

Joshua 1

FIRST DAY: Introduction

What is faith? Simply put, it is believing all that the Bible reveals about who God is and what He has done. True faith will always be demonstrated in our attitudes, actions, and life choices. Rahab was a Gentile who exhibited faith. This remarkable woman was outside the covenant of Israel, condemned by her occupation, and marked for destruction because of her citizenship in Jericho. Yet because of her faith, she was not only saved and brought into God's covenant, but she was brought into the very lineage of Jesus the Messiah (Matthew 1:5) and commemorated for her faith (Hebrews 11:31).

From Rahab's story, we see an example of the faith God desires all believers to hold, value, and follow.

Ask God to strengthen your faith.

SECOND DAY: Read Joshua 2:1–7

1. Before Joshua led the people into the Promised Land of Canaan, what did he do? Joshua 2:1a
 - a. Compare and contrast the mission in Numbers 13:1–2, 16–20 with this mission. What do you see?

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2. What did the spies do? Joshua 2:1b
 - a. Although Rahab was a *harlot*, scholars say her house probably also served as an inn for travelers. Why would this have been a strategic place for the spies to stay?

3. According to Joshua 2:2, the *king of Jericho* was told that two Israelite men had come *to search out the country*. Therefore, what did the *king* do? Joshua 2:3
 - a. From Joshua 2:4–5 note and comment on Rahab’s flawed response.
 - (1) What do you think the intention of her heart was in doing this?

 - b. Contrary to what Rahab said, what had she actually done? Joshua 2:6

(1) From Joshua 2:7 observe how her response saved the spies.

4. How did Rahab's actions put her at great risk?

5. From this account, comment on how God was directing the spies.

6. What do you find most intriguing about this narrative?

THIRD DAY: Read Joshua 2:8–14

1. While the Israelite spies lay in hiding, Rahab *came up to them on the roof* to speak to them (Joshua 2:8). According to Joshua 2:9, what three things did she *know*?
 - a.

 - b.

 - c.

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- (1) What do you find most profound about these statements?

 - (2) How did her knowledge move her into action?

2. Use Joshua 2:10 to explain how Rahab had come to *know* these things.
 - a. From Joshua 2:11a remark on the effect this news had on the Canaanites.
 - (1) God's work on Israel's behalf made an impression on the Canaanites. Share a time God's work on your behalf made an impression on those around you.

3. Record Rahab's declaration concerning God from Joshua 2:11b.

- a. How does this declaration showcase Rahab's faith?
4. From Joshua 2:12–13, comment on what you find compelling about Rahab's request.
 5. Summarize the conditions of the spies' covenant with her. Joshua 2:14
 6. What stands out most to you about Rahab's faith?

FOURTH DAY: Read Joshua 2:15–21

1. After speaking with the spies, Rahab helped them to escape. From Joshua 2:15–16, record and remark on:
 - a. Rahab's actions (verse 15)
 - b. Rahab's advice (verse 16)

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2. Before their escape, the spies gave Rahab clear stipulations for this *oath* (Joshua 2:17). What was she to do? Joshua 2:18a
 - a. Who was she to *bring* into her *home*? Joshua 2:18b

3. According to Joshua 2:19, when the Israelites invaded Jericho, what would happen:
 - a. To those *outside* the house

 - b. To those *in the house*
 - (1) Rahab was to use the *scarlet cord* as a *token* of her covenant with the spies in order to protect the lives of her family. Compare this with the token described in Exodus 12:21–23, 27 and share your thoughts.

4. The spies made it clear to Rahab that if she told anyone their *business*, they would be *free* from their *oath* (Joshua 2:20). Compare her response in Joshua 2:21a with Mary's response to Gabriel in Luke 1:38. What do you see?

5. Wiersbe says, *It's important to note that Rahab and her family were saved by faith in the God of Israel and not by faith in the rope hanging out the window. The fact that she hung the rope from the window was proof that she had faith, just as the blood of the slain lamb put on the doorposts in Egypt proved that the Jews believed God's Word.*² What does this communicate to you about the work of faith? See James 2:17.

FIFTH DAY: Read Joshua 2:22–24

1. The spies escaped Jericho and made their way back to Joshua. Using Joshua 2:22–23, document their dramatic escape.
 - a. How do you see God's providential care in their testimony?

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(1) Share a testimony from your life of God’s providential care.

b. Recall Rahab’s advice to the spies in Joshua 2:16. What do their actions demonstrate?

2. From Joshua 2:24 comment on the spies’ report concerning:

a. The *LORD*

b. The *inhabitants of the country*

(1) Contrast this with the spies’ report from the previous generation in Numbers 13:31–33. What do you see?

3. Commentators note that perhaps one of God's purposes for the spies' mission was to save Rahab and her family. How does this minister to you? See 2 Peter 3:9.

- a. With this in mind, take a moment to pray for an unsaved friend or loved one.

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. Although Joshua 2 documented the visit of the Israelite spies to Jericho, Rahab the harlot was the key figure in this chapter. Rahab went on to play an important role in Israel's history. She was chosen by God to be part of the lineage of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, and was listed specifically in the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1:5. How does this speak to you concerning:

- a. The people whom God uses

- b. The essential trait of those God uses (see Hebrews 6:12)

