



2

God Uses Rahab

Key Theme

- God uses imperfect people to accomplish His perfect plans.

Key Passages

- Joshua 2:8–15; Hebrews 11:31; Matthew 1:5

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain why Rahab had faith in God.
- Describe how God used Rahab to accomplish His plan for His people.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

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Students will put the Memory Verse Cards in order and practice saying the verse individually and/or with a partner.



Activity 1: True or False

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Students will fill out the True or False Class Notes throughout the lesson.



Studying God's Word

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Rahab was a sinful woman who became an unlikely hero of the faith. Providentially, God granted her faith and used her to accomplish His plan for the Israelites. Rahab was rewarded and later was included in the genealogy of Jesus Christ. She is mentioned in Hebrews as a great woman of faith.



Activity 2: Rahab Review Toss

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Students will play a tossing game in teams to review the lesson material.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print and cut out the Memory Verse Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM for every 2–3 students. Print on cardstock if possible.
- If you want to do this as an individual activity, make one set per student.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Cards in envelopes or small plastic bags



TRUE OR FALSE

- Print one True or False Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- True or False Class Notes
- True or False Class Notes Answer Key



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print one Rahab's Home on the Wall Picture from the Resource DVD-ROM for use during the lesson.

- Rahab's Home on the Wall Picture
- Student Take Home Sheets



RAHAB REVIEW TOSS

- Print one set of Rahab Review Question Cards on cardstock from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Print one Rahab Review Answer Key from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Rahab Review Question Cards
- Rahab Review Answer Key
- Beanbag
- Masking tape



Memory Verse

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Before you begin to prepare for your lesson this week, please prepare your heart and mind by reading Joshua 2; Matthew 1:1–16 (noticing in verse 5 that Rahab is an ancestor of Jesus); Hebrews 11:31; and Acts 4:13–21.

The Israelites under Joshua's leadership were again on the move. God had promised Abraham, then Isaac, then Jacob that He would deliver the Promised Land to them. The generation of Moses's day—because of their lack of faith, disobedience, and idolatry—was denied entry into this Promised Land. Moses and the entire generation (except for Joshua and Caleb) then died. Joshua was now the leader of the younger generation, and God had demanded his complete obedience to Him and His Word in order to be a part of the fulfillment of His purpose (Joshua 1:6–9). As already demonstrated, the way to success would be far from easy. There were many nations to conquer, yet God would provide the means—the strength and courage needed for success—provided the Israelites remained obedient.

Now Joshua, as the new leader of the people, was sending two of his men on a spying mission to view the land, especially Jericho (Joshua 2:1).

The two spies entered Jericho and found lodging with Rahab, the prostitute. Although this may seem odd at first glance, upon further consideration, Rahab's home on the wall could offer a safer and inconspicuous haven for the men. However, in God's divine providence, the men were found out. When Rahab realized who they were, she was introduced firsthand to the God of Israel she had heard of and feared (Joshua 2:10–11). In the face of this providential visit by two of God's people, Rahab demonstrated her faith and offered protection to the spies (Joshua 2:3–6, 2:15–16). Her faith saved her family from destruction (Joshua 6:17). And her faith, by God's amazing grace, put her in the Messianic line (Matthew 1:5).

The question we might ask is how would this woman, this harlot, know about the God of Israel? She was well aware—as apparently all in Jericho were—that Israel was a nation whose God had delivered His people in a dramatic, miraculous fashion from Egypt. This God had also provided victory for His people over the most notorious kings on the other side of the Jordan, including King Og of Bashan (Deuteronomy 3:4). This was no small feat, and Rahab had come to worship this God of Israel.

Rahab was willing to stake her life and her family members' lives on the ability of God to defeat her own people and yet deliver her! She misled the pursuers who were sent by the King of Jericho to apprehend the spies, and she concealed the spies until she helped them escape back to Israel (Joshua 2:2–6, 2:15–16). Rahab acted upon her belief that the God of Israel would carry out His promises to give the land to His people, and by doing so, she showed an utter dependence upon Him. This faith was remarkable enough to be held up to all future believers as an example of faith (Hebrews 11:31)!

