

Lesson 5: Rahab and the Spies

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Learn that Joshua sent two spies to check out Canaan before entering.
- 2) Study Rahab and see how her faith made her a great woman of the Bible despite her past.
- 3) See that God wants us all to turn to Him and if we believe and obey – regardless of what we have done, God will forgive us and be willing to call us His own.
- 4) Learn why we should not judge or label others

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- See lesson one for ideas in accommodations section

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart
- Stickers for Attendance
- Rahab Color Page – let students choose either color or crossword page and hand out one to each
- Rahab and Spies Crossword
- Map of Israelites Across from Jericho – one for class to share

Optional:

- Label sheet – cut out labels before class – one sheet per class
- Tape to put on labels – one roll of tape to share
- Popsicle Sticks – 5 for every 2-4 children
- Blank Paper – one for every 2-4 children
- Different colored fine-tipped markers (one for every 2-4 children)
- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Snack:

- Red Licorice String or Rhubarb Strips with Honey Dip 1-2 pieces for each child
- Napkins for snack one per child
- Juice or water and cup one per child

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

2 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied) and let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week.

Say to students:

Today we are going to start the book of Joshua. Can anyone tell me all the books we have studied so far in the Old Testament? Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy and now Joshua!

Can anyone remember what we studied last week? God told Moses and Joshua that Joshua was to take over for Moses, since Moses could not enter the Promised Land. Joshua was told to be strong and courageous and we learned also that as Christians – we too are told to be strong and courageous

because we also are given a promise like Joshua received from God – that God is with us and will protect us!

Today we will see that Joshua takes the lead and obeys God. He sends spies over to Canaan to investigate.

Does this story seem similar to another event in the Old Testament that we looked at in Numbers 13? Joshua was one of the 12 spies who originally went to check out Canaan/Promised Land 40 years previous and now he is sending out two of his own spies!

2) Joshua – Intro to His Book and Sending Out Spies to Canaan 10-15 minutes

Optional: Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Have students turn to **Joshua 1**. Ask for a volunteer(s) to read **Joshua 1:1-9** and thank them for reading.

Questions:

What did God tell Joshua? Cross the Jordan and go into the land that God had promised to them.

What phrase did God repeat to Joshua that we also studied last week? Be strong and courageous.

In verse 7-8 God tells Joshua to study and meditate on the law day and night. What was he told would be his reward for doing this? Joshua would prosper wherever he went. He would be successful.

Do you think that is true for us today too? Yes!

Have students turn to **Matthew 6:31-33** and ask; **can I get a volunteer to read those three verses?**

Matthew 6:31-33

So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

What will happen when we put God first? We will be blessed with food, clothing and even more.

Does it seem smart then to put God first by studying and thinking about what He says in the Bible day and night? Yes, because we will be blessed and will know how to live our lives to be successful and wise – just like Joshua was promised.

So will you start to meditate and study the Bible day and night so you can prosper and be successful for the Lord?

3) Rahab and the Spies Crossword and Color Page 20 minutes

Optional: Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Have students turn to and take turns reading Joshua 2:1-24 out loud or read yourself.

Thank those who read.

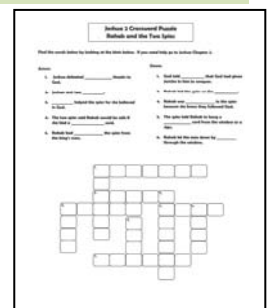
Ask:

How many men did Joshua send? Two.

Where were they to go? Jericho

*Show map of Jericho to the class to see where they were and where they were headed.

Who was Rahab? A woman who lived in Jericho who had heard of God and the Israelites and believed that God was going to protect those who followed Him. Based on her belief she protected the spies and saved them.



***Note: Say to the students; Rahab is called a harlot or prostitute. That means she was involved in sinful activities that God would not have been happy with. It is a fact; that is who she was at the time before getting introduced to godly people and being rescued by them. We will read now that because she was introduced to godly people and believed in God – she changed her life and became one of the great woman of the Bible. Let’s not let our past sins, or the sins of others get in the way of being saved by Jesus, like Rahab was. Let’s reach out to everyone we meet and help everyone have a chance to be saved – just like Rahab the faithful woman!**



Have students turn to **Matthew 1:5** and read it out loud. Finish by going to **Matthew 1:16** and read it aloud to show that Rahab was an ancestor to Jesus!

Matthew 1:5 and 16

5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,
Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse,
16 and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

Who is listed as part of Jesus’ family? Rahab!

After she was rescued she married one of the godly men of Israel and had a family that their descendants trace all the way to Jesus!

Let’s turn to James 2:24-26 and read to see what else the New Testament says about Rahab and her faith and how it relates to us today as well!

James 2:24-26

You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? 26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

What was Rahab considered? Righteous – made right before God.

