



RAHAB & THE SPIES

JOSHUA 2:1–2:24

GOAL

- ▶ **To help children understand it is by God's grace, through faith, that they can be delivered from the curse of sin (Ephesians 2:8-9), not their own goodness or good deeds.** Furthermore, our faith is proved real through active obedience as demonstrated in the story of Rahab.
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CHARACTERS

- ▶ **Joshua:** The man who had faith in God's promise to deliver the land of Canaan into the hands of the Israelites. God chose Joshua to lead the people of Israel into the Promised Land.

The Two Spies: The men chosen by Joshua to spy on Jericho in order to find out all they could about the weaknesses of the city.

Rahab: The prostitute who believed in the testimony of God stamped on the nation of Israel. She had heard stories about the powerful things God had done to preserve them as a nation. She acted in faith by hiding and protecting the spies, and by forsaking the life she knew, the country she belonged to, and the gods she worshiped in order to align herself with the one true God.

MEMORY VERSE

- ▶ **Hebrews 11:31:** By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.



OVERVIEW

Read Joshua 2:1 to 2:24: This is the story of two Hebrew spies who were received and protected by a prostitute woman named Rahab. Although Rahab belonged to a wicked and perverse nation and lived an ungodly life herself, she was changed by the testimony of God's power and protection over the nation of Israel. By faith, she protected the spies; by faith, she gathered her family and hung a scarlet cord out the window to demonstrate what she believed; and by faith, she completely left the life she knew to follow the one true God. Because of her faith, she was delivered from the destruction of Jericho, became a part of God's people, and ultimately is listed as an ancestor of Jesus.

SUGGESTIONS

This is a great opportunity for a discussion on faith and the actions that are prompted by faith.

1. Joshua had faith that God would deliver the city of Jericho and ultimately the land of Canaan, as God had promised his forefathers. God gave Joshua specific instructions for battle, and Joshua acted on his faith by following every one of them. Because he observed everything God commanded him, he enjoyed great success and victory.

2. The Israelites had faith that God would bring them into the promised land of Canaan. They acted on their faith by being obedient to the words of Joshua, knowing that God had appointed him as their leader. God gave them a miraculous victory.

3. Rahab had faith in the testimony she had heard about God's great power. She acted on her faith by forsaking her own country, false gods, and lifestyle in order to help the spies; plus, she acted on her faith by doing specifically what the spies told her to do. Of all the righteous people recorded in this story, Rahab is the only one mentioned in the great hall of faith in Hebrews 11. She is listed beside other heroes who, by their faith, "subdued kingdoms, worked out righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, grew mighty in war, and caused foreign armies to flee" (Hebrews 11:33-35). What an amazing example of faith!



PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

- ▶ **Espionage (Note: You will need two adults for this activity.) | Supplies:** A red streamer, scarf, or cord.

Divide the class into two groups. Take one group of children “spying,” such as counting how many people are in the adult class without the adults seeing, or how many adults are wearing plaid shirts, etc. Meanwhile, have the second group hide in another part of the building and hang up the red streamer as the only sign they are there. The first group has to find the second and report their findings. Discuss the kinds of things the Israelite spies would have wanted to discover.

MEMORY VERSE MEANING

- ▶ **Hebrews 11:31:** Rahab’s decision to side with the spies was proof that she had a greater respect for God’s power than she had for the frightening leaders of Jericho who opposed and hated Him. God had given Jericho a chance to repent, but they would not, and every last one of them was destroyed; all except Rahab. She did not make her decision based on what everyone else was doing. Rahab stood firm on her decision to hide the spies, and because of her faith, she received mercy and her life was spared.

Placing faith in God means you do not have to fear or be scared when troubles come your way. The King of the entire universe is merciful and will hear you when you call on Him.

POST-LESSON ACTIVITY

- ▶ **Scarlet Cord Bookmark | Supplies:** Three 40" strands of yarn per child.

Have the children fold each strand of yarn in half, and then knot them all together at the fold. Divide the six strands into three groups (A with A, B with B, and C with C) and have them braid for about 9 inches. Knot strands just below the braid. Continue to braid to the end then tie one last knot where you want it to end. Leave some strand length for a tassel if you like.



**TAKE
HOME**

▶ Rahab responded in faith and with great courage to truths she had heard about God and his dealings with the nation Israel. How can we respond to those same truths about God in our own lives?

1. God parted the waters of the Red Sea. He is powerful.
2. God destroyed the enemies of Israel. He is just.
3. God is the one and only true God. There is no one beside Him.
4. God delivered the land into the hands of the Israelites. He keeps His promises.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



Q1a: Who sent the spies into the land of Canaan?

A1: Joshua

Q1b: When was a time you went to a new or unfamiliar place?

TN: The aim of this question is to get kids talking about stepping into the unknown. We all have moments in which life gets unfamiliar: moving to a new home, going to a new school, joining a new team. But if we trust in God he will lead us through these times.

SLIDE 2



Q2a: Who was the careless woman the spies met

A2: Rahab

Q2b: What are some bad or careless choices people make?

