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**KEY VERSE:**

*No one will be able to defeat you all your life.  
Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I  
will not leave you or forget you.*

*Joshua 1:5*



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# FOUNDATION CAFÉ SERVICE

**1st November, 2015**

## Wise Leaders 3: Joshua and the Walls of Jericho



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## KNOW WHAT:

- Today we continue our theme of 'Wise Leaders'.
- God had called Joshua to be the next leader after Moses. God told Joshua to be strong and brave, and promised that He would always be with him. Joshua sent two men to spy out Jericho. The spies were helped by Rahab and they promised in turn to keep her safe when the city fell.
- God told Joshua and his army to walk around the walled city of Jericho each day for seven days, blowing seven ram's horns.
- On the seventh day they marched round seven times using trumpets and on Joshua's command they gave a large shout.
- The walls collapsed. The soldiers conquered the city. Rahab and her family were rescued.

## SO WHAT:

- Joshua listened to God and obeyed Him.
- This was a very unusual way to attack a city.
- Joshua led the people in a disciplined and orderly way.
- It was God who gave the victory.

## NOW WHAT:

- Let's listen to God this week, take courage, and rely on Him to overcome difficulties.

## JIM'S JOTTINGS

### It's Simply Impossible

We can say that about many things. The current refugee crisis has the world's leaders stumped. The Americans cannot stop gun crime in their schools and colleges. The international community cannot counter stop Islamic terrorism. Such problems seem insoluble.

At a local level we face really challenging issues as well. How do we cope with impossible demands on our time and our finances? How do we bring up our children to avoid the dangers which the internet poses? How do we cope with loved ones who are sick or suffering?

Today we look at one of the most famous stories in the Bible. The Israelite army under Joshua needed to enter the Promised Land but the large, well-defended, walled city of Jericho, filled with an aggressive and brutal 'army' (more like a gang of thugs) stood in their way. Breaching the walls seemed impossible and would certainly lead to huge numbers of deaths as soldiers tried to scale them. But God had another plan. He told the Israelite army to march around the walls once a day for 6 days and 7 times on the seventh day. Then everyone had to blow their trumpets and shout as loud as they could. A crazy idea, but the Israelites had learned to trust God and obeyed. The rest is history. The walls cracked and fell down, as modern archaeology demonstrates. The impossible had become possible with God. So as we face impossible tasks. Let us hand them over to God. He may well invite us to think out of the box as the Israelites did, but he has good plans for us and will never let us down. We can trust him.

*Finally which ice cream is mentioned in the Bible? Walls of Jericho!  
Apologies but as you read this I am on holiday in the sunshine and sufficiently happy to tell silly jokes.*