

LESSON 43

Rahab's Help

JOSHUA 1–2



BIBLE TRUTH

SALVATION MOVES BEYOND ISRAEL AS GOD'S PLAN UNFOLDS

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: Three quarters; tape

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 43)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Page 43

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Escaping the Secret Police

SUPPLIES: blankets; rope

Just the Flax

SUPPLIES: flax fiber sample; Bible encyclopedia

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will learn how God spared the lives of two of Israel’s spies through the help of Rahab.

Before class, tape two quarters to the bottom of your shoe.

Have an assistant take a third quarter and show it to the children and tell them that two quarters are hidden in the room and that they should look for them. Whoever finds them can keep them.

Wait a little while as they search. Then give them a clue by pointing to the floor saying, “They were here (pointing down right by your shoe), but they have left and gone somewhere else.” Have the children search the whole classroom for the quarters. After they have searched for some time, have them sit back down. Show them the bottom of your shoe. Help them to see how you were able to fool them and get them to look elsewhere.

Tell the children to listen carefully to today’s Bible story where something or someone will be hidden. Have them see if they can pick up who or what is hidden.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 43, “Rahab’s Help,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- Who was Rahab?
(Rahab was a woman who lived in the city of Jericho. Her house was along the wall of the city.)

- What did Rahab do?
(She allowed the spies into her house and hid them from the king’s secret police.)

- Who was Rahab afraid of?

(Rahab feared God and believed that the God of Israel was the true God.)

Read what she said from Joshua 2:9–11.

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- How did God provide for Israel’s spies?

(God provided the woman Rahab to shelter the spies.)

- What is unusual about what Rahab did?

(Rahab turned against her own people to protect the Israelite spies.)

- Why did Rahab turn against her own people?

(God gave her understanding into his great power and revealed to her that he was the true God of the heavens and the earth [Joshua 2:11].)

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today’s lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God’s greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Matthew 1:5–16

Being in the line of David, Rahab was a forbearer of Christ. She was Boaz’s mother. Boaz was the father of Obed (with Ruth); Obed, the father of Jesse; Jesse, the father of David. Jesus was called the Son of David. The Matthew genealogy intentionally includes two Gentile women, Rahab and Ruth. This is a foreshadowing of God’s intention to reach the nations.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 43—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Do you think the spies were afraid? If so, why did they still do what they did?**
(Yes, they probably were afraid, but they feared the Lord more. They would have remembered that the spies sent to spy out Canaan forty years before were judged because they did not believe that the Lord could protect them.)
- **What report do you think the spies brought back to Joshua?**
(They would have reported that God spared them and that God was working ahead of them as evidenced by the testimony of what Rahab did for them. They would also have told Joshua what the city looked like close-up.)
- **How were these spies different from the spies that Moses sent out?**
(They trusted the Lord and did not come back with a fearful report in spite of the fact that Jericho was a great walled city, which no one seemed to be able to conquer.)

Escaping the Secret Police

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ blankets
- ✓ rope

Bring in some blankets that can serve as flax. Choose two students to be the spies. Appoint another half dozen or so children to be the secret police. Have one of the teachers be Rahab, and act out the scene where the police come searching for the spies.

Then take a piece of rope, lay it out on the floor and have the spies pretend they are escaping down the wall and then run away from the police. Ask the children to talk about how God provided for the spies. If there is time, give each child a chance to escape down the wall with the rope.

Just the Flax

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ flax fiber (twine or rope) purchased from a craft or fabric store
- ✓ Bible encyclopedia

Pass flax around the room and tell the children that this is the same material the men hid under to escape the secret police.

Help them understand that Jericho was a real place and Rahab was a real person who actually did these things. Explain to them that the Bible is not a made-up story. The Bible is a history book of actual events. If you have a Bible encyclopedia you can bring in photographs of Jericho today to help them understand that it is a real place.

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

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