Why? Because not only did she have faith to believe, she acted on that faith and protected the spies.

James says we need to have faith and do deeds (actions). We can’t just believe in God, we have to have the actions to back it up – like Rahab.

What actions can we do today to show our faith in Jesus? Go to church, pray, study, get baptized, tell others about Jesus, stand firm when others try to stop us believing in Christ, etc.

Now back to Joshua chapter 2.

How did Rahab help the spies? Not only did she hide them, she let them out the window once it was safe and protected them from the king.

Rahab lied – is it ok to lie? No. God says don’t lie, but remember, Rahab was not a Christian and even though she believed in God, she hadn’t been taught how to live a life pleasing to God. She would learn that later when she lived with the Israelites. So Rahab did the best she could based on what she knew. We know not to lie. If this situation were to happen to us, we could pray to God and ask for help to get out of the situation without having to lie.

What did Rahab proclaim in verse 11? God is the God in heaven above and on earth beneath.
What does the Bible say we as believers in Jesus need to do when we are scared? Let's turn to 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 and ask a volunteer to read it aloud.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. 14 Do everything in love.

Ask students:

What should we be on guard for? Temptations, sins, people who will try and teach us things that are not in the Bible.

How does it say we can stand firm? Through our faith in Jesus. We believe that Jesus is King and Lord. He can and will take care of us so we can stand firm not letting people try and teach us things that are against what Jesus says.

What else do these two verses say? We too need to be strong and courageous and do it all in love.

What things should we do in love? EVERYTHING! So even when being strong and courageous we need to do so showing love and care for others.

As we studied last week, let's turn again to **Hebrews 13:5** and read

5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

Why can we be content and not worry? Because God promises He will be with us and take care of us if we remain in Him and do His will.

We don't have to worry about money, things, people, death, sickness anything - we don't have to be scared. Why? Because God will be with us and help us through all of our problems and He will guide us and give us the strength we need to get through whatever happens in our lives.

God is Good! God is Great for loving us and taking such good care of us! We can trust in His promises. Even at our young ages, we can be strong and courageous knowing God the Great Ruler, Creator and King is on our side and looking out for each and everyone of us!

Did God ask Joshua to be ready to do great things? Yes!

We too should be ready to do great things - what things can we do this week that would help others and show our love for others? Let students answer

What ways can we be strong and courageous this week? Let students answer.

Pick a few of the things we discussed and do them this week!

Hand out one crossword sheet and/or color page to each student. Hand out pencil crayons also. Read the crossword instructions outloud and help students as needed.

Crossword Answers:

Across: 1. Jericho 2. Spies 3. Rahab 4. Cord 5. Hidden

Down: 1. Joshua 3. Roof 4. Kind 5. Scarlet 6. Rope

*For those who are done early, have them read the entire chapters of Joshua 1 and 2 while they wait for others to finish or start doing the other activity sheet that they didn't choose.

4) Optional: Popsicle Stick Quiz

10-15 minutes

Form teams of two to four kids. Give each team five Popsicle sticks and a sheet of paper. The give each team a different colored fine-tip marker. Assign a section of the lesson to each team:

Team 1: Matthew 1:5, Hebrews 13:5, 1 Corinthians 16:13-14, and James 2:24-26 – Questions on Faith and Rahab

Team 2: Joshua 1 and 2– Joshua and the Spies in Canaan

(Try to ensure younger children are put with older children so they can have help and guidance in reading and writing). Have each team make up five questions and answers from the lesson and write them down on their sheet of paper. Teams should number the questions and the Popsicle sticks one through five. For example: if you have three teams you will have 15 sticks numbered in three different colors. Collect all the Popsicle sticks. Have kids sit in a circle or at the table with each team sitting near each other. Drop all the sticks in a small pile in the middle of the circle or table.

Choose one team to go first. The team sends one person to pick up a stick – it can't be theirs! Only one stick can be moved. If any other sticks move, the team forfeits its turn like in the game Pick-up Sticks. Have the player read the number and the color of the stick he or she picked up. The team with that color reads the question with that number. The team that drew the stick answers the question. If the team members answer correctly, they keep the stick, if not, they must return the stick to the pile.

Then, the next team draws a stick. If a team picks their own stick, they must put it back and get another one. (For younger students, who may want to allow them to get a stick even if they move others as it will be more difficult for them). The game is over when the sticks are all gone from the pile in the middle. Have each team count its Popsicle sticks. The team with the most sticks wins!

5) Optional: Label (Rahab and learning not to judge) Activity

5-10 minutes

Before class cut out label sheet – there are 12 labels to choose from, if you have more than 12 students in your class, print and cut out two sheets and reuse some of the labels. Bring tape to stick the labels to student's backs.

