

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**
Rahab’s Faith
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN**
The Difference in Spies
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME 15 MIN**
Hiding in the Flax
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper
 - ✓ picture of flax from a book or downloaded from the Internet (www.libeco.com/en/about-linen/from-flax-to-linen.aspx)
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN**
Afraid
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ large cardboard boxes to form walls (If you don’t have cardboard boxes you can simply draw a masking tape line on the floor and pretend there are walls.)

TOTAL 85 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.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

*Flax***SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ sample of linen cloth

Flax is a plant used to make linen cloth. The fibers of the flax plant are soaked in water until the fibers separate. The fibers can then be combed and spun. The resulting thread is woven into linen cloth. The woman spoke of in Proverbs 31:13 selects flax for linen. Jesus was wrapped in linen after his death (Mark 15:46). Jesus will return with armies dressed in fine linen (Revelation 19:14).

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 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.

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

Rahab’s Faith

Take a closer look at the faith of Rahab.

Rahab’s faith was a personal faith—she said, “I know that the LORD has given you the land” (Joshua 2:9). To know, Rahab had to believe.

Rahab remembered the testimony of the Lord—she repeated the story of the Red Sea and what God had done.

Rahab knew she needed to be saved and believed God would do it—in Joshua 2:13, Rahab declares, “that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death.”

Then ask the class the following questions:

- How can we follow Rahab’s example?

(To be saved just like Rahab was we need to do just what Rahab did: have faith and believe in our hearts, remember the deeds of the Lord, and ask him to save us.)

- To what deeds of the Lord do we look to encourage our faith?

(Unlike Rahab, we do not look to the crossing of the Red Sea alone. We have the testimony of what Jesus did on the cross—the gospel. The crossing of the Red Sea and the salvation of Israel points to the greater truth of the gospel and the salvation available to us through Jesus Christ.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

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

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

The Difference in Spies

Compare the reports of the spies in Joshua 2:24 with those in Numbers 13:27–33 and 14:7–9.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- Who were the two spies sent into Jericho most like, Joshua and Caleb or the other ten fearful spies? Why?

(They were most like Joshua and Caleb who were filled with faith. They trusted God, and though they didn’t deny the cities were strong, they believed God was stronger still.)

- How might Rahab’s faithful testimony have encouraged the faith of the spies?

(The spies learned from Rahab that the people of Jericho were afraid after hearing what God had done to the Egyptians in the Red Sea. This news would have helped the spies to trust that God would deliver Jericho into their hands.)

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 15 MIN

Hiding in the Flax

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper
- ✓ picture of flax from a book or downloaded from the Internet (www.libeco.com/en/about-linen/from-flax-to-linen.aspx)

Have the children draw a picture of the spies hiding among the stalks of flax. (Flax was a plant that was about four feet tall and was used for making linen.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

Afraid

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large cardboard boxes to form walls (If you don't have cardboard boxes, you can simply draw a masking tape line on the floor and pretend there are walls.)

This is a skit for the whole class. Before you begin, review the main points of the exodus story and how God delivered Israel from the Egyptians. Here are a few of the main 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 and chased after them with his army.
3. Pharaoh cornered Israel at the Red Sea, but God 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. After the Israelites had crossed, the cloud lifted, and Pharaoh pursued them through the Red Sea. God, however, 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.

After reviewing these points with the class, choose one of the children to be a messenger and then make the rest of the students residents of Jericho. Tell the class to pretend they are outside the walls of the city walking around, farming, and playing. Next, have your messenger run up to them and repeat the story of the exodus. (You can remind them if they leave out any details.) Instruct the people of Jericho to tremble with fear, and when they hear that the Israelites are approaching, run inside the walls of their city.

Read Joshua 1:6–11 to the children, and then have them all sit down. Talk about why the people of Jericho were afraid. Finally point out that even though the people of Jericho were afraid, they didn't repent of their idol worship and start to worship the true God, the God of Israel. Only Rahab believed.