

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

12

RAHAB WELCOMES SPIES

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

www.missionarlington.org

No part of this curriculum may be republished without permission.
Please feel free to copy for classroom use.

 *Mission*[®]
Arlington † Metroplex
Taking church to the people



RAHAB WELCOMES SPIES

Memory Verse:

What I'm about to tell you is true. Anyone who hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life. He will not be found guilty. He has crossed over from death to life. John 5:24 (NirV)

Lesson Goals:

#1 - Understand how ordinary Rahab was

#2 - Discover what faith led Rahab to do

#3 - Desire to let God do extraordinary things in the life of the ordinary student

Audience:

Young, un-churched learners

Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

Scripture to Study:

Joshua 2, 6

Matthew 1

Hebrews 11:31

James 2:14-26



12

RAHAB WELCOMES SPIES

Joshua 2, 6

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

Our heroine: Rahab

Her Heroic Feat: Hears about God and believes

Hearing about God and believing may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

After Moses' death, Joshua became leader of the people of Israel. The first thing he did was to send spies into the Promised Land. He didn't send twelve, like Moses did forty years earlier. Joshua sent two spies. And he didn't send them in to explore the land in hopes of taking it, instead they were sent to see where would be the best place to enter the land.* You see, after wandering in the desert for forty years, the people were ready to enter this land God had promised.

So the spies went to a city called Jericho. They stayed at Rahab's house. Rahab was a woman with a bad reputation, but she helped the spies.

The king heard about the spies, so he sent messengers to Rahab's house. The messengers were supposed to take the men back to the palace, but Rahab had hidden them. She even told the messengers that the spies had already left the city and she sent them away to search for the men. Rahab had actually hidden the men on her roof. She hid them under some stalks of flax that she had piled up on her roof.

When the king's messengers went away, Rahab went up on her roof. She told the spies, "I know that God has given you the land. We're all afraid. Everyone in the country feels hopeless." (Joshua 2:9 MSG) Rahab also told the spies that they had heard how God dried up the Red Sea when they were leaving Egypt. That's pretty amazing. Do you know why? Think a minute. When did Moses send in the twelve spies? (Right after they left Egypt) Did they believe and take the land then? (No.) How long did they wander in the desert? (40 years) The people of Jericho heard about something God did forty years before and they were still terrified! Rahab said, "No wonder our hearts have melted in fear! No one has the courage to fight after hearing such things. For the LORD your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below." (Joshua 2:11 NLT)

Then Rahab asked a favor of the two spies. She had been kind to them so she asked that they save her and her family when they returned to destroy Jericho. The men agreed, as long as she didn't tell anyone what they were doing. And because Rahab's house was part of the city wall, she let them down with a red rope through her window. She told them to go into the hills, away from the men of Jericho who were searching for them. As they were leaving, the spies asked her to tie that same bright, red rope in the window as a sign of their

promises to one another. As soon as the men were safely away, Rahab tied the bright, red, rope to her window.

When the spies returned, they went to Joshua and reported, "'The LORD has given us the whole land,' they said, 'for all the people in the land are terrified of us.'" (Joshua 2:24 NLT) Such a different response from the last time spies were sent in!

Off the people of Israel went, crossing the Jordan River and up to the very gates of the city of Jericho. That was when God told Joshua, "I have handed Jericho over to you." (Joshua 6:2a NIV) Then God instructed Joshua to have the army march around the city for six days. Priests with trumpets would lead them. On the seventh day, they were to march around the city seven times without saying a word, but with trumpets blaring. Joshua instructed the people and the people obeyed.

Can you imagine what the people of Jericho were thinking? They heard the trumpets, they heard the marching of the army as the army circled their city every day and then the army went home! The people of Jericho were terrified.

And then, on the seventh day, the army circled the city seven times. Joshua gave the command for the entire army to shout. And when they all shouted, the walls of the city just fell down! The people of Israel obeyed God and the walls fell. The army of Israel took the city. Everything was destroyed except for Rahab and her family. The spies had kept their promise to her.

Why was this woman with the bad reputation, and her family, the only ones spared? Rahab had heard about God just like everyone else in Jericho had. The difference is that Rahab believed what she heard and acted on it - she hid the spies and helped them. God honored Rahab for her faith.

