

# The Walls Came Tumbling Down

June Newbury, Toronto, Ontario

**Preparation:** Gather interior decorating magazines and create a display of ideas for wall decorating. Family photos re-arranged, floral prints displayed with a piece of fabric draped to the side can give a whole 'new' look to a room. Include a Bible in your display to draw attention to the fact that by faith and trust in God He can break down the walls of our lives and create a new look if we are obedient to Him.

**Introduction:** A visit to Jericho is an exciting experience. A few years ago, as a tourist, I stood at the top of the hill that overlooks the town of Jericho. Our tour guide proceeded to read the story from Scripture of the victory won in Jericho by the Israelites. Following the reading of Joshua 6: 1-20 a member of our group played a horn seven times. It was, for me, a moment in time when that story came alive. The walls of Jericho came down because God gave the Israelites the victory in battle; likewise it's the same for us. The walls in our lives can only tumble down when we trust in our Lord and allow Him to fight for us.

**Song:** SASB 754/TB 299 *Simply Trusting Everyday*

**Story:** In a lighthearted Time magazine essay, Sarah Vowell tells that she signed up for course #39 a 3-hour lesson called, "*Instant Piano for Hopelessly Busy People*." Regretting that she didn't stick with music lessons as a child, she made it her goal to learn to play one piece by memory. What she found was that even this seemingly simple task required hours of practice. There is no such thing as instant piano. But as she continued to practice, a recognizable melody began to emerge from her fingers.

Her experience is a good reminder that though we often desire immediate results in our walk



of faith, this too is a matter of patient practice. The children of Israel walked around the walls of Jericho for seven days and thirteen times before the wall came a' tumbling down.

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**Song:** SASB 604/TB 21 (TB Tune *He Leadeth Me*) *Jesus, Where'er Thy People Meet*

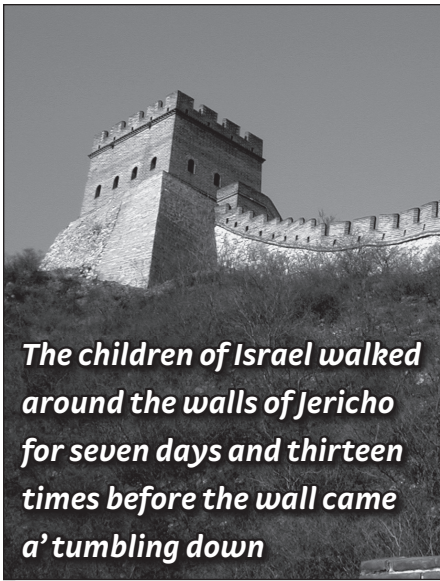
**Wall Designs:** There are many ways to display photos or pictures, etc. If you have a home decorating store in your community invite a staff member to share with your group, or maybe you have a lady in your group who could demonstrate how they can create a new look in a room by making a few changes.

**Devotional: Faith Brought the Walls Down.**  
Joshua 6: 1-15

Joshua and the Israelites faced a great challenge — a fortified city wall. The city of Jericho, built thousands of years before Joshua was born, was one of the oldest cities in the world. In some places it had fortified walls up to 25 feet high and 20 feet thick.

Soldiers standing guard on top of the walls could see for miles. Jericho was a symbol of military power and strength – the Canaanites considered it invincible.

Israel would attack this city first, and its destruction would put the fear of Israel into the hearts of every person in Canaan. The Canaanites saw Israel's God as a nature god because He parted the Jordan as a war god and because He defeated Sihon and Og. The Canaanites did not consider him a "fortress god" — but one who could prevail against a walled city. The defeat of Jericho showed that Israel's God was not only superior to the Canaanite gods, but He was also invincible.



**The opportunity of Faith.** Joshua 6: 1-3  
Jericho stands in the way of the conquest of Canaan. It is a strong, walled city and the defenders are mighty men of valor. What were they to do? Scale the walls. Beat down the gates. Tunnel underneath at night. Joshua's faith was strong in the Lord. He was confident in the promise of the Lord. "I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its King and its fighting men." This

was the promise Joshua was counting on as he gave instructions to the people. The opportunity required obedience.

**The Obedience of Faith.** Joshua 6:3-14

It was a strange battle plan; however, Joshua trusted, in obedience, to the God of the plan. March around the city in silence once a day for six days with all your men, but on the seventh day march around seven times. When the Priests blow their ram's horns, they were to shout. They did as was commanded and when the people gave the shout the walls of this fortified city crumbled and Israel won an easy victory. This can teach us a few lessons. Most important was that obedience, even when God's commands seem foolish, brings victory. It also showed that God would surely fight for Israel in the battles ahead. The Lord will fight for us!

Are there personal walls that we are facing? Can we see that these walls with eyes of faith to believe that God can bring victory?

Hebrews 11:30 "By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days."

**Chorus:** SASB 117 Faith is the Victory

**Prayer**

*When we cannot see our way,  
Let us trust and still obey:  
He who bids us forward go.  
Cannot fail the way to show.*

*Thomas Kelly (1769 – 1855)*

**Choruses:**

- SASB – Chorus section
- 130 *I Believe In the Word of God*
- 137 *Launch Out Into the Deep*
- 138 *Lean On His Arms, Trusting In His Love*

**Closing Benediction**

**Refreshments and Home League**