

# SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

## WEEK 5

### God approves Rahab's faith

Joshua 2:1-24



## DAY 1

Rahab protected the spies • Joshua 2:1-7

### READ

Joshua 2:1-7

### EXPLAIN

The truth of Joshua 2:1-7

Some people think that if God promises success, we wouldn't have a reason to do anything. But it's just the opposite: God's promise motivates us to act diligently, because we know the results will be worth it. That's how it was with Joshua. He trusted God's promise of victory (Josh 1:5-6), so he acted wisely. It was wise to send spies to gather information, and it was wise to keep the mission secret, so that a bad report would not lead to rebellion again (Num 13-14). The spies also acted wisely (Josh 2:2). They went to a harlot's home, not for sinful reasons, but because they wouldn't attract attention at her busy home. Her home was also a good place to gather valuable information, and since it was on the wall, it offered a quick escape. As Joshua and the spies acted with wisdom, God did as He promised and gave success. He arranged it so that this Gentile harlot had become a God-fearer! So when soldiers came for the spies, Rahab saved them, risking her own life for the sake of total strangers (2:4-7).

### ASK

1. How did Joshua act wisely?  
*He sent two spies and kept their spy mission a secret.*
2. How did the spies act wisely?  
*They stayed at the house of Rahab, a sinful woman.*
3. How did God give success?  
*God brought the spies to just the right place. Who would have thought that a Gentile harlot would risk her life to save foreign invaders?*

### DISCUSS

1. Read Philippians 2:12-13. Does God's sovereignty excuse man from acting responsibly?
2. What are some areas of your life where you need to plan more carefully or work more diligently? How can the truth of God's sovereignty encourage you in this?

## DAY 2

Rahab's actions were motivated by her faith • Joshua 2:8–16

### READ

Joshua 2:8–16

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Joshua 2:8–16

Why was Rahab willing to risk her life for Israelite spies? Because she believed. She had heard of God's mighty deeds, and she knew that God had given Israel the land (Josh 2:9). She understood that God had made Israel His own people at the crossing of the Red Sea (2:10). She realized that He would fight for Israel and defeat Israel's enemies, as He did to the two kings east of the Jordan (2:10). Along with the rest of the Canaanites, Rahab was afraid (2:11; Exod 15:15–16). But while the others reacted by trying to resist God, Rahab's fear caused her to run to Him. That kind of fear is good, because it realizes that only God can save us from His own holy power. But what about her lie? She is never praised for her lie, only for her faith (Heb 11:31; Jas 2:25). Lying is wrong (Prov 12:22; 1 John 2:21). But rather than focusing on her lie, be astonished by her faith—and be thankful that God evaluates you according to your faith, not based on your perfection (Rom 4:5).

### ASK

1. Why did Rahab protect the spies?  
*Because she feared the God of Israel and sided with Israel by faith.*
2. Why did Rahab fear God?  
*She saw evidence that God was fighting and giving victory to His people Israel.*
3. Why was her fear a good fear?  
*Her fear was good because it was a proper awe of God. It caused her to run to God for rescue.*
4. Was she wrong to lie?  
*Yes. Lying is wrong. But she is praised for her faith. We are all evaluated based on our faith.*

### DISCUSS

1. Do you fear God? What facts do you know about God that should cause you to fear Him?
2. Read James 2:18–26. Like Rahab hiding the spies, do your actions show that you believe?

## DAY 3

Rahab was promised safety • Joshua 2:14, 17–22

### READ

Joshua 2:14, 17–22

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Joshua 2:14, 17–22

Faith is so important because it is the only way to receive God's grace (Rom 4:16). Because Rahab believed, she would escape death, along with any family member who stayed in her house (Josh 2:17–20). She received this promise by faith, when she obediently tied a scarlet thread to her window (2:21). Do you realize how great God's grace is? Rahab was a Gentile and a prostitute. She was not part of God's

people, and she was wicked. But God showed great favor to her. He saved her and made her part of Israel. In fact, Rahab's descendants included David, all the kings of Judah, and even the Messiah (Matt 1:5)! This is what God's grace does. God's grace takes people who were not His people and makes them His own (Gen 12:3; 1 Pet 2:10). His grace transforms sinners into saints (1 Cor 6:9–11). If you have experienced God's grace, thank Him again and remember that anything good in you is from His grace (1 Cor 15:10). If you have not known His grace, then be like Rahab, and put your trust in Him.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**ASK** 

