



Joshua 20:20-21a "When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city. They devoted the city to the Lord"

Last week our story was about Moses, who led the Israelites from Egypt to the land promised to them by God. The stone tablets of the Ten Commandments that Moses brought down from Mount Sinai remind God's people of their RESPONSIBILITY to God and to each other.

This week, our story is about the leader that God and Moses choose to bring the Israelites into the Promised Land after Moses has died. His name is Joshua and his leadership leaf is PROBLEM SOLVING.

Joshua and God's people are about to finally cross the Jordan River and then enter the city of Jericho. They carry a big wooden chest covered with gold that has the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments inside. This gold chest is known as The Ark of the Covenant. The Ark of the Covenant is not a big boat like Noah's Ark. It is a big, strong, specially built gold box to protect God's Word.

Joshua and God use the Ark of the Covenant to help solve two problems. One problem is how to get across the River. Another problem is how to get past the wall around the city of Jericho.

God tells Joshua to have the people camp at the edge of the Jordan for three days. Then some of the men are ordered to carry the Ark of the Covenant, with the Ten Commandments inside, into the River. Everyone watches. Then, the water actually stops so they can walk to the other side. They all march through the Jordan River, past the Covenant, and into the Promised Land.

And now, God tells Joshua how to solve the problem of getting past the wall around the City of Jericho. Again, they will use the Ark of the Covenant.

The Bible Book of Joshua, Chapter 6, says: "Then the Lord said to Joshua..." March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in."

So they follow the directions of Joshua and God. For Six days, they March around Jericho once each day, leading the seven trumpets and the Golden Ark with the Words of God inside.

On the seventh day, they parade around the wall seven times, with trumpets blowing. Then they give one long trumpet blast, shout loudly, and watch as the Wall around Jericho falls down for them.

The City of Jericho becomes devoted to the Lord God. With God's help and carrying God's words, Joshua is a PROBLEM SOLVING leader.

