



## "Rahab's Journey from Sin to Salvation"

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### I. We All Have a \_\_\_\_\_ (Joshua 2:2-7)

Joshua 2:1 "And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, 'Go, view the land, especially Jericho.' And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there."

1 Corinthians 1:27-29 "But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God."

### II. Put Your Faith in God: Rahab's \_\_\_\_\_

#### A. \_\_\_\_\_ God

Joshua 2:8-9 "Before the men 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, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you.'"

#### 1. A \_\_\_\_\_ God (Joshua 2:10)

#### 2. A \_\_\_\_\_ God (Joshua 2:11)

#### 3. The \_\_\_\_\_ God (Deuteronomy 4:39, Exodus 15:14-16, Deuteronomy 2:25)

#### B. Seeking God's \_\_\_\_\_

Joshua 2:12-13 "Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a sure sign 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."

#### 1. Under God's \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Needing God as a Refuge

### III. Hearing God's Promise: You Will be \_\_\_\_\_

Joshua 2:14 "And the men said to her, 'Our life for yours even to death! If you do not tell this business of ours, then when the Lord gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you.'"

Joshua 2:15-16 "Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was built into the city wall, so that she lived in the wall. And she said to them, 'Go into the hills, or the pursuers will encounter you, and hide there three days until the pursuers have returned. Then afterward you may go your way.'"

### IV. God Will Give a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Covenant: The Scarlet Cord

Joshua 2:12b "... and give me a sure sign"

Joshua 2:17-18 "The men said to her, 'We will be guiltless with respect to this oath of yours that you have made us swear. Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and you shall gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father's household.'"

Joshua 2:19-21 "Then if anyone goes out of the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we shall be guiltless. But if a hand is laid on anyone who is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head. But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be guiltless with respect to your oath that you have made us swear.' And she said, 'According to your words, so be it.' Then she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window."

### V. The Spies Share the \_\_\_\_\_

Joshua 2:22 "They departed and went into the hills and remained there three days until the pursuers returned, and the pursuers searched all along the way and found nothing."

Joshua 2:23-24 "Then the two men returned. They came down from the hills and passed over and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and they told him all that had happened to them. And they said to Joshua, 'Truly the Lord has given all the land into our hands. And also, all the inhabitants of the land melt away because of us.'"

### VI. Rahab's Life is \_\_\_\_\_

Joshua 6:25 "But Rahab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho."

#### A. Rahab Becomes an \_\_\_\_\_ of the Messiah

Matthew 1:5-6a "and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king."

#### B. Rahab Becomes a Picture of \_\_\_\_\_

James 2:25-26 "And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead."

Hebrews 11:31 "By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies."



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## 1. Familiarize Yourself with the Passage and the Gospels

- a. Read Joshua 2:1-24
- b. Read the book of Joshua several times (get to know the big story of the book)
- c. Identify the plot, setting, characters, and viewpoint of the narrator
- d. Identify positive or negative comments about people in the story
- e. Identify the narrator's remarks about God
- f. Notice comparison of characters

## 2. Introduction to the Passage (Feel free to use this as a reference guide as you discuss the passage)

**a. Literary Context:** Joshua chapter 1 functioned as an introduction to the book describing all the preliminary work Joshua and Israel did to prepare themselves to conquer the promised land. Strength and courage is a major emphasis in God's message to Joshua (*Joshua 1: 6, 7, 9, 18*), because the previous generation lacked such courage which resulted in 40 years of exile in the desert (*Numbers 14:20-35*). Joshua chapter 2 begins with the movement of the story progressing as two spies are sent to spy out the land of Jericho. There are a couple of literary features that set up Israel's mission into the promised land. First, total victory is promised no matter the size of the enemy, "No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life." Second, Joshua is responsible for the people's success, "... you shall cause this people to inherit the land ..." (*Joshua 1:6*). Third, the book of the law is central to the success or failure of Israel once they are in the land. Four times, "be strong and courageous" is mentioned in chapter 1, stressing that godly courage is the kind of courage that obeys God's words at all costs. Different from before, the two spies Joshua sends into the land return with a positive report that God will give them the land.

**b. Historical Cultural Context:** Jericho sat in a strategic location along ancient trade routes.<sup>1</sup> Jericho was uniquely situated guarding the strategic passageway between the Jordan Valley and the central hill country to the west, which led to Jerusalem and Bethel.<sup>2</sup> In addition to this, Jericho was located in an ideal agricultural climate of the southern Jordan Valley.<sup>3</sup> These details point to the city's value during Joshua's era. Jericho also sat 825 feet below sea level making it the lowest city in the world, which allowed it to be supplied by a spring, which today is called Ain es Sultan.<sup>4</sup>

## 3. Questions About the Passage

- a. When Rahab answered those that came to her door, what are your thoughts about her answer? Do you approve or disapprove of her lying? How should we understand this part of the narrative? Is there ever an appropriate time when lying is an honorable action?
- b. How does the narrative paint Rahab in a God-fearing light? What did she do right (Consider *Hebrews 11:31* and *James 2:25*)?
- c. What strikes you about Rahab's confession in *Joshua 2:8-14*?

## 4. From the Passage to Life

- a. Do you struggle telling the truth in all situations? Consider these passages that emphasize honesty and integrity with our speech compared to God's nature (*Numbers 23:19; Psalm 119:163; Proverbs 12:19; Romans 9:1; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18*). How can you grow in this area?
- b. There seemed to be a fear among the Jericho people (*Joshua 2:9*). This probably fueled the courage of the spies (*Joshua 2:24*). What promises do Christians need to be reminded of so that we can be bold in our culture with the gospel?
- c. Rahab, a prostitute, demonstrated true faith in the God of Israel and in that she was delivered from the coming judgment. Is there anyone in your life who seems too far gone for you to begin to pray for their conversion?
- d. Even though Rahab lied, what does God's deliverance tell us about God's grace? How have you experienced God's grace despite your sin?

1 John H. Walton, ed. *Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel*, ZIBBC (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009), 17.

2 John H. Walton, Victor H. Matthew, and Mark W. Chavalas, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2000), 213.

3 Walton, ed. *Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel*, 17.

4 Walton, Matthew, and Chavalas, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary*, 213.