1. Why did Rahab experience God's grace?  
*Because she had faith.*
2. Did Rahab deserve to be saved?  
*No. She was a Gentile and a sinner.*
3. How was God's grace magnified in Rahab's life?  
*King David and Messiah were her descendants.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Compare Rahab to the Samaritan woman (John 4:7–42).
2. Are you as wicked as Rahab was (1 Tim 1:15)?  
Make a list of the ways God's grace has blessed you despite your sin, so that you do not take His grace for granted.

**DAY 4***Rahab's testimony encouraged Joshua • Joshua 2:22–24***READ** 

Joshua 2:22–24

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of Joshua 2:22–24**

Sometimes we know the truth, but we still have a hard time believing it. Our faith is weak. But God knows we are weak, so He kindly strengthens our faith. That's what He did for Joshua. Even though He had already promised Joshua victory, God used Rahab and the spies to give Joshua encouraging news (Josh 2:23–24). When Joshua heard that God had melted the hearts of the Canaanites, he knew God was already winning the battle. This showed Israel that God is trustworthy to save. What about you? You have God's finished word, and that is enough. It is more complete, more permanent, and more authoritative than any experience (2 Pet 1:19). You have not just the evidence of the Red Sea, Sihon and Og, and Rahab and the spies. You also know how God crushed sin, Satan, and death through Jesus Christ (Col 1:13; 2:15). In addition, for those times when you still doubt or fear, He has also put His Holy Spirit in you, if you are a Christian (1 John 2:20). As you walk by faith, He will confirm your faith (2:27).

**ASK** 

1. Did Rahab give the spies good advice?  
*Yes. They were able to return safely.*
2. What kind of a report did the spies give to Joshua?  
*An encouraging report. The hearts of the Canaanites had melted with fear (2:23–24).*
3. How does God confirm our faith?  
*Through all the truth recorded in the Bible, through the work of Jesus to save us, and through the Holy Spirit within us.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Why is God's word greater than anyone's experience (1 Pet 1:19–21)?
2. Ask your parents to tell you some stories of how God gave them evidence of His power and love for them.

## DAY 5

By faith Rahab did not perish • Hebrews 11:31

### READ

Hebrews 11:29–31

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Hebrews 11:31

What is true faith? Rahab shows us. First, faith is not blind. Rahab believed based on what she had heard about God, showing that faith is a right response to evidence given by God (Exod 9:14). Second, faith is the fear of God, trembling in awe before His might (Josh 2:9; Prov 9:10). Third, faith is trust in God alone (Josh 2:12; Deut 4:39; 6:4). True faith is not half-hearted. It does not leave room for two masters (Matt 6:24). Fourth, faith does not stop with recognizing God's supremacy—it presses on until it rests upon God's mercy (Josh 2:12). True faith trembles before the power and wrath of God, but instead of running away from God it runs toward God for refuge. Fifth, true faith cares for others (2:13). Love for God cannot be separated from love for one's neighbor (Mark 12:30–31). Sixth, true faith takes action, even at great risk—in Rahab's case, she hid the spies and enabled their escape (2:14–16; Jas 2:25–26). Do you have this kind of faith? Do you believe what God has said, run to God, and live for Him?

### ASK

1. Is faith blind?  
No.
2. Is fear of God a characteristic of faith?  
Yes.
3. Does faith have to be exclusive trust in God?  
Yes. *No one can serve two masters (Matt 6:24).*
4. Does faith result in action?  
Yes.

### DISCUSS

1. Have you ever felt like you had no hope except to trust God alone?
2. Can you think of a time you risked your comfort, reputation, or safety for the sake of what you believe?

## NEXT WEEK

### God reveals His might at the Jordan

*Joshua 3:1–5:1*

