**Small Group Notes – 16 October 2022**

**Welcome**

***“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are my ways your ways,”***declares the Lord*.*(Isaiah 55:8)

The bible is full of examples of God working in unexpected ways. An example in this week’s biblical story is the Israelites marching around the walls of Jericho seven times, blowing horns, shouting, and seeing the walls came tumbling down!

Ask the group to come up with other biblical examples that demonstrate God’s unexpected ways of working.

**Word – “Walls come tumbling down” – Joshua 5:13-6:25**

Joshua trusted in the Lord (Man with drawn sword). Joshua humbled himself, bowed down, sought his instruction, and worshipped the Lord (5:13-15).

Joshua trusted in the promise. Before a finger was lifted the promise of victory and deliverance   
was given (6:2).

Joshua trusted in the plan. It appeared a crazy plan, a difficult and disturbing plan – however,   
Joshua & the people obeyed (6:3-5 – 6: 17-19).

Just as Israel faced the formidable walls of Jericho, we too face walls and obstacles in our lives.   
We are in a battle, a spiritual battle. Like Joshua, we can trust in:

* The person of Jesus
* The promises of Jesus
* The plan of Jesus

**Questions**

* Who is the commander of the army of the Lord? How did his visit affect Joshua? 5:13-15
* What is the difference between the Lord joining our side and our joining the Lord’s side? 5:14
* What did the Lord promise to Joshua even before a finger was lifted? 6:2. What does he promise us?
* What lesson(s) is God teaching the Israelites during their seven days of marching?
* If you had been one of the Israelites, how would you have felt during this seven-day spectacle? 6:6-16
* What facts make it clear that this was God’s victory?
* What did it mean for this city and its contents to be devoted to the Lord? 6:17-25
* Why didn’t God allow the Israelites to keep any of the spoils of war? What does this teach us about the things we accumulate?
* How do we handle passages like Joshua 6, that speak of God commanding the Israelites to slaughter all living things in Jericho (men, women, children and animals)? Why did he command it?
* What will happen to mankind when Jesus comes again?
* What spiritual battles are you currently fighting? What barriers, opposition stand before you today?   
  What spiritual principles have you learned from Israel’s conquest of Jericho?
* God sometimes moves us to act in ways that seem strange or even ridiculous at the time, however they turn out to be just what was needed. Share any such experiences from your own life or others you know.

**Prayers**

Prayer for each other in the group and current situations.