.

- **God sees the walls.** Unfair systems can look permanent, but they can be challenged.
- **We do not walk alone.** Real change takes people working together.
- **Freedom should not create new harm.** Taking down a wall should help build a more just community.

THINK ABOUT IT Freedom is more than escaping what holds us back. It also means becoming the people God calls us to be.

What Walls Do We See in Church Life?

Check any that our church may need to talk about:

- | | |
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| ☐ Fear of change | ☐ Poor communication |
| ☐ Generational division | ☐ Distrust or conflict |
| ☐ Cliques or exclusion | ☐ Forgetting our neighbors |

Talk About It

1. What is the difference between seeing a wall and believing it can never change?

2. What can we do when we are trying to make a difference but see no results yet?

3. What does it mean for our church to “walk together”?

4. How can we remove harmful walls without putting up new ones?

My One Step This Week

One wall I want to help address:

One step I can take with God’s help:

TAKE THIS WITH YOU Recognize the wall. Walk together. Keep walking in faith and work for change.