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Victory and Defeat

Key References: Joshua 6; 7; 8; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chaps. 45, 46, pp. 487-504; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 3, pp. 88-91; Our Beliefs nos. 5, 3, 17



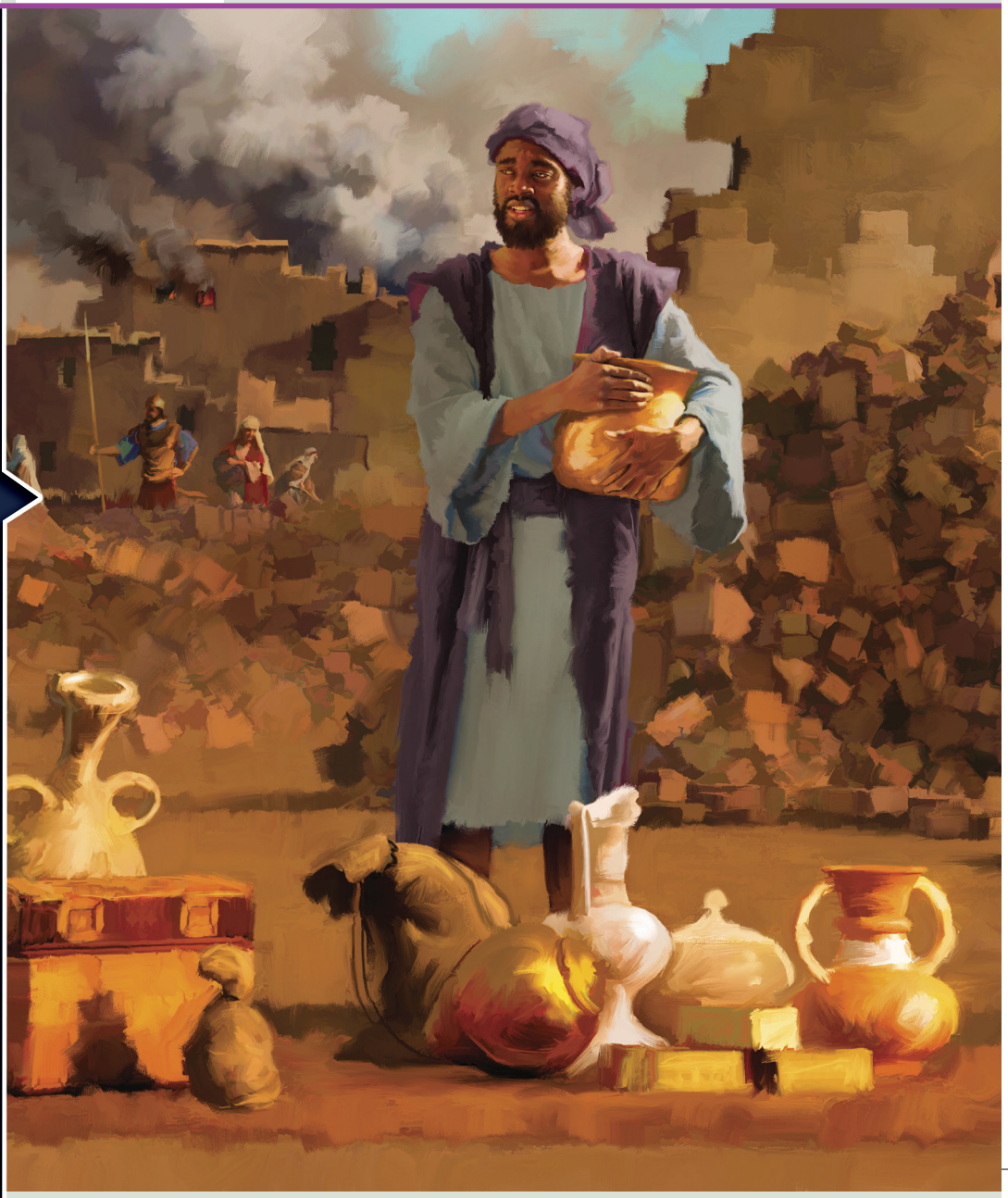












Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 89.

powertext

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5, 6).

powerpoint

Our service will be a success when we follow God's plan.

As you did last week, imagine that you are waiting for your father to return from helping friends move to another region. Now you hear that he must also help them attack and conquer some cities. Continue to read the messages between a young Hebrew, Baram, and his father, who is helping the rest of the Israelites enter Canaan.

Baram!