TN: We all make bad choices in life. The Bible calls this sin. But sin doesn't have to define our lives. If we choose to put our faith in Jesus, our sins can be forgiven, and we can find new life. We see this in Rahab; she trusted God, and God saved her.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: Who was trying to find the spies Rahab was hiding?

A3: The soldiers.

Q3b: When is a time you felt scared or nervous?

TN: Many times doing the right thing is hard. It certainly was for Rahab! Imagine what it was like to have soldiers with weapons asking all those questions. But we can always trust God when we do the right thing. He sees our faith!

SLIDE 4



Q4a: What did the spies promise to do for Rahab?

A4: Spare her family's life

Q4b: What are some promises God makes to us?

TN: When we put our faith in God, He makes available all of His promises to us. The greatest of these promises is that God will forgive our sins if we believe in His Son, Jesus. What an amazing truth!



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



Q5a: What did Rahab tie in her window?

A5: A scarlet rope

Q5b: When are times we need to follow instructions?

TN: For children, following instructions is a big part of growing up. At school, home, or on the sports team, kids following the instruction of others is very important. In the Bible, following God's instructions is called obedience. To have faith in God we must obey his Word.

SLIDE 6



Q6a: Who did the spies tell Joshua about when they returned?

A6: Rahab

Q6b: Who are people you are thankful for in your life?

TN: Rahab did an amazing thing for the spies. So they remembered her, and told others about her good deeds. Any time we have a friend or family member who has blessed us, we should say thank you, not only to them, but to God for bringing them into our lives.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 7



Q7a: Why was Rahab's family saved?

A7: She believed in God.

Q7b: How can we be saved from our sins?

TN: The Bible teaches us that if we turn away from (repent) our sins and trust in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, we will be forgiven. This means that by faith, we, like Rahab, can have a new destiny with God. A future in which we live with God forever in heaven.



**MEMORY
VERSE**

- ▷ **Hebrews 11:31:** By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.
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BIG IDEA

- ▷ By faith, we can be saved!
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**CLOSING
PRAYER**

- ▷ Lord, I pray that you would reveal the truths of your Word to us and that we would take these truths and act in obedience and with great courage and faith. Thank you that it is not our good works that save us, but it is by grace through faith that we are delivered from the curse of sin and death. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 1



After years of slavery, hardship, and wandering, it was finally time for Israel to take possession of the promised land of Canaan. God raised Joshua to lead the effort. He said to Joshua, "Keep your heart and mind on me and you will be successful and inherit the land." Joshua took strength in God's words and set about to prepare for battle against the enemy. One of his first obstacles was the city of Jericho, which belonged to a fearsome and corrupt people. Joshua sent two men on a secret mission to spy on them.

SLIDE 2



On their way through the city, the spies met a local woman named Rahab and asked her for lodging. She was an immoral and careless woman who attracted a steady stream of people sharing in her lifestyle; the spies could easily hide in the constant activity. Rahab soon found out the men were from Israel. Stories came to her mind about the powerful things God had done to preserve them as a nation. She feared Israel, and she feared their God. She pleaded with the spies, "If you spare my life and the lives of my family, I will hide you and protect you." When Rahab heard the king's soldiers coming for the spies she rushed them to the roof of her house. The spies lay quietly under stalks of flax, listening to the clamoring of soldiers as they approached. The soldiers interrogated Rahab, demanding, "Where are the two spies?!"



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 3



Although very much afraid, she calmly responded, “The men did, in fact, come to me, but just before you closed the gate, they left the city, and I don’t know where they went. Hurry! Run after them before they get away!” Believing Rahab that the spies had already left, the soldiers quickly chased after them.

SLIDE 4



Because of Rahab, the spies were delivered from the hands of their enemies. They thanked her for her courageous actions and swore to uphold their promise that they would spare her life and the lives of her family when the armies came back to destroy Jericho. In gratefulness, Rahab threw a rope from the window, a scarlet cord, and let the spies down safely to escape into the hills.

SLIDE 5



As they descended the rope, the spies commanded Rahab, “When we come back to take the land, tie this same scarlet cord in your window and gather your entire family into your home, and you will all be safe from harm.” With complete faith in their words, she replied, “I will do exactly what you said.”



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 6



When the spies returned to camp, they told Joshua everything they had seen and heard and how the whole land of Canaan was troubled with fear because of Israel. They told him of the great courage of Rahab and how she had turned her allegiance away from her own country and false gods toward the mercy of the God of Israel and into allegiance to His nation. So with confidence, Joshua led the Israelites over the river Jordan into the land of Canaan, where he carefully followed God's battle plan, and the walls came tumbling down.

SLIDE 7



Joshua and his men stormed the city and destroyed every living soul in it except for Rahab and her family, because she believed God and did exactly what she was commanded. For Rahab, it was the beginning of a brand-new relationship with God and His people. For years to come, she would be recognized as a great heroine of faith. She also became a direct ancestor of the great King David and a part of the family line of the greatest ruler of all, the king of kings, Jesus the Messiah!