

Rahab And The Spies

Joshua 2

MEMORY VERSE

JOSHUA 2:24

“And they said to Joshua, ‘Truly the LORD has delivered all the land into our hands, for indeed all the inhabitants of the country are fainthearted because of us.’”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A telescope, magnifying glass, binoculars or other “sight enhancer” from home.

A large stuffed animal (or other large object).

As many red (or pink or purple) sheets of construction paper as the number of children in your class, scissors, markers or crayons.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

How Far?

Bring a telescope, magnifying glass, binoculars or other “sight enhancers” to class for the kids to look through. Put a very small note or picture on the wall and let the kids read it or look at it from the opposite wall. Allow each child to take a turn.

After everyone is finished use this activity for discussion. Ask them how far do they think that God can see? How well can He see? What does He need in order to see into our hearts? Then explain that today we will learn about how God can look into everyone’s heart from the story of a woman named Rahab.

LESSON TIME!

The children of Israel were being prepared by God to capture the land He had given to them to possess. Jericho would be the first city in Canaan that God would allow His children to capture. Jericho was a wicked city that had rejected God and His ways. Yet in the midst of this vast rejection there was one lone woman who turned from her sinful ways into the gracious love of a heavenly Father who would rescue her from the destruction which was to come.

This story is a picture for us. When we confess the Lord as our Savior and put our trust in Jesus' finished work on the cross we shall be saved. We will be looking at that more in today's lesson. We will also learn that God can look inside of our hearts at any time and know what is really there. We can't hide from Him. He sees us and loves us and wants us to come to Him. **God is able to look into our hearts.**

JOSHUA 2:1

Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there.

Joshua sent two spies out into the city of Jericho. God led these two men to stay at an innkeepers dwelling who was also a harlot. Although Rahab was leading a sinful lifestyle in rejection of God's ways, God led His servants to her to lead her to Himself. In this same way God uses us as lights in this world of darkness to draw others to His salvation.

JOSHUA 2:2-7

And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, "Behold, men have come here tonight from the children of Israel to search out the country."

So the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the country."

Then the woman took the two men and hid them. So she said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from."

"And it happened as the gate was being shut, when it was dark, that the men went out. Where the men went I do not know; pursue them quickly, for you may overtake them."

(But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof.)

Then the men pursued them by the road to the Jordan, to the fords. And as soon as those who pursued them had gone out, they shut the gate.

The people of Jericho discovered the two spies and sought to capture them. Because Rahab knew they were sent by God, she hid them in her home and lied about their whereabouts. Rahab was a pagan woman who didn't necessarily believe that lying was wrong. She was not schooled in the law of God nor His righteous ways.

Lying is wrong and God would have saved the two Israelites had Rahab told the truth. God is in control of every situation and is always able to rescue His children. It is sin to not tell the truth yet God looked into Rahab's heart and recognized that she had a desire to serve Him. **God is able to look into our hearts.**

JOSHUA 2:8-11

Now before they 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, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you.

"For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.

"And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. "

Rahab told the spies that the people of Jericho feared God. They had seen the supernatural evidences exhibited in the lives of the Israelites. What evidences of God can be seen through your life? Is God's love and mighty ways made manifest to the world around you through your life?

The Canaanites saw God's power and might and they feared Him yet they did not desire to know Him nor follow His ways. The city was full of pride believing it was invincible, yet it was rotten within, doomed for destruction. It isn't enough to recognize there is a God and that He is powerful but it is vital to turn from the wickedness of the flesh into the gracious love of a Savior.

Rahab acknowledged that the Lord God is above all. She made a confession of faith as she committed her soul to God (Romans 10:9,10). God looked down into her heart and saw her love and

desire for Him. Rahab was a sinner as each of us is, yet God forgave her and saved her from His judgment because of her faith in Him. When we confess the Lord as our Savior, trust in the blood of Jesus, and put our faith in Him alone we shall be saved. **God is able to look into our hearts.**

Hide and Seek

Bring a large stuffed animal (or other large object) to class. Next cover (or blindfold) your eyes and ask the children to hide the object. The aide can keep their eyes uncovered to assist the children. The children will quickly discover that it is very difficult to hide a large object in a sparsely furnished room.

Explain that it is just as difficult to hide something in our hearts from God. He can always look into our hearts and know our innermost thoughts and feelings.

JOSHUA 2:12,13

"Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token,

"and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death."

Rahab desired that her family would be saved because she loved them. As the spies were lowered out of the city and fled to hide in the mountains they revealed the only way she and her family could be saved.

JOSHUA 2:14-19

So the men answered her, "Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. And it shall

be, when the LORD has given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with you."

Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall; she dwelt on the wall.

And she said to them, "Get to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you. Hide there three days, until the pursuers have returned. Afterward you may go your way."

So the men said to her: "We will be blameless of this oath of yours which you have made us swear,

"unless, when we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father's household to your own home.

"So it shall be that whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we will be guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head if a hand is laid on him. "

Rahab immediately obeyed the command to mark her home with the scarlet cord. She believed by faith which was made manifest by her obedience. When we have faith in God it will be able to be seen outwardly by our obedience of His word (James 2:25).

Rahab and her family were only made safe as they abided in their home marked by the scarlet cord. In this same fashion we as Christians are made safe in the Day of Judgment only when we abide in Christ's precious blood. Our surety is found in Jesus

Christ, the Son of God, alone. As we dwell in His protective ways, living in submission to His Lordship, we can have confidence as we trust in Him to be our Savior.

JOSHUA 2:23,24

So the two men returned, descended from the mountain, and crossed over; and they came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all that had befallen them.

And they said to Joshua, "Truly the LORD has delivered all the land into our hands, for indeed all the inhabitants of the country are fainthearted because of us."

God confirmed His word to His people assuring them of His sovereignty and favor. God is in total control of every situation and has good for His children because He loves them. Just as God gave Jericho to the Israelites, so has He blessed us with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3). Believe Him and by faith possess what God has already given you.

Rahab's faith was accounted to her for righteousness. God even included her in the lineage of the Messiah. Believe in God and the salvation He has provided for you in Christ Jesus and then, as Rahab, let your faith in Him be made manifest by your obedience. **God is able to look into our hearts.**

What Does He See?

Fold a red (or pink or purple) sheet of construction paper in half and cut out a heart shape leaving part of the fold connected for a "hinge." Open the heart and have the children write down what they would like for the Lord to see when He looks into their heart.

Use this activity as a way to describe what kinds of things should be in our hearts. A good companion text in the Bible would be Galatians 5:22,23 - The fruit of the Spirit.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to keep our hearts pure before the Lord. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.