

Rahab And The Spies

Joshua 2

MEMORY VERSE

JOSHUA 2:24

“And they said to Joshua, ‘Truly the LORD has delivered all the land into our hands, for indeed all the inhabitants of the country are fainthearted because of us.’”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A telescope, magnifying glass, binoculars or other “sight enhancer” from home.

A large stuffed animal (or other large object).

As many red (or pink or purple) sheets of construction paper as the number of children in your class, scissors, markers or crayons.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

How Far?

Bring a telescope, magnifying glass, binoculars, or other “sight enhancers” to class for the kids to look through. Put a very small note or picture on the wall and let the kids read it or look at it from the opposite wall. Allow each child to take a turn.

After everyone is finished, use this activity for discussion. Ask them how far do they think that God can see? How well can He see? What does He need in order to see into our hearts? What’s in your heart? Do your actions reveal a heart of faith in God?

LESSON TIME!

The children of Israel were ready to possess the land God had given them. Jericho would be the first city in Canaan that God would allow His children to capture. Jericho was a wicked city that had rejected God and His ways. Yet in their midst, there was one lone woman who turned from her sinful ways into the gracious love of a heavenly Father who would rescue her from the destruction which was to come. This woman's faith was revealed by the actions she was willing to take. **May our actions reveal our faith.**

JOSHUA 2:1

Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there.

Joshua sent two spies out into the city of Jericho. God led these two men to stay at an innkeepers dwelling, the house of Rahab, a harlot. Although Rahab was leading a sinful lifestyle in rejection of God's ways, God led His servants to her to lead her to Himself. God desires to use us as lights in this world of darkness to draw others to His salvation.

JOSHUA 2:2-7

And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, "Behold, men have come here tonight from the children of Israel to search out the country."

So the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the country."

Then the woman took the two men and hid them. So she said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from.

"And it happened as the gate was being shut, when it was dark, that the men went out. Where the men went I do not know; pursue them quickly, for you may overtake them."

(But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof.)

Then the men pursued them by the road to the Jordan, to the fords. And as soon as those who pursued them had gone out, they shut the gate.

The people of Jericho discovered the two spies and sought to capture them. Because Rahab knew God sent them, she hid them in her home and did not reveal their whereabouts.

JOSHUA 2:8-11

Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof,

and said to the men: "I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you.

"For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.

"And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. "

Rahab told the spies that the people of Jericho feared God. They had seen the supernatural evidences exhibited in the lives of the Israelites. What evidences of God can be seen through your life? Is God's love and mighty ways made manifest to the world around you through your life? **May our actions reveal our faith.**

The Canaanites saw God's power and might, and they feared Him, yet this rotten city was doomed for destruction. It is not enough to recognize there is a God, or to acknowledge that He is powerful. It is vital to turn from the wickedness of sin to the gracious love of the Savior.

Rahab acknowledged that the Lord God is above all. She made a confession of faith as she committed her soul to God (Romans 10:9,10). God looked down into her heart and saw her love and desire for Him. God forgave Rahab of her sins and saved her from His judgment. Though we are sinners, when we confess the Lord as our Savior, trust that our sins have been forgiven because of the sacrifice of Jesus, and put our faith in Him alone, we shall be saved. **May our actions reveal our faith.**

Hide and Seek

Bring a large stuffed animal or other large object to class. Next, cover (or blindfold) your eyes and ask the children to hide the object. The aide can keep their eyes uncovered to assist the children. The children will quickly discover that it is very difficult to hide a large object in a sparsely furnished room.

Explain that it is just as difficult to hide something in our hearts from God. He can always look into our hearts and know our innermost thoughts and feelings.

JOSHUA 2:12,13

"Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token,

"and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death."

Rahab desired that her family would be saved because she loved them. As the spies were lowered out of the city and fled to hide in the mountains, they revealed the way she and her family could be saved.

JOSHUA 2:14-19

So the men answered her, "Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. And it shall be, when the LORD has given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with you."

Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall; she dwelt on the wall.

And she said to them, "Get to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you. Hide there three days, until the pursuers have returned. Afterward you may go your way."

So the men said to her: "We will be blameless of this oath of yours which you have made us swear,

"unless, when we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father's household to your own home.

"So it shall be that whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we will be guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head if a hand is laid on him. "

Rahab immediately obeyed the command to mark her home with the scarlet cord. Her faith was shown by her obedience. When we have a genuine faith in God, it will be seen outwardly by our obedience to His Word (James 2:25). **May our actions reveal our faith.**

Rahab and her family were only made safe as they abided in their home marked by the scarlet cord. This story is a picture for us. For in the same way, we as Christians are made safe in the Day of Judgment only when we abide in Christ and trust that His sacrifice has purchased our forgiveness. He alone is our Savior and Lord, our hope of salvation.

JOSHUA 2:23,24

So the two men returned, descended from the mountain, and crossed over; and they came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all that had befallen them.

And they said to Joshua, "Truly the LORD has delivered all the land into our hands, for indeed all the inhabitants of the country are fainthearted because of us."

God confirmed His Word to His people assuring them of His sovereignty and favor. Remember God's promise? God said, "Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you...." Just as God gave Jericho to the Israelites, so has He blessed us with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3). Believe Him and by faith possess what God has already given you.

Rahab was made righteous by faith. God even included her in the lineage of the Messiah! Believe in God and the salvation He has provided for you in Christ Jesus. And, as Rahab, let your inward faith be shown by your outward actions. **May our actions reveal our faith.**

What Does He See?

Fold a red (or pink or purple) sheet of construction paper in half and cut out a heart shape leaving part of the fold connected for a "hinge." Open the heart and have the children write down what they would like for the Lord to see when He looks into their heart. Use this activity to describe what kinds of things should be in our hearts. Read Galatians 5:22,23 (the fruit of the Spirit).

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment that their genuine faith will be shown by their actions. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.