

Women in the Lineage of Christ

Week 2 — RAHAB — Joshua 2

Prepare...

As you begin, take a moment to pray and focus on the Lord as you come into his presence and study his word.

You may want to use this prayer, based on Hebrews 4:12

God, your Word is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing my soul and spirit, my joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of my heart. I want to hear you through your word now.

Begin...

Read through the text twice. First read to gain a general understanding of the passage. Read a second time slowly, looking at each verse in detail.

To make sure you have understood the story in Joshua 2, answer the following questions (in your head or on paper)

1. What were the Israelites planning to do? (See Joshua 1:1-5; 10)
2. Whose house did the spies go to?
3. How did Rahab react when challenged about hiding the spies?
4. Where had she hidden them?
5. What did the king's men do next?
6. When Rahab went up to her roof to talk with the spies, what did she ask them?
7. What agreement did they come to?
8. How did the spies escape and where did they go?

Memory Verse for the Week...

Matthew 7:7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

Historical context

See Numbers 27, especially vv.12-23.

The Israelites have just emerged from their desert journey.

Moses, who was not permitted to enter the Promised Land, receives his final instructions from God before he passes away. God appoints Joshua as Moses' successor.

Some scriptures for contemplation...

1 Samuel 16:7

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Romans 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 3:21-24

But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Study Questions

1. Copy **Hebrews 11:31** below. Highlight the things you learn about Rahab from this verse.

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2. Joshua 2:1

"Then Joshua secretly sent two spies from Shittim." Why do you think he sent the spies secretly? Read the account of the original spy mission, when Moses sent 12 spies into the Promised Land to help you answer (Numbers 13:1 – 14:4).

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"So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there." Why do you think the Israelites went to a prostitute's house?

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Does it surprise you to see a prostitute being part of the story, and her profession recorded so overtly in scripture?

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3. Joshua 2:3

When the king's men came to Rahab, she didn't tell the truth about the whereabouts of the spies. What is your reaction? Does this bring to your mind any equivalent situation where it may be difficult to know right from wrong?

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5. In **Joshua 2:8-13**, Rahab talks to the spies.

Record:

what she says about God:

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what she says about her people:

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what you can take away from this:

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Where do you think her faith came from?

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6. In **Joshua 2:14-21**, the deal is struck!

The spies swear that Rahab and her family will be protected from the Israelite invasion if, upon their return, they find the scarlet cord she used to help them to escape, hanging from her window, and her family inside the house. Rahab is now asked to turn her declared faith into action, by leaving the cord at the window.

What risks does this entail?

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In what ways do you leave a “scarlet cord at your window”—make your faith visible—and at what risk? Under what circumstances, and for what reasons, do you keep quiet about your faith?

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7. Note any key verse or verses, and themes from your reading this week.

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More scriptures...

Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

James 2:17

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

1 John 4:18

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Matthew 5:15

Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

Personal Application