You will never guess how Adonai conquered Jericho for us! For six days we marched silently around the city, but on the seventh day Adonai delivered Jericho into our hands! Again we arose early and began marching around the city, but instead of circling it only once, we marched around it seven times. On the seventh time around the city the priests blasted their trumpets, and all of the soldiers began to shout. You can't imagine what a deafening sound it was as thousands of men shouted and the trumpets blasted! Then we all gave one very loud shout, and the walls collapsed!

We all rushed over the broken rock and mortar and entered the city from every side. Everything was destroyed, every living thing except the woman Rahab and her family. She had protected two Hebrew spies when they were in danger of being captured in Jericho. We were instructed to collect all of the precious metals such as silver, gold, bronze, and iron and set them aside for the treasury of Adonai. Everything else was to be burned. We were not to take anything for ourselves.

Baram, I tell you this so you will know of Adonai's awesome victory over Jericho.

—Abba

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Sunday

READ Read Joshua 6:1-14 and this week's story, "Victory and Defeat."

SHARE This week, tell about some amazing victory in your life. How can you encourage others to trust God, who wants to give them victory through His plan for their lives?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray that God will bless your service to Him.

Monday

READ Read Joshua 6:15-27.

DRAW Draw a diagram of the order of the Israelites' positions as they walked around Jericho.

THINK What walls are you still hiding behind? Do you feel secure behind those walls? How could God give you victory over these walls if you followed His plan?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray that you will faithfully follow God's instructions to you.

Tuesday

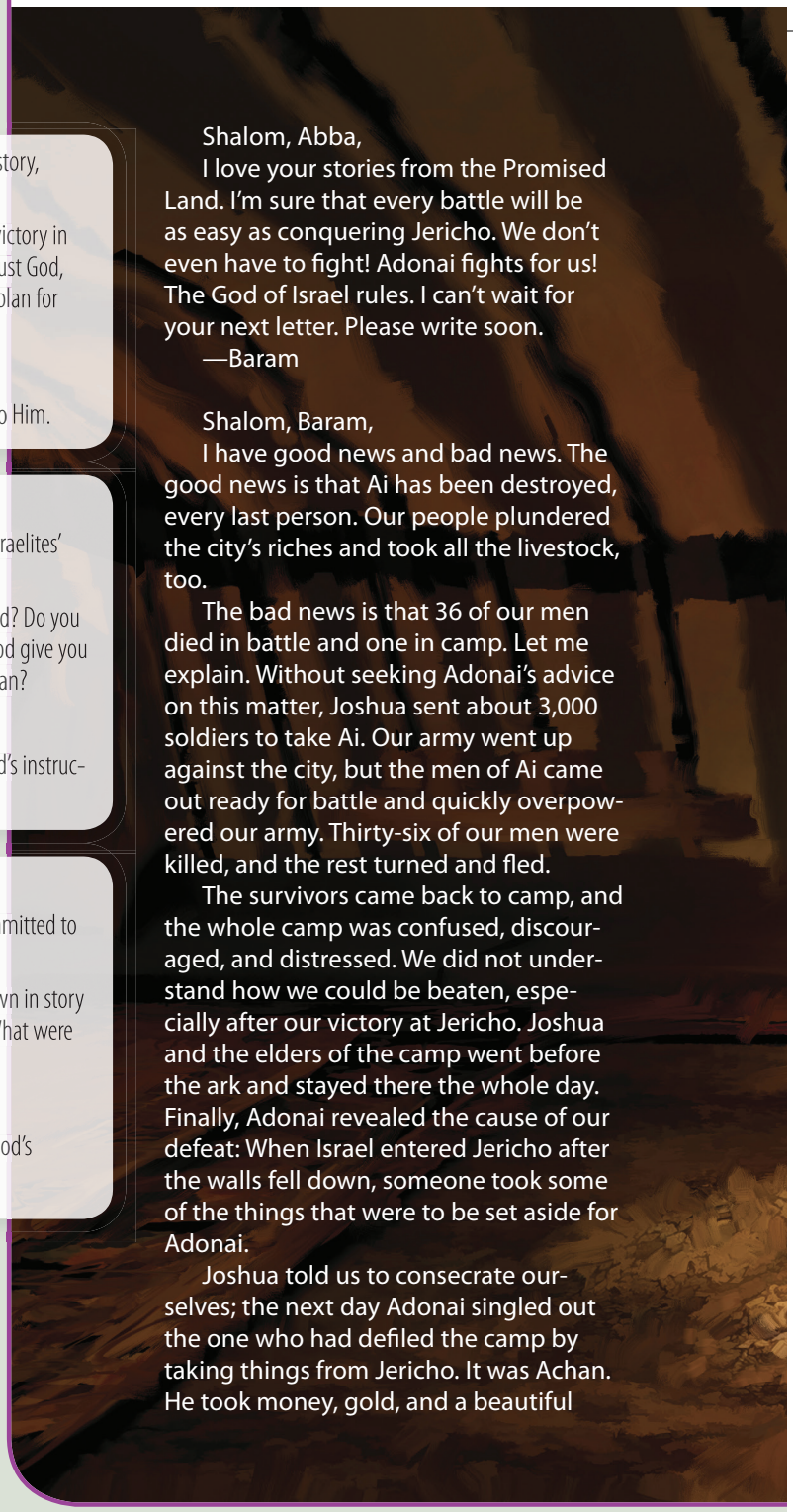
READ Read Joshua 7.

