



# LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

## 27 JANUARY

### GOOD BOOK: BLOODTHIRSTY

This study guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements.

**MAIN TEXT:** *Joshua 6:1-7 and 15-21*

Now the gates of Jericho were tightly shut because the people were afraid of the Israelites. No one was allowed to go out or in. 2 But the Lord said to Joshua, "I have given you Jericho, its king, and all its strong warriors. 3 You and your fighting men should march around the town once a day for six days. 4 Seven priests will walk ahead of the Ark, each carrying a ram's horn. On the seventh day you are to march around the town seven times, with the priests blowing the horns. 5 When you hear the priests give one long blast on the rams' horns, have all the people shout as loud as they can. Then the walls of the town will collapse, and the people can charge straight into the town."

6 So Joshua called together the priests and said, "Take up the Ark of the Lord's Covenant, and assign seven priests to walk in front of it, each carrying a ram's horn." 7 Then he gave orders to the people: "March around the town, and the armed men will lead the way in front of the Ark of the Lord."

... 15 On the seventh day the Israelites got up at dawn and marched around the town as they had done before. But this time they went around the town seven times. 16 The seventh time around, as the priests sounded the long blast on their horns, Joshua commanded the people, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the town! 17 Jericho and everything in it must be completely destroyed as an offering to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and the others in her house will be spared, for she protected our spies.

18 "Do not take any of the things set apart for destruction, or you yourselves will be completely destroyed, and you will bring trouble on the camp of Israel. 19 Everything made from silver, gold, bronze, or iron is sacred to the Lord and must be brought into his treasury."

20 When the people heard the sound of the rams' horns, they shouted as loud as they could. Suddenly, the walls of Jericho collapsed, and the Israelites charged straight into the town and captured it. 21 They completely destroyed everything in it with their swords—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep, goats, and donkeys.

### COMING UP

3 Feb – Guest Speaker: Sam Allberry  
 10 Feb – Church Family Meeting  
 18 Feb – Alpha starts  
 27 Feb – Monthly Prayer Meeting

**\*B.L.E.S.S. means:** Begin with Prayer, Listen with care Eat together, Serve with love, Share Jesus Stories. For more info see [westminsterchapel.org.uk/bless](http://westminsterchapel.org.uk/bless).

### GETTING STARTED

We want to develop and strengthen a healthy culture of encouragement at Chapel, so each week we'll start our LG's by sharing something we want to thank God for: an encouraging thing He's doing in our lives, or in the lives of others. What ways have you been able to B.L.E.S.S.\* those around you in recent weeks?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. How do you feel about the so called bloodthirsty parts of the Bible? Do you find them difficult? Why?

2. Why might what happened in Jericho, Joshua 6:1-21, and therefore other bloodthirsty episodes not be as bad as people think?

2.a Was Israel a David or Goliath character?

2.b Is the language of every man, woman and child to be taken literally? See Joshua 10:40, 42, 11:12, 16, then 23:7, 12.

2.c Do you think God gave the Canaanites fair warning? If so, how? See Joshua 2:8-11.

2.d How is Rahab's rescue a picture/type of our salvation? *Hint:* this should fill us with hope, for salvation (it's not based on who we are or what we've done by God's grace/mercy) and being used for great purpose by God.

2.e What were the Canaanites like? Was the conquest of Canaan about ethics or ethnicity?

3. Without a God of justice, can we have hope for justice?

4. Do we take sin seriously? As seriously as God does and we should?

5. How does God demonstrate that He is just and worthy of our trust, in Jesus? *Hint:* he doesn't exempt himself from judgement, dying for our sins on the cross.

### NEXT STEPS AND PRAYER

Ask God for courage to get out of Jericho, and to get Jericho out of you, to join Jesus in his transformed holy war against Satan, sickness, sin and death.

Wage war in prayer for hundreds of lives – Rahabs - to be rescued.