The fact that God would bring to saving faith and use a Gentile woman to fulfill His purpose foreshadowed His intention to break “down the middle wall of separation” (Ephesians 2:14) between Jew and Gentile in Christ, and to make Gentiles “fellow heirs, of the same body” with Jews in Christ (Ephesians 3:6). This grand scheme of Christ's salvation of sinners from every nation was in the background when God used Rahab to help deliver Israel's spies in return for the protection of her and her family from the ultimate fall of Jericho (Joshua 6:25).

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Many raise the question as to whether God blessed Rahab's lie to the king's men when they came for the Israelite spies. If so, when is it OK to lie? Or, is it ever right to lie? No. Lying is sin against a holy, perfect God (Proverbs 12:22). However, God frequently uses the sinful acts of both the righteous and unrighteous to execute His purposes.

God wanted to show His amazing grace and sovereignty in this situation. Rahab was a deliberate sinner, and in likelihood an idolater, given that she lived an immoral life in a city of an idolatrous nation. Her knowledge of the true God was no doubt incomplete, being based upon what was discussed among her people, not upon a principled or careful instruction from Scripture. It was from this incomplete knowledge of God that she chose to lie on behalf of the spies. And in God's mercy, He overlooked the sin, acknowledged her faith, and redeemed the situation.

To focus on the lie instead of the reward that our holy, sovereign, merciful God granted her does not give God the glory due His name. One lesson to be learned from Rahab is not about Rahab at all but about God—how He did not judge her nor reward her according

to her sin but saved her by grace through the faith He gave to her as a precious gift (Ephesians 2:8), just as He does for all of His people.

Rahab's imperfect actions of faith and courage resulted not only in her salvation from destruction but also in a place in history as an ancestor of Jesus, a place in God's providential plan that resulted in Jesus's birth and saving mission (Matthew 1:5). If we wonder why God would use a woman like Rahab to fulfill His purposes, perhaps we have not fully faced the effect our own sin has against a holy God. Only then can we recognize the greatness of God's mercy in offering forgiveness to us through Jesus's death and Resurrection.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Dear Heavenly Father, you dwell enthroned in heaven above and on earth beneath. How marvelous is your Word, Lord. You have revealed your sovereignty and your mercy in the passages we are studying this week. Please help me understand your truths and at the same time present them in a way my students will understand. May the beauty of this account of Rahab—a harlot who believed—give hope, courage, and strength to my students. Holy Spirit, move among us in such a way that we all become excited about the ways an almighty God can use us to accomplish His perfect plan.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will put Memory Verse Cards in order and recite the verses together and/or to each other. They may work individually or in teams.

Use this time at the beginning of class to review the memory verse. We have provided a template on the Resource DVD-ROM you can use to make Memory Verse Cards to be put in order each week. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



True or False

MATERIALS

- True or False Class Notes
- True or False Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Before we get started with our lesson, I am going to give each of you a copy of the True or False Class Notes. As we go through the lesson, we will find the right answers to each of these questions. *Pass out the sheets and pencils.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

When we finish completing our true or false statements and our lesson, we will learn some important truths about Rahab and the Lord. Rahab was an unlikely hero used by God.

As the lesson progresses, discuss each statement and why it is true or false. If a statement is false, encourage the students to tell you why or how to make it true.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Please turn in your Bibles to Joshua in the Old Testament. While you're turning there, let me remind you that Joshua took Moses's place as the new leader of the Israelites after Moses died.

- ? And, as we discussed in our last lesson, God required obedience from Joshua. What would God give him in return for that obedience? The

► Use the History of Israel Poster included with your teacher kit to show your class where the biblical accounts you study chronologically fit into this timeline.

► Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we encourage you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.

memory verse will give you a hint. *God promised to give him strength and courage so he would be able to accomplish the great plans God had for him.*

Right! What God wanted Joshua to do wasn't going to be easy. There were enemies that had to be overcome—large cities full of powerful, strong people. God would provide all the Israelites needed as long as they stayed obedient. It was time for Joshua to take God's people to the Promised Land.

? **Who would be with Joshua giving him the strength and courage to continue? What does our memory verse tell us?** *The Lord would be with him as he moved into the land of Canaan.*

Before Joshua would lead the people of Israel across the River Jordan and into the Promised Land, he sent his men in to spy out the land and the city of Jericho to see what it was like. The spies stayed with Rahab, a harlot. A harlot was a woman who did not obey God's command to have only one husband at a time. She led a sinful life.

