

Prepared Hearts (2/12/23)

Main Verses: Joshua 2:8-13

Key Verse: Joshua 2:9

'Takeaway': As we seek to win people to King Jesus, we can be sure he is already preparing the hearts of many that we'll meet.

Getting Started: What do you know about Joshua and Jericho?

READ: Joshua 2:8-13 (or have older kids help read).

Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- Who is Rahab? What did she do to help the spies? (see vv 4-6)
- What does she know? How can/does she know all of it?
- What does she ask the men to do?

Elementary:

- We're dropping in "mid-story"--what had Rahab already done to help the spies Joshua sent? (see vv 4-6)
- How did God prepare Rahab to help the men?
- What does she tell the spies? What does she ask them for?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses :

Toddler/PreK:

- Rahab helped the spies who were sent to scout the land. God prepared her heart to help them.
- Rahab knows that God has rescued His people from slavery in Egypt and promised them the land of Canaan.
- She asks the men to show kindness to her and her family. Their response mirrors the gracious character of God.
- God prepares our hearts and the hearts of people we will encounter to share His message of good news.

Elementary:

- Rahab shows remarkable awareness of Israel's history and of God promising the people the land of Canaan.
- Rahab recognizes and confesses the supreme power of the God of Israel.
- Her confession is based on the history of God's redemption of Israel, and God preparing her heart to receive his word and be part of that redemptive history.
- The response of the spies (v 14) shows the gracious character of God. It also shows that true and sincere allegiance to God is rewarded.
- God prepares the hearts of people we will encounter as we seek to share his good news.

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

(Toddler/PreK) Talk to God, thanking him that he prepares our hearts and the hearts of people we meet to hear his message of good news. Thank God for being a gracious God who shows great kindness to us. Ask God to help you remember him and his good news as you go through your days. Ask him to help you to show kindness to others because he has shown such kindness to you.

(Elementary) Talk to God, thanking him for his kindness and provision for us through faith in Jesus. Thank God that he prepares our hearts and the hearts of people we meet to hear his message of good news. Thank him that he protects those who truly follow him. Talk to God about the condition of your own heart and how much you need him. **Admit** you are guilty of living a me-centered life instead of a God-centered one. **Believe** that Jesus is your only hope for forgiveness, freedom, and forever with God. With your whole heart and being, **commit** yourself to following Jesus' loving leadership. **If you pray this, or have questions** about what it means, talk to a trusted adult in your life about it.

