

## RAHAB'S HELP

*Salvation moved beyond Israel as God's plan unfolded.*



THE STORY: JOSHUA 1:10-2:1 & 2:23-24

MONDAY

## Joshua sent spies into the land

Joshua sent spies into the land – In the first chapter of Joshua, God commissioned him to prepare the people of Israel to enter the promised land. Even though Joshua had been in the land before, he sent spies ahead to survey the situation that awaited them, especially in Jericho. We can speculate that Joshua knew better than to send in a whole group of fearful men to inspect the land since he sent only two. These two men were men of great faith for in the end they brought a faith-filled report to Joshua (see Joshua 2:24).

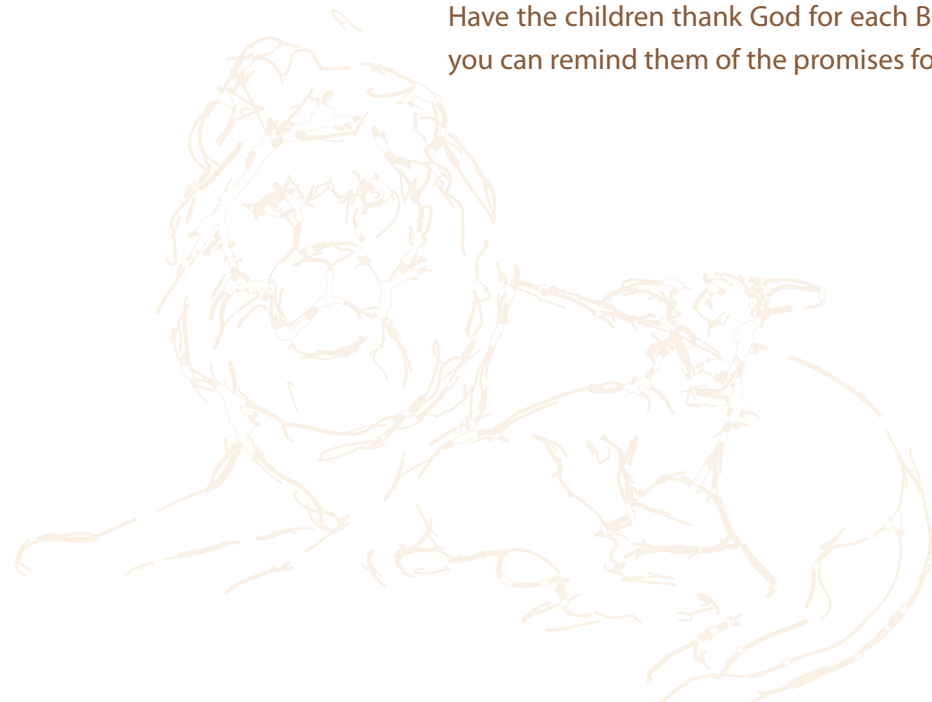
### TALK ABOUT IT:

How are the reports of these spies similar to the report given by Joshua and Caleb to Moses? (*The spies' report is one filled with faith. Even though they had seen the great, unassailable walled city of Jericho, they believed that God was greater, just like Joshua and Caleb did.*)

Of what did Joshua remind the people before sending out the spies? (*Joshua reminded them of the promises of God (see Joshua 1:13). How can remembering the promises of God build our faith? (Since God is always faithful to His word, we can be encouraged to believe God when we remind ourselves of what He said.)*)

### PRAY:

Have the children thank God for each Bible promise they can remember. To begin, you can remind them of the promises found in John 3:16 and Deuteronomy 5:16.





## The spies were discovered but Rahab protected them

The spies were discovered but Rahab protected them. Somehow, the king found out about Joshua's two spies and where they went in Jericho (Joshua 2:2-3). We can't be sure, but perhaps the king had spies of his own. When the king's men confronted Rahab, she hid the Israelite spies and lied to protect them by saying that they had left.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

How do you see God at work in this story? *(God demonstrated His faithfulness to the Israelites by providing Rahab to help the spies. God also demonstrated His power over the earthly king, who could not defeat God's plan. Pharaoh could not kill the baby Moses, this king could not catch the spies, and Herod could not kill Jesus. The plan of God always prevails.)*

God provided help for the spies. How can this help us in our faith? *(We can trust that God will provide for us as we are living obedient lives in faith, following God's plan.)*

### PRAY:

Pray that God will increase your faith to follow Him even through difficult times.