Show Rahab's Home on the Wall Picture from the Resource DVD-ROM. Rahab's house was built up against the wall of Jericho. Her home offered a safe place for the spies to hide. Even though this seemed like a great hiding place, the king of Jericho found out where they were. He sent his men to find the spies at her house. Rahab protected the men by hiding them on her roof! Our lesson is about this woman, Rahab. She lived in Jericho, a city where the people hated God and worshipped false gods.

Remember, the spies were on Rahab's roof. The king's men came right to Rahab's house looking for the spies. Rahab told the king's men that the spies were not with her, but had left the city. The king's men believed her and left. Why would Rahab protect these men? She lived in a pagan city. The people hated God and worshipped false gods.

Listen and follow along as I read Joshua 2:8–11 to see if you can figure out why Rahab protected the Israelite spies. *Read the passage aloud.*

Joshua 2:8–11

EXAMINE THE WORD

Let's look closely at the passage together to check our true or false statements.

Observe the Text

► As you proceed through the lesson, re-read the verses from the text so the children can determine the answer for themselves.

? **Remember, Rahab was talking to the spies. Where were they?** *Joshua 2:8. On the roof.*

? **Yes, the spies were on her roof! What did Rahab tell the spies about the Lord?** *Joshua 2:9. The Lord has given you the land.*

? **What land was Rahab talking about—the land Moses and then Joshua were leading the people to?** *Allow discussion. The Promised Land.*

- ? OK. Look at #1 on your class notes. Is it true or false? *Allow someone to read #1 on the class notes. True. Have the children circle true for #1.*
- ? So, Rahab knew the Lord of the Israelites! She had heard about something the Lord had done. What was it? *Joshua 2:10. She had heard how God dried up the water of the Red Sea.*
- ? Does anyone know why God dried up the water of the Red Sea? It had something to do with Moses and the Israelites. It was called the Exodus. *So the Israelites could cross the sea and escape from the Egyptian army.*

The Lord of the Israelites was famous throughout the land because He had led the people out of Egypt. He saved them by parting the sea, letting them cross safely, and then drowning the Egyptian army in the sea. People took notice and remembered hearing about this wonderful God.

- ? What did Rahab believe about the Lord God? Look at Joshua 2:11. *She believed the Lord God was God in heaven above and on earth beneath.*
- ? So, is #2 on your class notes true or false according to what we just read? *Allow someone to read #2 on the class notes. True. Have the children circle true for #2.*

Discover the Truth

From those few important verses, we know that Rahab knew who God was. She knew because she had heard what God had done for His people. She knew God had saved them from the Pharaoh in Egypt, had parted the Red Sea to allow them escape during the Exodus, and had allowed them many victories over their enemies before they even reached Jericho. Rahab realized the God of the Israelites was the true God. He was the only God in heaven above and on earth beneath—the one true God!

There is a verse in the New Testament that talks about Rahab. It's in Hebrews 11:31. Turn there in your Bibles. *Have someone read Hebrews 11:31 or read it to them.*

- ? According to this verse, Rahab had something special. And it was what saved her from dying when her city was destroyed. What did Rahab have? *Hebrews 11:31. She had faith.*

Yes. Rahab had faith—faith in God. She had heard of the Lord of the Israelites and trusted Him. She showed her faith by hiding and helping the spies and believing God would do what He said He would do.

- ? So, look at #3 on your sheet. Is it true or false? *Allow someone to read #3 on the class notes. True. Have the children circle true for #3.*



READ THE WORD

Let's read about what happened next. Rahab was about to ask the spies for something. *Read Joshua 2:12–15 aloud.*

Hebrews 11:31

Joshua 2:12–15

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

? What did Rahab ask for? What did she want from the spies? *Joshua 2:12–13.*
She asked the spies to spare her and her family.

? So, look at #4 on your sheet. Is it true or false? *Allow someone to read #4 on the class notes. True. Have the children circle true for #4.*

Rahab did ask the spies for protection. She knew the city of Jericho was going to be destroyed along with all the people. She asked that she and her family might live.