THINK What two sins had the Israelites committed to cause them to lose their fight against Ai?

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write down in story form a time you sinned and tried to hide it. What were the consequences?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray that you will be willing to seek God's counsel before you make decisions.



Shalom, Abba,

I love your stories from the Promised Land. I'm sure that every battle will be as easy as conquering Jericho. We don't even have to fight! Adonai fights for us! The God of Israel rules. I can't wait for your next letter. Please write soon.

—Baram

Shalom, Baram,

I have good news and bad news. The good news is that Ai has been destroyed, every last person. Our people plundered the city's riches and took all the livestock, too.

The bad news is that 36 of our men died in battle and one in camp. Let me explain. Without seeking Adonai's advice on this matter, Joshua sent about 3,000 soldiers to take Ai. Our army went up against the city, but the men of Ai came out ready for battle and quickly overpowered our army. Thirty-six of our men were killed, and the rest turned and fled.

The survivors came back to camp, and the whole camp was confused, discouraged, and distressed. We did not understand how we could be beaten, especially after our victory at Jericho. Joshua and the elders of the camp went before the ark and stayed there the whole day. Finally, Adonai revealed the cause of our defeat: When Israel entered Jericho after the walls fell down, someone took some of the things that were to be set aside for Adonai.

Joshua told us to consecrate ourselves; the next day Adonai singled out the one who had defiled the camp by taking things from Jericho. It was Achan. He took money, gold, and a beautiful



robe. Before the day was done, Achan and everything that belonged to him were destroyed.

Soon after that, Adonai instructed Joshua to take the whole army and attack Ai. Thirty thousand men went out at night to wait behind the city. The next day another 5,000 men were sent to the west of the city. The rest of us set up camp in front of Ai. The next morning all the soldiers of Ai came out to attack us, and we fled. We drew them away from the city, and Joshua gave the signal for the men lying in ambush to attack and burn Ai. When we saw smoke rising in the distance, we turned on our enemies

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Wednesday

READ Read Joshua 8:1-29.

THINK What was similar and what was different about the monument built at Gilgal after the Jordan River crossing and the rock piles of Joshua 7:26 and 8:29?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Praise God for the spiritual victories He gives you.

Thursday

READ Read Joshua 8:30-35.

THINK How did the Israelites pass on stories and God's laws to their children? How do you learn about God?

ASK Ask a grown-up about a time they sought God's guidance and how it turned out.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for giving you lessons from the Bible.

Friday

READ Read Ephesians 5:5.

DISCUSS Discuss, with your family, what has been most like a Jericho experience in your lives, and what has been most like an Ai experience.

ACT With younger brothers or sisters, act out the story of the Battle of Jericho.

SING Use your voice muscles to worship God as the Israelites did. Sing some praise songs.

SHARE Share the power text with your family.

PRAY Pray that others will be blessed through your example and service.