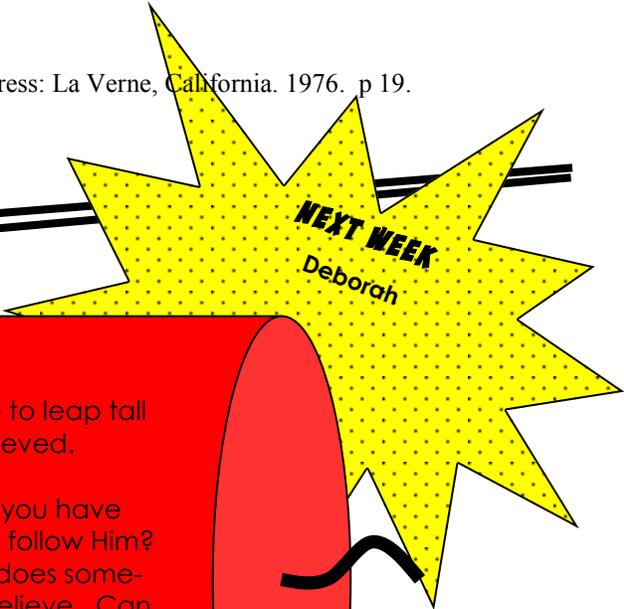
*McGee, J. Vernon, *Joshua and Judges*. Thru the Bible Books. El Camino Press: La Verne, California. 1976. p 19.

YOU CAN BE A HERO, TOO!

When you live a life of faith in Jesus Christ, you don't have to leap tall buildings to be a hero. Rahab heard about God and believed.

What have you heard about God? Do you believe what you have heard? Have you taken God at His word and decided to follow Him? Have you begun acting on what you believe? True faith does something. Your life should be a picture of what you say you believe. Can others around you tell that you believe in God?

If you have any questions, let's talk.



NEXT WEEK
Deborah

PRE-SCHOOL!

LESSON

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

Our hero: Rahab

Her Heroic Feat: Hears about God and believes

Hearing about God and believing may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

After Moses' death, Joshua became leader of the people of Israel. The first thing he did was to send spies into the Promised Land. The spies went to a city called Jericho. They stayed at Rahab's house. The king heard about the spies, so he sent messengers to Rahab's house. The messengers were supposed to take the men back to the palace, but Rahab had hidden them on her roof. She even told the messengers that the spies had already left the city and she sent them away to search for the men.

Then, Rahab went up on her roof. She told the spies, "I know that God has given you the land. We're all afraid. Everyone in the country feels hopeless." (Joshua 2:9 MSG) The people of Jericho heard about how God was taking care of His people. Rahab said, "No one has the courage to fight after hearing such things. For the LORD your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below." (Joshua 2:11 NLT)

Then Rahab asked the two spies to save her and her family when they returned to destroy Jericho. The men agreed. And because Rahab's house was part of the city wall, she let them down with a red rope through her window.

When the spies returned, they went to Joshua and reported, "'The LORD has given us the whole land,' they said, 'for all the people in the land are terrified of us.'" (Joshua 2:24 NLT)

So off the people of Israel went, crossing the Jordan River and up to the very gates of the city of Jericho. That was when God told Joshua, "Jericho is yours." Then God told Joshua to have the army march around the city for six days. Priests with trumpets would lead them. On the seventh day, they were to march around the city seven times without saying a word, but blowing their trumpets. Joshua told the people and the people obeyed. They marched around the city for six days. And then, on the seventh day, the army circled the city seven times. Joshua gave the command for the entire army to shout. And when they all shouted, the walls of the city just fell down! The people obeyed God and the walls fell.

ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Make memory verse banners hung from trumpets. Use paper towel tubes and roll construction paper into cones for a trumpet. Hang the memory verse banner from the trumpet. Be creative!
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing "Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho," "I Will," "Trust and Obey" or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Re-enact the story with building blocks.
- **For more training:** Review the memory verse in light of the lesson on Rahab. Rahab heard the reports about the God of Israel and believed. Also look up the following verses and discuss them: Romans 10:13-15, Ephesians 1:13, and 1 Thessalonians 2:13.
- **For more training:** Rahab and her family were the only ones spared when Jericho was invaded. That sounds awfully cruel, but let's look at what the Bible says. Look at Genesis 15. God had promised this land to Abraham, but what about his descendants? (see v 16) What does that say about God's patience with the people who lived in the promised land? He would be patient for 400 years more. At the end of those 400 years, what happened when the people didn't trust God to give them the land? They wandered for 40 years, but what did that mean for the people of Canaan, the promised land? They got an extra 40 years after hearing about God to turn from their sin to Him. Did they? Only Rahab! So we can't even begin to blame God for cruelty when we see His patience! Just as the day finally came for the people of Israel to take the land and judgment to come upon the people of that land, Jesus will return one day to judge the world. Many people will think it is cruel that some people will go to heaven and others to hell. Now look at 2 Peter 3:3-15a. What can you say about God? Have you made your decision?*

