

LESSON 43

# Rahab's Help

JOSHUA 1–2



— BIBLE TRUTH —

SALVATION MOVES BEYOND ISRAEL AS GOD'S PLAN UNFOLDS

LESSON SNAPSHOT

- 1. OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN**  
 Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
- 2. BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**  
 Read Joshua 2 from the Scriptures or read story 43, “Rahab’s Help,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
- 3. OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN**  
 Tell It with Props  
**SUPPLIES:**

  - ✓ stalk of flax (a bunch of dried flowers would do)
  - ✓ a ten-foot length of manila or jute rope
  - ✓ a thick scarlet cord
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN**  
 Hide the Spies  
**SUPPLIES:**

  - ✓ costumes to dress up spies and a soldier (Earth-toned fabric remnants with holes cut in the middle and rope belts would work fine.)
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 MIN**  
 Coloring Activity  
**SUPPLIES:**

  - ✓ coloring page 43—one copy for each child
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**  
 Melted with Fear  
**SUPPLIES:**

  - ✓ several red ice cubes kept in a cooler until needed (Optional: make heart-shaped ice cubes. Roll out oil-based clay about one-quarter-inch thick to form a two-inch square. Using some of the leftover pieces, make the walls of the mold in the shape of a heart and smooth the joints so that they are watertight. Fill the heart mold with water, and freeze it overnight.)
  - ✓ clear glass pitcher
  - ✓ basin

**TOTAL 75 MIN**

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

**Joshua sends spies into the land**—Back in Lesson 40 Moses sent twelve spies into the Promised Land, but out of the twelve, only Joshua and Caleb had faith to enter the land. Now, Moses and the unbelieving generation have died, and God places Joshua in charge of preparing Israel to enter the land.

Once again spies are sent ahead to survey the situation. But instead of sending twelve spies, Joshua sends only two. Apparently, these are men of faith for they bring back to Joshua a faith-filled report (Joshua 2:24).

**The spies are discovered but Rahab protects them**—The two spies sent by Joshua enter the city of Jericho and are welcomed into the house of Rahab. The spies had been noticed, however, and the King of Jericho tells Rahab to give them up. But instead of turning them in, Rahab protects them. She has heard what the God of Israel did to the Egyptians in crossing the Red Sea and places her faith in their God. Even though Rahab is not an Israelite, God chooses her to help fulfill his plan and gives her grace to believe that God is giving their land to his people.

**Rahab’s faith is evidence of the promise of God going to all nations**—In Genesis 12 we learned that God promised to bless all nations through Abraham. God chose Abraham’s offspring as the people through which his plan would be accomplished. But with Rahab we begin to see the broader fulfillment of the promise—that God’s plan is for all peoples.

Rahab’s faith and testimony are truly remarkable. She tells the spies, “I know that the Lord has given you the land,” and asks that she and her family be saved when the Israelites invade Jericho. Rahab’s faith and the promise of kindness to her were evidence that God’s promise of salvation was not just for the Jews but for all nations.

## WHERE IS JESUS? \_\_\_\_\_

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read Matthew 1:5–16.

Being in the line of David, Rahab was a forerunner 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.

## THE LESSON

### OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

### BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN

Read Joshua 2 from the Scriptures or read story 43, "Rahab's Help," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

### OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN

#### Tell It with Props

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ stalk of flax (a bunch of dried flowers would do)
- ✓ a ten-foot length of manila or jute rope
- ✓ a thick scarlet cord

You can either read Joshua 2 from the Bible or tell the story in your own words, referring to the text when needed. It will help if you underline key phrases and dialogue ahead of time. When you get to the parts of the story that use the props, bring them out to add realism and interest.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- The Bible tells us that God works everything according to his purpose (Ephesians 1:11). What are some of the details God worked together as a part of his plan in this story?

*(God had the spies visit the home of a person he was touching with faith. God worked sovereignly to provide flax on the roof to hide the spies. God had Rahab living in a home built into the outside wall with a window out of which the spies could escape. God didn't allow the men who were sent by the king to suspect Rahab and make a detailed search of her home.)*

- How can knowing that God was in total control of Rahab and the two spies help us in our walk with God?

*(We learn from God's control over all things that we can trust him. He is in control of our lives, and if we place our trust in him, he will save us and work all things for our good and his glory.)*

**TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

**OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Hide the Spies**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ costumes to dress up two men as Israelite spies and one man as a soldier of Jericho (Earth-toned fabric remnants with holes cut in the middle and rope belts would work fine.)

Recruit three adults to help. Have two of them, the Israelite spies, memorize Israel's history from the Red Sea to Joshua's commission in Joshua 1. Before class, have them dress up as Israelite spies. Have a third adult dress up as a soldier of Jericho.

Introduce the spies to the class and have them tell the basic story of the Red Sea, Moses, the people's disobedience in Numbers 20, and Joshua's commission after Moses' death. Then have them begin to tell the class how they have been sent to spy out Jericho. Right in the middle of this section have the soldier of Jericho pound loudly at the door and shout, "I am a soldier of Jericho! Let me in!"

The spies should ask the class to hide them quickly. Reenact the scene from Joshua 2:4–5 after the spies are hidden using an outline of what Rahab said when she declared that the spies had already left.

Read what Rahab said in Joshua 2:8–13, then ask the class the following questions:

- **What do we learn about Rahab from her testimony to the two spies?**  
*(We learn that Rahab had heard about what the Lord had done, and she herself believed God's plan.)*
  
- **Read Genesis 18:18. How does the faith of Rahab fit into this blessing promised by God?**  
*(Rahab and her family were not Israelites. After the destruction of Jericho, their lives were spared. So Rahab's family was an early example of countless non-Israelite families who would receive God's blessing through Abraham and his seed.)*

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 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.

**ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 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.)*

**CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s scripture passages.

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**

Melted with Fear

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ several red ice cubes kept in a cooler until needed (Optional: make heart-shaped ice cubes. Roll out oil-based clay about one-quarter-inch thick to form a two-inch square. Using some of the leftover pieces, make the walls of the mold in the shape of a heart and smooth the joints so that they are watertight. Fill the heart mold with water, and freeze it overnight.)
- ✓ clear glass pitcher
- ✓ basin

Just before this exercise fill the glass pitcher with very hot water.

Read Joshua 1:6–11 to the children. Place the ice cubes in the basin and gather your class around. Tell the children that the ice cubes represent the hearts of the people of Jericho, and the water represents the story of how God saved Israel from the Egyptians. Retell the story of the exodus and, with each word pour a little hot water over the red ice cubes until they are all melted. Cover the following points:

1. God commanded Pharaoh to let the people go, but he refused so God sent plagues to Egypt.
2. After losing his own son to the final plague, Pharaoh let Israel leave Egypt but changed his mind after they left and took his army and chased after them.
3. Pharaoh backed up Israel against the Red Sea, but the God of Israel blocked his way with a giant pillar of cloud.
4. God opened up the Red Sea for his people to cross on dry ground.

5. When the Israelites had crossed, the cloud lifted and Pharaoh pursued them through the Red Sea, but God released the waters back on the Egyptians and killed them all.
6. God gave Israel victory over all their enemies.
7. Now Israel is coming toward Jericho.

By this time the ice should be gone. Ask the class to tell you why the people of Jericho were afraid. But make this one note: Rahab mentions nothing about the people repenting of their sin. Though they heard about all that God did, they didn't worship him or turn away from their idols.



LESSON 43 - RAHAB'S HELP