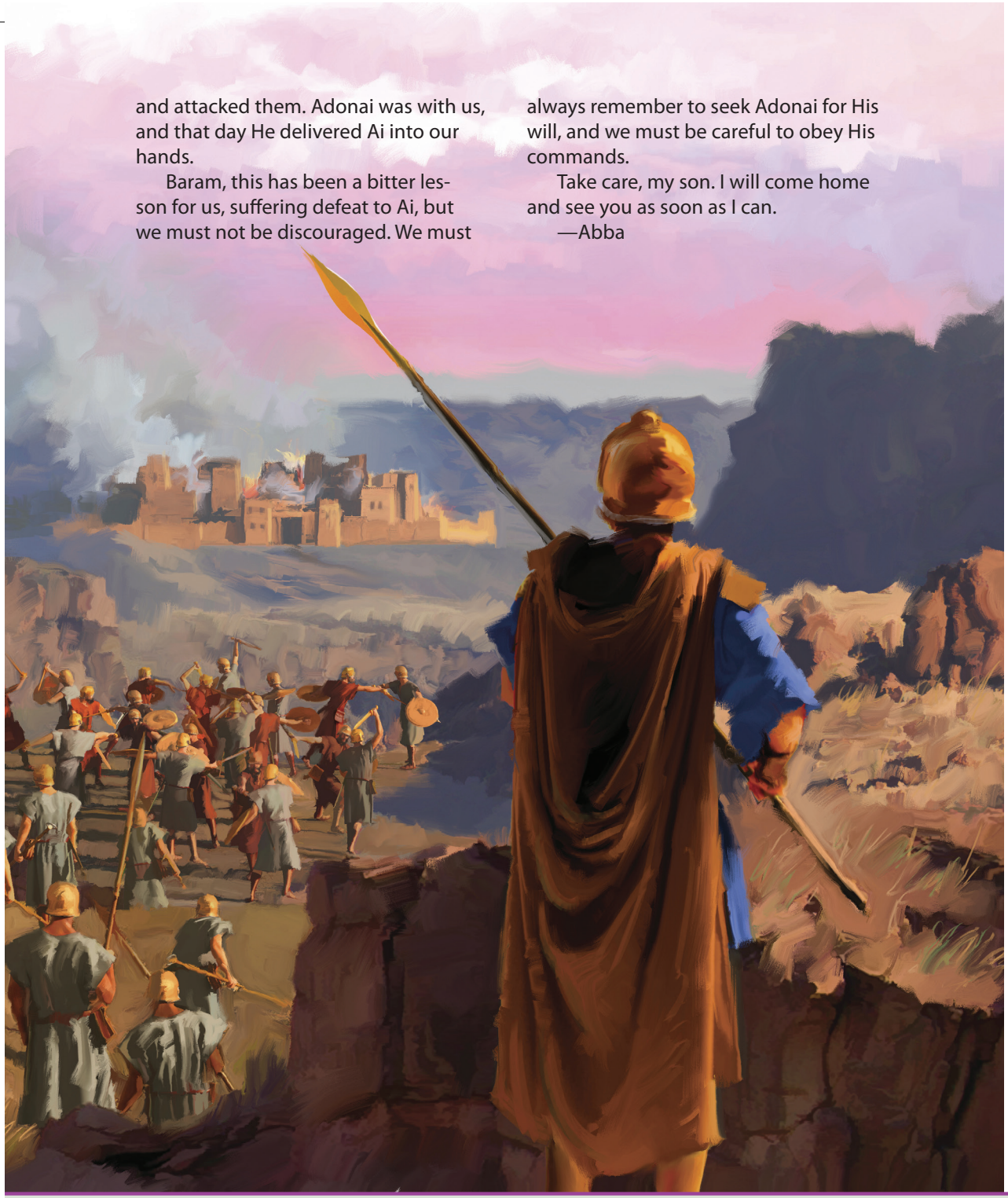


and attacked them. Adonai was with us, and that day He delivered Ai into our hands.

Baram, this has been a bitter lesson for us, suffering defeat to Ai, but we must not be discouraged. We must always remember to seek Adonai for His will, and we must be careful to obey His commands.

Take care, my son. I will come home and see you as soon as I can.

—Abba



PUZZLE 12

FRIENDS OF THE LIVING GOD

Instructions: Find each word in the Bible verse hidden in the puzzle below. The words twist and turn (either forward, backward, upward, downward, or diagonally), and most do not follow a straight line. If the word appears more than once in the verse, then you need to find it more than once in the puzzle. The first letter of each word is adjacent to (next to) the last letter of the previous word, so you should be able to draw a line through the whole puzzle without lifting your pencil.

"YOU ARE MY FRIENDS IF YOU DO WHAT I COMMAND" (John 15:14, NIV).

P D Y A A N Y I S M H
A X Q Y Y J F M D G V
A W J M Q I Y N K R J
A H O I D O N E I C O
T I C D U M L R P J C
Y O J D J M Y F O L K
M G N J E R Y O W Q U
M A R E T A U G N G O