

RAHAB'S HELP

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOSHUA 2:1-15



Salvation moved beyond Israel as the plan of God unfolded.

The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

Joshua sent spies into the land – In Joshua 1, God commissioned Joshua to prepare the people of Israel to enter the land. Even though Joshua had been in the land before, he sent spies to check out the land, especially Jericho. Perhaps Joshua knew better than to send in a whole group of fearful men. Joshua sent only two. These men were men of great faith for in the end they brought a faith-filled report to Joshua, see Joshua 2:24.

The spies are discovered but Rahab protected them – Somehow the king found out about Joshua's two spies (verse 2). Perhaps the king had spies of his own. Not only did the king's men know two spies had come, but they knew exactly where the spies went. They confronted Rahab. The spies were hidden and Rahab lied to protect them. She told the king's men that the Israelite spies had left.

Rahab's faith was evidence of the promise of God going to all nations – Rahab's faith and testimony are truly remarkable. She told them, "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 against many kings had put fear in the hearts of her people. Rahab asked that she and her family be saved. The men agreed and Rahab was spared. This illustrated that salvation extends beyond the people of Israel. God said Abraham would bring a blessing to all the nations. Here we get a small glimpse of God saving people from other nations who were not part of Abraham's family.

RAHAB'S HELP

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOSHUA 2:1-15

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.

Rahab was a forerunner of Christ. She was in David's lineage. She was Boaz's mother, Boaz was the father of Obed with Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, Jesse, the father of David...and Jesus of course...the Son of David. The Matthew genealogy intentionally includes two Gentile women, Rahab and Ruth. This was a foreshadowing of God's intention to reach the nations.

ON THE ROAD TO EMMANUS

Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.

Bible Passage: Isaiah 41:10-14

Connecting the passage to Christ:

Jesus is the Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, see Luke 1:35

Questions for reflection:

- What does God promise to do for us in this passage? (He promises to be with us, be our God, uphold us with His righteous right hand, He will hold our right hand, and help us.)
- What description gives away the identity of the one who will do this? (When Isaiah uses the words Redeemer and Holy One of Israel it shows that he is talking about Christ) Christ is the fulfillment of the one who would come and help His people by redeeming them.)



RAHAB'S HELP

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOSHUA 2:1-15

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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 & OBJECT LESSONS

Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?

TELL IT WITH PROPS

Supplies

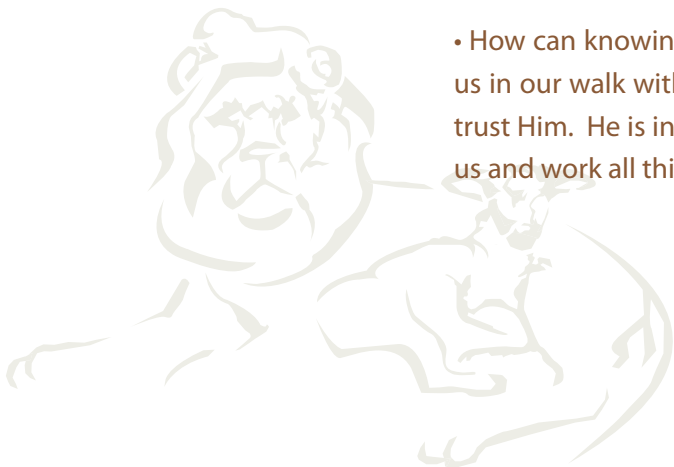
- stalk of flax (a bunch of dried flowers would do)
- a 10' length of manila or jute rope
- a thick scarlet cord

Read Joshua 2, you can read it 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 He works everything according to His purpose, see 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)



RAHAB'S HELP

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOSHUA 2:1-15

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." 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 verse 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? (We need to do just what Rahab did. If we have faith and believe in our hearts, remember the deeds of the Lord and ask Him to save us, we will be saved just like Rahab.)
- 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, and 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.)



RAHAB'S HELP

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOSHUA 2:1-15

HIDE THE SPIES

Supplies

costumes to dress up two men as Israelite spies and one man as a soldier of Jericho

Have two adults come in to help you with the class. Have them memorize Israel's history from the Red Sea to Joshua's commission in Joshua 1. Introduce them 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 of 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.)

PRAYER

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

IN CLASS PROJECT

The first and second grade children can use the preschool coloring sheet and questions. Have the older 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.)

RAHAB'S HELP

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOSHUA 2:1-15

FOR OLDER GRADES

Compare the reports of the spies in Joshua 2:24 with those in Numbers 13:27-33 and Numbers 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 10 fearful spies? Why? (They were most like Joshua and Caleb who were filled with faith. They all 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? (When the spies heard that the people of Jericho had heard what God did to the Egyptians in the Red Sea and were now afraid, that would have helped the spies to trust that God would deliver Jericho into their hands as well.)

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Flax – Flax was a plant used to make linen cloth. The fibers of the flax plant were soaked in water until the fibers separated and then could be combed and spun. The resulting thread woven into cloth is called linen. 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).