What I'm about
to tell you
is true. Anyone
who **HEARS** my word
and **BELIEVES**
him who sent me
has eternal life.
John 5:24a

What I'm about to tell you
is true. Anyone
who **HEARS** my word
and **BELIEVES**
him who sent me
has eternal life.
He will not be found guilty.
He has crossed over
from death to life.
John 5:24

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

HERO IN TRAINING

Rahab Welcomes Spies

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

www.missionarlington.org

No part of this curriculum may be republished without permission.
Please feel free to copy for classroom use.

 **Mission**[®]
Arlington † Metroplex
Taking church to the people

HERO TRAINING!

Scripture: Joshua 2, 6

Memory verse:

What I'm about to tell you is true. Anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He will not be found guilty. He has crossed over from death to life. John 5:24 (NirV)

Our Heroine: _____

What did our heroine do that was so heroic? _____

What can you do to be a **Hero of the Faith**? _____



What power do Heroes of the Faith possess?

Do you have the power? _____

Read Hebrews 11:30-31. What do you learn about Rahab? _____

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Write the letter in the space that corresponds with
the number under that space.

2	23	1	4	17	3	22	11	6	26	13	7	21	10	9	20	18	12	25	14	19	5	16	8	24	15
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

16 11 2 14 6 21 2 23 9 19 14 14 9 14 17 7 7 24 9 19 6 25 14 12 19 17

2 10 24 9 10 17 16 11 9 11 17 2 12 25 21 24 16 9 12 4 2 10 4 23 17 7 6 17 5 17 25

11 6 21 16 11 9 25 17 10 14 21 17 11 2 25 17 14 17 12 10 2 7 7 6 3 17

11 17 16 6 7 7 10 9 14 23 17 3 9 19 10 4 22 19 6 7 14 24

11 17 11 2 25 1 12 9 25 25 17 4 9 5 17 12 3 12 9 21 4 17 2 14 11 14 9 7 6 3 17

----- 5 : 2 4
26 9 11 10

WORD

SEARCH!

B D C N F F E P M N G H O
S R J O S H U A L E A D S
D G N R A N A C V E E S V
N B W A L L S F A L L J O
U W D H Y A J P S E S O M
O E P A C S E W O D N I W
R C I B W S R S T S E H E
A E T H L L I E E E N U D
H D R I O E C H S D D A J
C S O D S R H S I L N C V
R X P E O R O T M A A H I
A R E S P D E P O R D E R
M T R D H S O G R R C S N
F N O I T W O S P I E S C
W P R O M I S E D L A N D

- Joshua leads
- Jericho
- two spies
- Rahab hides
- promise to save
- window escape
- red rope
- march around
- walls fall

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Write the letter in the space that corresponds with
the number under that space.

2	23	1	4	17	3	22	11	6	26	13	7	21	10	9	20	18	12	25	14	19	5	16	8	24	15
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

W H A I I ' M A B O U I I O I E L L Y O U I S I R U E .

16 11 2 14 6 21 2 23 9 19 14 14 9 14 17 7 7 24 9 19 6 25 14 12 19 17

A N Y O N E W H O H E A R S M Y W O R D A N D B E L I E V E S

2 10 24 9 10 17 16 11 9 11 17 2 12 25 21 24 16 9 12 4 2 10 4 23 17 7 6 17 5 17 25

H I M W H O S E N I M E H A S E I E R N A L L I F E .

11 6 21 16 11 9 25 17 10 14 21 17 11 2 25 17 14 17 12 10 2 7 7 6 3 17

H E W I L L N O I B E F O U N D G U I L I Y .

11 17 16 6 7 7 10 9 14 23 17 3 9 19 10 4 22 19 6 7 14 24

H E H A S C R O S S E D O V E R F R O M D E A I H I O L I F E .

11 17 11 2 25 1 12 9 25 25 17 4 9 5 17 12 3 12 9 21 4 17 2 14 11 14 9 7 6 3 17

J O H N 5 : 2 4

26 9 11 10

WORD

SEARCH!

Answer Page



- Joshua leads
- Jericho
- two spies
- Rahab hides
- promise to save
- window escape
- red rope
- march around
- walls fall