While students are sitting, stick one of the labels onto each of their backs using a piece of tape to hold it in place. (Be careful about which students get which labels. Don't give a troubled student a "trouble maker" label for example.) Also, make sure students do not see what label they receive and tell the class not to let each other know what their label is.

Instruct the students to get up and mingle around the room and to treat each other as they would if their labels were really true. (For example: if a student has trouble maker for a label another student might say, "So how much detention so far have you gotten this week in school?") Ask the students to guess which label they've been given based on how they are treated by the other students.

Afterwards say:

Each of you was given a label that influenced how others treated you. People do this all the time. Although the labels people give others are not physically written out like yours were today, they still affect the way you are seen and are treated by others.

Rahab was labeled by her past. Even after she came to know God she was labeled as a prostitute (See Hebrews 11:31) But through her great faith and actions, Rahab rose above her label and

didn't let that stop her from trying to make her life right with God. God saw beyond her label and gave her the privilege of being named as part of the lineage of Christ! Let's remember that – we should not judge or label others, but encourage them to gain faith in Christ and find the favor of God when turning to Him! It hurts to be labeled and it hurts to label others. Let's be better than that!

6) Practice Memory Verse

Deuteronomy 31:6 – Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Have students repeat this verse with you a number of times. Say a few words, then have them repeat a few times. Once everyone has that done, go to another few words and have them repeat, keep going until they have said the entire verse a few times. The goal is to learn this verse by the end of the quarter.

7) Optional: The Israelites March Activity Game

5-10 minutes

Tell the students that you are the leader (like Moses). Tell them that they are the Israelites and they need to follow the leader and do what you do. *Make sure you have some room to play this game either outside or in.

Call out the event and have students follow:

The Israelites are captive in Egypt! (Form a big huddle and don't let anyone out.)

The Israelites escape thanks to God and run from Pharaoh! (Everybody runs to a certain place you decide.)

The Israelites cross the Red Sea! (March with knees high through the dry sea.)

The Israelites gather manna. (Everyone bends towards the ground and pretends to gather manna from the ground in their baskets.)

The Israelites wander around because they are lost. (Have group walk around in circles.)

The Israelites enter the desert. (Have everyone pant and fan themselves because of the heat.)

The Israelites reach the Promised Land. (Have the group hug and cheer and be happy.)

8) Optional – Snack: Red Licorice String or Rhubarb with Honey Dip

5 minutes

*Before class if doing rhubarb – slice it into small strips like a rope and provide a small dish for each child with honey, sugar or stevia powder in it for the students to dip the rhubarb in. One dish or paper cup for every child with a teaspoon of sugar, stevia or honey, so that students aren't dipping their food into others. Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water or juice. Explain that, **“Today we learned that Rahab helped the spies and had faith that the God of Israel would help her too! She was told to put a scarlet cord in her window to mark the place the Israelites were to leave alone. Let's eat a snack that reminds us of the scarlet cord and let's remember to obey and have faith – just like Rahab did!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss any questions while snacking.

9) Optional - Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you. An example is:

R-A-H-A-B

(Tune: B-I-N-G-O) lyrics by Sharon Broome

There was a girl God used for good and Rahab
was her name-o

R-A-H-A-B, R-A-H-A-B, R-A-H-A-B
and Rahab was her name-o.

She hid the spies that came from God, with
flax upon her roof-o.

R-A-H-A-B, R-A-H-A-B, R-A-H-A-B
and Rahab was her name-o.

Rahab's house alone was saved upon the wall

of Jericho.

R-A-H-A-B, R-A-H-A-B, R-A-H-A-B
and Rahab was her name-o.

She hung a scarlet cord outside because the
spies had said so.

R-A-H-A-B, R-A-H-A-B, R-A-H-A-B
and Rahab was her name-o.

Because of faith, she has a place in Jesus'
family line.

R-A-H-A-B, R-A-H-A-B, R-A-H-A-B
and Rahab was her name-o.

10) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Dear God thank you for your might and power, thank you for your everlasting ability to always take care of us as you did Joshua, Rahab and the spies. Thank you that we can be strong and courageous because of You and Your Son being there for us. Help us in our faith to always remember that You are there with us and that we need to remember to pray, study and focus on Your Words day and night to gain strength for our days ahead.

Father be with our families and friends and those who were unable to be here today because of problems or sickness. Bring those people back safely next week. Help us to be strong and courageous in sharing the good news that Jesus is alive and able to save all who come to Him through baptism. Thank you for Rahab and Joshua and their examples that we can look to for encouragement. Help us not to judge others, but encourage them to have faith in You like Rahab. Bless us as we enter this new week, keep us from sin and temptation. We pray that you will lead us this week and that Your perfect will be done in our lives. Thank you for being our wonderful God, in Jesus precious name we pray, Amen!

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!