## Where is Jesus?

Rahab's name is listed in the genealogy of Jesus in verse 5 of Matthew's gospel. In Genesis, God told Abraham that His plan was to bless the nations. Although God chose Israel as the people through which His plan would be accomplished, God also gave us a hint in the story of Rahab that His salvation was for all peoples. Rahab was not an Israelite and yet she was saved when the Israelites conquered Jericho (see Joshua 6:23). What is more, Rahab became the father of Boaz, the great - great - grandfather of King David.

In Joshua 2:21, Rahab tied a scarlet cord upon her window as a sign to the invading Israelites that her household should be spared. It is significant that it was a scarlet cord because it was a foreshadowing of Jesus' scarlet blood that made a way for her salvation, and ours. When we read Matthew's genealogy of Jesus, we should rejoice to see the name of Rahab there among the others. What a joy for us that God's salvation is broad—broad enough to include sinners from every nation!

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Why is it significant that Rahab's name is a part of the genealogy of Jesus? (*Rahab was not an Israelite and would have been considered a foreigner. She was also a prostitute and sinner. The fact that she was saved and then used as a part of the genealogical line of Jesus demonstrates the amazing power of the cross to save and redeem the greatest of sinners.*)

How does God's saving of Rahab encourage you? (*Just like Rahab, we are unworthy and in need of saving as sinners. If God can save Rahab then it gives us hope that He can save us, too!*)

**PRAY:**

Invite your children to pray and ask God to be merciful and save them like He did Rahab.



THE STORY: JOSHUA 2:8-21

THURSDAY

## Rahab's faith was evidence of God's promise of salvation

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 nations. Rahab's faith and testimony are truly remarkable. She told the spies, "I know that the Lord has given you the land." She went on to explain that the story of what God did to Egypt, and Israel's victory over many kings, had put fear in the hearts of her people. Rahab asked that she and her family be saved when the Israelites invaded Jericho and the spies agreed. This illustrated the expansion of God's salvation beyond the people of Israel. God said Abraham would bring a blessing to all the nations and here we get a glimpse of God saving people from other nations who were not part of Abraham's family.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Why would God choose to use a sinner like Rahab in His plan? (*It is important to remember that all people are sinners like Rahab! The fact that God would use any of us in any capacity is amazing grace!*)

How did Rahab demonstrate her faith in God? (*Rahab believed that God was going to deliver Jericho into the hands of the Israelites and she said so to the spies. Explain to your children that it is a good thing to speak to others about what we believe and that it honors God to vocalize our faith.*)

**PRAY:**

Have the children take turns telling the family what they believe about God. Then thank God for the faith He has deposited in your family.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Did Rehoboam listen to the counsel of the older wiser advisors? (*No. Rehoboam rejected the council of the older wiser advisors for the council of the other young men who had grown up with him.*)

What is likely to happen if children reject the wise and godly counsel of their parents for the foolish advice of their peers? (*If children reject good counsel from their parents for bad advice from friends, they are likely to experience the same disaster that came on Jereboam. God tells children to obey their parents and to treasure their advice.*)

**PRAY:**

Ask God to give you strength to obey your parents, even if your friends have different counsel.



THE STORY: ISAIAH 41:8-14

FRIDAY

## On the road to Emmaus.

Jesus is the Redeemer and the Holy One of Israel mentioned at the end of this passage in Isaiah. God saved Israel from a number of enemies, but Israel's ultimate salvation would come through Jesus. The angel speaking to Mary also called Jesus the "Holy One" (Luke 1:35).

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

How can we be encouraged by the words "fear not" in Isaiah 41:10 and 41:14? (*The same salvation that Isaiah promised to Israel comes to us as well through the sacrifice of Jesus. We can have the same confidence as the Israelites to know that God will help us with His righteous right hand.*)

How does Isaiah 41:9, "You whom I took from the ends of the earth and called from its farthest corners," seem to better apply to all those whom God is saving through Christ? (*Israel of old was chosen out of only one part of the earth, but we who are being saved are chosen from every nation, tribe, people and tongue!*)

**PRAY:**

Thank God that His salvation is broader than the nation of Israel—broad enough to include you and me!

