



PRAYER: God of our past, present, and potential, we give you praise that what we have been through, and who we have been, are not roadblocks to your purpose. You can and do choose to use us despite our past. Give us the courage and faith now to move forward by your grace, believing that no matter what changes occur around us, you still have a blessing ahead of us. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: *How has your past influenced you? Pick one and elaborate.* A high school regret, a memorable birthday, a mistake or failure you learned from, a non-family member who had an impact on your life, a proud childhood moment, a scary thing that happened to you, a stressful experience you lived through, a time you got in trouble at school, an important turning point in your life, how your birth order affected you, something you hated as a child, something you've always wanted to do, but haven't or the hardest choice you had to make.

MESSAGE RECAP: Jericho was an oasis town, built on a mound, and defended by walls and towers, it bars Israel's way into the Promised Land. The capture of Jericho was critical for Joshua's campaign. Cleverly, the spies stay with a prostitute—her name is Rahab. She hides them. She is acquainted with their history and testifies to her belief that God was giving them this land. She begs that she and her family be spared. The spies agree, and Rahab helps them escape. Her past was dubious, but it didn't prevent her from moving forward. Her example is one to be duplicated.

SCRIPTURE: Read Joshua 2:1 (NLT)

DISCUSSION:

1. **What was your biggest takeaway from the message?** What's one thing you learned? What questions came to mind as you listened to the message today? What points did you find most insightful? How did the message challenge you?
2. Rahab's past was challenging, yet she was courageous in her engagement of the Hebrew spies? What issues do you think she had to overcome to move forward in this way? Can you share one challenge from your past that has been, or continues to be a challenge to your forward momentum?
3. Why do you suppose Rahab felt safe harboring two spies? Why do you suppose the spies settled on staying at her house? Other than safety and an escape plan, what does she provide the spies?
4. What's your impression of Rahab in verses 8-16? Is she a traitor or a heroine? How might Rahab have learned the things she knew about God?



Welcome!

FORWARD: MOVING INTO CHAPTER 23

Today's Message: Moving Forward Despite Your Past

Dr. Lance D. Watson, Senior Pastor

5. Given her disreputable occupation and her obvious lie to the Jericho soldiers, what in this story builds Rahab's reputation as a woman of faith (see Hebrews 11:30-31; James 2:24-26)? How do you react to Rahab's joining the Israelites after the fall of Jericho (Joshua 6:22-25) and apparently becoming an ancestor of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:1-5)?
6. Rahab's actions spare her family. What can you do to help insure the salvation of your family? What "scarlet thread" (or life-line) will you hold out, and hold onto, for life? What great things has God done on your side" that might offer hope to others? What groups of people live "on the other side," whom you need to reach out in Christian love to include in your circle?

CHALLENGE: What is one "a-ha" moment you had in our group discussion today. Note it and write it down. If you applied your learning from this week's message, how would the next week be different for you?

SERVE: How is God calling us to live out this message this week? As individuals? As a group?

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at www.myspbc.org. You can also "find, follow and like" our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/myspbc. Turn on your notifications.

CELEBRATIONS: Take this time to share praise reports (e.g., answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAYER: Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

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Welcome!

FORWARD: MOVING INTO CHAPTER 23
Today's Message: Moving Forward Despite Your Past
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We Care!

A large, solid red heart is positioned behind the text 'We Care!', with the heart's center overlapping the letter 'e'.

NOTICE: PLEASE BE PATIENT AS WE GRADUALLY REOPEN OUR CAMPUSES IN THE SAFEST MANNER POSSIBLE. As a small group leader, we depend on you to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472
EMAIL: prayer@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)
EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177
EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org.

TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR:

CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial By Name Directory

EMAIL:

- Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams: Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org
- SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith: Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org
- Dreamchasers (20-29): Juan Shackelford: juan.shackelford@myspbc.org
- Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr.: lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org
- Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend: michelle.townsend@myspbc.org
- Encore (50-59): Jamie Duncan: Jamie.Duncan@myspbc.org
- Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman: maceo.freeman@myspbc.org
- Refiners (70+): Roscoe Jones: roscoe.jones@myspbc.org

FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177
EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org

TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)
EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000
EMAIL: emergencyassistance@myspbc.org.

GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study. Previous GPS Guides are available online at www.myspbc.org.