

LESSON 2: Rahab Hides the Spies

RECAP...

- What did this morning's message teach you about standing for your faith?

READ: Joshua 2:1-24; 6:17-25

THE STORY

- Joshua Sends out Spies
 - Two Israelite men were chosen to scout the land that God had promised them to understand the strength of those they would have to face.
 - The city of Jericho was a specific place of interest for the Israelites.
- Rahab Hides the Spies
 - When the two men arrived at Jericho, they stayed at Rahab's house. Rahab was a prostitute who hid the spies when local authorities came to find them.
- Rahab Recalls what God has Done
 - Although she was not an Israelite herself, the works of God were so great that even Rahab knew how the Lord had delivered his people and that anyone who stood against him would be laid waste.
- The Spies and Rahab Swear an Oath
 - Rahab aides in the spies' escape and asks for her family's life to be spared.
 - Rahab instructs the spies on how to avoid detection, and the spies instruct Rahab on how to preserve her family upon their return to capture the city.
 - The pursuers return with an unsuccessful attempt at finding the spies.
- The Oath Kept
 - When the Israelites go to Jericho to capture and burn it, Joshua evacuates Rahab and her family from the city.

MAIN IDEA

- What Rahab knew about God led her to worship him as God even though she was not an Israelite. She defies her own king and becomes a key part of God's plan and people advancing into the promised land.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Why did Joshua send spies to Jericho?
 - God has promised this land to the Israelites. Joshua sends out spies to see what enemies they need to conquer in order to take possession of it.
- When the spies get to Jericho they lodge with a woman named Rahab, a gentile who lived an unclean life. Why is this significant?
 - Answers may vary, please use discretion based on your group's age and maturity.
- How does Rahab respond to the king? Why is it okay for Rahab to lie in this situation?

- Rahab lies to the king about where the spies are. Although she says they left she is still hiding them in her house. Rahab's lie actually honors God because it advances His plan and thwarts the evil of the king. In doing this, she stakes her loyalty with God over her king.
- According to verses 9-11, what does Rahab know about God and how did this change her heart?
 - Rahab recounted the Lord delivering the Israelites which caused her heart to melt (vs. 11) and she declared God as, "the God of the heavens above and the earth beneath." She followed this fear and declaration with obedience by hiding the spies who belonged to God's people.
- What is the oath made between Rahab and the spies?
 - Rahab appeals to the spies for mercy for her household when they return, the spies agree so long as she shields them from capture and puts a scarlet cord in her window.
- What role does Rahab have in God accomplishing His purpose for the Israelites?
 - She hides the spies in her house
 - She directs them where to go so they are not captured
 - Later we find out she's in the lineage of Jesus!
- How did the spies know the land had been given to them? Who gave it to them?
 - The land was given to the Israelites by God. They knew it was given to them because the hearts of the people had melted at what GOD had done for them and through them.
- Read Joshua 6:22-25. What happens to Rahab?
 - Rahab and her household were saved from destruction when the Israelites returned to capture and burn the city. The oath between Rahab and the spies was kept.
- What does Rahab's story tell us about God's character?
 - Answers will vary.
- In Rahab's story, she remained faithful to God over her king. Who or what are we tempted to be more loyal to than God? How do you see this play out in your own life?
 - Answers will vary.

SO WHAT:

The knowledge Rahab had of the Lord changed her heart and ultimately changed her life, **has your knowledge of the gospel** (God the Creator sending His Son for your sin to live, die, and rise, for you) **changed your life?**