

Rahab

Joshua 2:1-16, 23;6:17-25

Based on NLT

Introduction

It was time to enter the Promised Land. God's special people had been promised this land hundreds of years ago, but circumstances---slavery and disobedience---had kept them from taking it as their own. Now, they were ready, and Joshua, their leader, prepared to lead them into their inheritance...

Joshua 2:1-3

...Joshua secretly sent out two spies...He instructed them, "Scout out the land...around Jericho." So the two men set out and came to the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there that night. But someone told the king of Jericho, "Some of God's people have come here tonight to spy out the land." So the king of Jericho sent orders to Rahab: "Bring out the men who have come into your house, *because* they have come here to spy out the whole land."

Joshua 2:4-7

Rahab had hidden the two men, but she replied, "Yes, the men were here earlier, but I didn't know where they were from. They left the town at dusk, as the gates were about to close. I don't know where they went. If you hurry, you can probably catch up with them." (Actually, she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them beneath bundles of flax she had laid out.) So the king's men went looking for the spies...

Joshua 2:8-13

Before the spies went to sleep that night, Rahab went up on the roof to talk with them. "I know God has given you this land," she told them. "We are all afraid of you. Everyone in the land is living in terror, *because* we have heard how God miraculously rescued you from slavery and how you have defeated other great kings...No wonder our hearts have melted in fear! No one has the courage to fight after hearing such things. For...your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below. Now swear to me by *your* God that you will be kind to me and my family since I have helped you. Give me some guarantee that when Jericho is conquered, you will let me live, along with my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all their families."

Joshua 2:14-16, 23

"We offer our own lives as a guarantee for your safety," the men agreed. "If you don't betray us, we will keep our promise and be kind to you when God gives us the land." Then, since Rahab's house was built into the town wall, she let them down by a rope through the window. "Escape to the hill country," she told them... The spies *escaped and*...reported to Joshua all that had happened to them.

Transition

The time came to conquer Jericho, and Joshua talked to his people...

Joshua 6:17

"Jericho and everything in it must be completely destroyed as an offering to God. Only Rahab the prostitute and the others in her house will be spared, *because* she protected our spies."

Joshua 6:21-23

Then God's people...completely destroyed everything in Jericho...—men and women,

young and old, cattle, sheep, goats, and donkeys. Meanwhile, Joshua said to the two spies, “Keep your promise. Go to the prostitute’s house and bring her out, along with all her family.” The men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, mother, brothers, and all the other relatives who were with her. They moved her whole family to a safe place near the camp of *God’s people*...

Joshua 6:25

So Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute and her relatives who were with her in the house, because she had hidden the spies Joshua sent to Jericho. And she lives among *God’s people* to this day.

Facilitator's Notes

Rahab

Telling the Story

- **Preparing**
 - ***God's People*** Decide what you want to call *God's people* now, so that you are consistent throughout the story set. The concept of *God's people* is an important one in this story set. You will want to choose a phrase that reflects their special place in God's heart and their special role in God's redemptive plan.
 - ***Promised Land*** This is Israel, the land that God had promised Abraham. Choose your title for this now so that you are consistent throughout the story set. You may want to choose a title that reflects what it is—the *promised land*, or simply *land* or *territory*. Using the country title *Israel* may confuse your group, because we are not talking about the current geopolitical country.
 - Some names have been omitted in this pre-crafted story in order to simplify the story. We have also changed *Lord* to *God* in order to make the story more accessible to non-believers, and to remove the connotations of a “religious” term.
 - Much of Joshua 2:17-22 has been omitted in order to simplify the story for re-telling purposes. The scarlet rope and dialog described in this section are not necessary to include in order to convey the ideas we want to in this story. However, if you feel that your audience will be distracted by this omission, you may include the spies asking Rahab to hang the rope out her window.

Learning and Re-telling the story

- After you tell this story once in the large group, you could consider having women break up into small groups and act out this story, especially as there are different groups of people (Joshua, spies, king, king's messengers, Rahab, Rahab's family). When stories contain different groups of people, especially those who send and receive messages, acting them out is often useful for retention of “what happened when.” When acting out a story, choose the actors first. Then the narrator (the facilitator) should tell the story in its entirety first as the actors simply pantomime the story. The second time through, have each character say his/her lines as the narrator narrates. The third time through, ask if someone else would like to be the narrator.
- After acting out the story (or after you've told this story twice, if you decide not to act it out) have the women break up into groups of three to tell this story to each other. They will be nervous as this is their first time. That's OK---be sure to tell them that their first story will not be great, but that everyone in the group will help each other. Ensure that each woman has told the story in her small group before coming back together to ask the questions.

Meditating on the story

You know your group best, but for the first few sessions it might be good to ask these questions in the large group, so that everyone hears the kinds of answers that are being

given. Do not let them get by with “surface-level” answers. This is a safe place, and true learning and growing will only take place when everyone in the group is transparent.

- *What did you like about this story?*
- *What bothered you about this story?*
- *What does this story show you about God?*
- *What does this story show you about people? About Rahab?*
- *What does this story show you about yourself?*

Rahab knew that the God of the spies’ people was the all-powerful God. She didn’t belong to God’s people, but she asked if she could join them anyway. When was the last time you were this audacious to follow God?

- *How will you remember this story?*
- *Who is God telling you to tell this story to?*