

RAHAB

During this People of Faith series, we have been taking a look back over hundreds of years, seeing God in relationship with a people He called out to be His own, working in and through them to bring about His plan and purpose (Deuteronomy 7:6). We have seen a promise made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their seed concerning a land that was chosen by God and that would one day be theirs.

Now, hundreds of years after this promise was initially made to Abraham, we find God's people standing at the door of this promised land. Would they go in and possess the land? They had been at this juncture once before several years earlier at Kadesh-barnea grappling with the same question. At Kadesh-barnea they had refused to believe God and enter in so God sent them back into the wilderness to spend forty long years in homeless wanderings (Numbers 13-14).

Here they are again, ready now to take their first steps into the land, ready to take possession by way of crossing the Jordan River into Jericho. In the next two study lessons we will see God at work, His wonderful provision and how those walking into the land did so by faith.

1. Let's look at some passages to get a historical picture of where God's people are and where they are headed. (Locate the Jordan River and Jericho on a map.)
Read the following verses and briefly sum up the situation:
Numbers 27:12-23

Numbers 33:50-53

Deuteronomy 18:9-14

Deuteronomy 34:1-9

Joshua 1:1-3.

Read through Joshua 2 several times.

Re-read Joshua 2:1-7.

2. The strategy of spying out the land before an invasion is a reasonable military move. As the two spies execute Joshua's plan, they find themselves in the home of Rahab.
 - a. What do we know about Rahab at this point?

 - b. From the following verses, what more do we learn about the common practices and beliefs in Jericho?
Deuteronomy 18:9-14

Leviticus 18:20-25

3. We are not told how the spies ended up in a prostitute's house but what would be some possibilities, at least in your mind, of how the spies found themselves under her "flax?"

4. Think about Rahab's situation. From verses 1-7 list all of the possible dangers that could have been a concern to Rahab.

Read Joshua 2:8-14.

5. In verses 1-7 we see Rahab's outward circumstances. We find out more about her as we study verses 8-11 and gain insight into what she has been thinking. From her roof-top discourse, make a list of the truths she expresses.

6. Is there any indication that Rahab has faith in Israel's God? What evidence do you see?

7. As you read Numbers 14:10-11 you drop in on a conversation that God is having with the Israelites several years earlier at Kadesh-barnea. What is remarkable about Rahab's response to what she has seen and heard compared to the response of many of God's own people as revealed in this Numbers passage?

8. What would make Rahab an unlikely candidate to be brought into God's household?

By what means did she enter in? (Also see Deuteronomy 4:28-29, Hebrews 11:6)

9. a. We may be tempted to look down on Rahab as one of God's precious children. Are we better qualified? Explain. Read Ephesians 2:1-9.

b. By what means do we enter into God's family? Read John 1:12-13 and Romans 10:9-13.

10. Think back to the time in your life when you trusted God for salvation and became His child. Briefly describe the events that lead up to this step of faith. (If you have not yet made this step, your study leader would be someone you could talk to.)

Read Joshua 2:15-24, 6:22-25, and Hebrews 11:31.

11. As Rahab lowered the spies into the dark, she entered into a time of waiting.
a. What do you think she was counting on as she waited for Jericho's destruction?

b. Who was she ultimately counting on? Explain.

c. List the ways in which you see God's faithfulness to Rahab.

d. What more do you learn about Rahab's future from Matthew 1:1,5?

12. If Rahab could talk to you today about a particular difficult situation from your past or one that you are facing now, what encouragement do you think she would offer you?

Your situation:

Her encouragement:

13. Think back over this lesson and list as many ways as you can where you see God at work, what it demonstrates about His character, and what that means for you today. See the following example:

<u>God at Work</u>	<u>God's Character</u>	<u>God and Me</u>
spies show up	merciful	God sees my heart
prostitute receives life	all seeing merciful	

14. Write out a statement of faith in the God who has redeemed you and who will watch over you today, tomorrow and forever. Tell God what you know of His power to save, His mercy to rescue, His desire to bless. Ask Him to help you walk through those circumstances in your life that are hard. Tell Him that you welcome Him in your life and desire to walk in faith with His help one day at a time. (Psalm 146)

LORD of love, you have won my heart,
your love forever will endure.

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Every morning every hour,
You remain a faithful tower
In your arms I rest secure.

Jan Nielson