? How did the spies respond? What would they do for her? Look in *Joshua 2:14.* *Re-read the verse if necessary. They would save her life if she saved theirs. They would deal kindly with her and her family.*

? So how did the spies escape? Look in *Joshua 2:15.* *Re-read the verse if necessary. Rahab let them down with a rope from her window.*

? Now, look at #5 on your sheet. Is it true or false? *Allow someone to read #5 on the class notes. False. Have the children circle false for #5.*

? Do you think Rahab was saved like the spies said? *Allow discussion.*

Discover the Truth

Yes. The Bible tells us Rahab was saved because she knew and believed in the one true God. And God used Rahab to accomplish His plan. She was from another city, had worshipped false gods, and had not loved the God of the Israelites. Yet God gave Rahab faith. And because of her faith, she saved the spies. Rahab was far from perfect, yet God used her. God does use imperfect people to make His perfect plans happen.

? Now turn to Matthew chapter 1 in the New Testament. Do you have a heading there before the chapter starts? What does it say? *If the students don't have a heading, show them your Bible. The heading should read "The genealogy of Christ."*

? This is the genealogy of Jesus Christ. Does anyone know what a genealogy is? *Allow discussion. Review the definition listed.*

? Matthew chapter 1 lists Jesus's family. Someone look at Matthew 1:5 for me. Whose name is listed as part of Jesus's family? Someone we have been talking about. *Rahab.*

Rahab was a part of Jesus's family! God used her in a very special way to accomplish His perfect plan, even though she was a sinner. Rahab was saved by faith and used by God to protect the Israelite spies. Because of her faith in God, Rahab was included in Jesus's family. She was an ancestor of King David! *Refer to the Seven C's Timeline.*

? Now, look at #6 on your sheet. Is it true or false? *Allow someone to read #6 on the class notes. True. Have the children circle true for #6.*



Matthew 1:5

Genealogy:
a family tree.
It shows one's
family—
parents,
grandparents,
great
grandparents,
and so on.



Rahab Review Toss

MATERIALS

- Rahab Review Question Cards
- Rahab Review Answer Key
- Beanbag
- Masking tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Students will divide into small teams. They will toss a beanbag onto a lesson question card taped to the floor. Pull the question from the floor, allow students to answer it, and award the team with the number of points listed on the question card.

See more detailed instructions for this game on the Rahab Review Question Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM.

? Is everyone ready for a fun review of today's lesson? *Yes!*

Your team will have a good chance of winning if you were paying attention during the lesson. Try to work together as a team to get the best answer.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

In many ways, Rahab was an ordinary person, just like us! God uses people like Rahab, and like us, to accomplish His perfect plans. You did a great job playing this review game. God loves it when we study His Word!



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Today we learned about a woman in God's Word named Rahab. She had a sinful background as a harlot, and she lived in the unbelieving city of Jericho. She was NOT an Israelite.

God gave Rahab faith in Him and opened her heart to His truth. Rahab heard about the Lord and the great things He had done. She came to believe that He was the one true God. We know that she had become a believer in God because of what she said and did when she helped the Israelite spies. In the New Testament, the name of Rahab is mentioned with honor in the book of Hebrews. She is recognized as a woman of great faith. We also discovered that Rahab's name is mentioned in the book of Matthew. She was included as part of Jesus's family!

In God's perfect plan, Rahab was saved by faith and used by God to protect the Israelite spies so they could conquer the Promised Land. And she ended up being a part of Jesus's family—one of His ancestors!

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Rahab was a sinner. Yet God showed His love, mercy, forgiveness, and grace to her. God saved her by faith. God used Rahab to help the Israelites get to the Promised Land. And He even included her in Jesus's family. Rahab was used by God to accomplish His plans.

Like Rahab, we are all sinners. But God, in His mercy, will forgive our sins if we turn to Him in repentance and faith. When we have faith—believing in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior—then God can use us to fulfill His purposes and do His work, just as He used Rahab.

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.

? With that in mind, look at #7 on your class notes. Is it **true or false?** *Allow someone to read #7 on the class notes. True. Have the children circle true for #7.*



MEMORY VERSE

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God for who He is—our merciful Father who forgives our sins.
- Thank God for giving us the example of Rahab in the Bible, so that we can trust Him to do great things through us, too.
- Ask God to give each student the desire to believe and trust God enough to live their lives in obedience to His Word.