

E10. Joshua, Rahab and the Spies

Joshua 2

Learning Objectives

1. The children will be able to retell the story of Joshua, Rahab and the spies.
2. The children will explore how God always knows and sees what lives in our hearts.

Memory Verse: ***“Put your love into action.” --1 John 3:18***

Getting Started

Choose One

All Ages

“How Far?” Activity

Bring a telescope, magnifying glass, binoculars or other “sight enhancers” to class for the children to look through. Put a very small note or picture on the wall and let the kids read it or look at it from the opposite wall. Allow each child to take a turn. After everyone is finished use this activity for further discussion. Ask the children how far they think that God can see? How well can He see? What does He need in order to see into our hearts? Then explain that today we will learn about how God can look into everyone’s heart and see things that other people cannot see.

Grades K-2

Coloring Page

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Preschool → coloring pages → “Rahab helps the Spies”

You will need to print out one copy of the above coloring sheet for each child. Please see the above website. After the children are finished coloring, ask them to tell you about the picture. Continue with the story.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message: ***God looks at the heart.***

Before beginning this lesson, review some of the things that happened to Moses and the Israelites as they wandered through the desert of Egypt. Review the 10 plagues too and how the God was with the Israelites and helped them in all things.

Background Information for the Teacher: In today’s lesson – the children will need to understand that Rahab had done some things in her life that were not pleasing to God. But God could see her heart was good, and she proved it by helping the spies that Joshua had sent.

Joshua 2 ~ Rahab Helps the Spies

Joshua sent two spies out to go and check out the land of Jericho. So they went to Jericho. They stayed at the house of a woman named Rahab. Someone told the king of Jericho that some men from Israel had come there that night to spy out the land. So the king of Jericho sent a message to Rahab. It said, "Bring out the men who came into your house. They've come to spy on our land."

But the woman had hidden the two men. She said, "It's true that the men came here. But I didn't know where they had come from. They left at sunset, when it was time to close the city gate. I don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You might catch up with them." But in fact Rahab had taken them up on the roof. There she had hidden them under some flax she had piled up. The king's men left to hunt down the spies. They took the road that leads to where the Jordan River can be crossed. As soon as they had gone out of the city, the gate was shut.

Rahab went up on the roof before the spies settled down for the night. She said to them, "I know that the Lord has given this land to you. We are very much afraid of you. Everyone who lives in this country is weak with fear because of you. We've heard how the Lord dried up the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt. When we heard about it, our hearts melted away in fear. Because of you, we aren't brave anymore. The Lord your God is the God who rules over heaven above and earth below. Now then, please take an oath. Promise me in the name of the Lord that you will be kind to my family. I've been kind to you. Promise me that you will spare the lives of my father and mother. Spare my brothers and sisters. Also spare everyone in their families. Promise that you won't harm any of us."

So the men made a promise to her. "We'll give up our lives to save yours," they said. "But don't tell anyone what we're doing. Then we'll be kind and faithful to you when the Lord gives us the land."

The house Rahab lived in was part of the city wall. So she let the spies down by a rope through the window. She had said to them, "Go up into the hills. The men who are chasing you won't be able to find you. Hide yourselves there for three days until they return. Then you can go on your way."

The men said to her, "You made us take an oath and make a promise. But we won't keep it unless you do what we say. When we enter the land, you must tie this bright red rope in the window. Tie it in the window you let us down through. Bring your father and mother into your house. Also bring your brothers and everyone else in your family into your house. None of you must go out into the street. If you do, anything that happens to you will be your own fault. Don't hold us accountable. But if anyone hurts someone who is inside the house with you, it will be our fault. And you can hold us accountable. Don't tell anyone what we're doing. If you do, we won't have to keep the promise you asked us to make."

"I agree," Rahab replied. "I'll do as you say." So she sent them away, and they left. Then she tied the bright red rope in the window. When the spies left, they went up into the hills. They stayed there for three days. By that time the men who were chasing them had searched all along the road. They couldn't find them. So they returned.

Then the two spies started back. They went down out of the hills. They went across the Jordan River. They came back to Joshua and they told him everything that had happened to them. They said, "We're sure the Lord has given the whole land over to us. All of the people there are weak with fear because of us."

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - *continued*

Discussion Questions:

1. How many men did Joshua send to spy out the Promised Land? (*Two.*)
2. What was the name of the woman who helped Joshua's men? (*Rahab.*)
3. Why did Rahab help Joshua's men? (*Rahab knew that God was helping the Israelites and that He was going to give them the land. She put her love for God into action.*)
4. How did Rahab help the spies? (*She hid the spies from the King's men and also helped them to escape.*)
5. Where did Rahab hide the spies? (*On the roof, under stalks of flax.*)
6. What did Rahab ask in return for helping the spies escape? (*Protection for herself and for her family.*)
7. What did Rahab hang from the window to let God's people know which house was hers? (*A red thread or cord.*)
8. Do you think that Rahab had a good heart? Why or Why not? (*Discuss together.*)

Application to Real Life

Bring in a large stuffed animal (or other large object) to class. Next, cover (or blindfold) your eyes and ask the children to hide the object. You will need at least one other adult to assist the children with this. The children will quickly discover that it is very difficult to hide a large object in a sparsely furnished area. When you are finished with the activity, explain that it is just as difficult to hide something in our hearts from God. He can always look into our hearts and He knows our innermost thoughts and feelings. God especially can see the good that lives in someone's heart, even when others cannot. God always looks at the heart. (Refer to the message statement.)

Memory Work Fun

1. Name the two main parts of the Bible and tell what the difference is. (Old Testament – before Jesus, New Testament – Jesus & After Jesus)
2. Where is the book of Joshua located? In the Old or New Testament? Practice finding it together. (Added challenge: find the memory verse together.)
3. Review the first commandment: *I am the Lord your God. You shall have NO other gods before Me.*
4. Recite the memory verse.

Activity Ideas

Choose One

Grades K-2

"Rahab and the Spies" Craft

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Preschool → crafts → "Rahab and the Spies"

Before class, you will need to print a set of templates on medium card stock for each child. Cut out each circle on the outer black line. Next cut out the space indicated by dashed gray lines on template one. Place template one over template two and use the nail to punch a hole through the center of both templates. Please see the above website for further detailed instructions.

As the children work on their craft talk about the bible story found in Joshua 2:1-24. Keep the conversation going.

“Rahab Helps the Spies” Review Sheet

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Preschool → Activities → “Rahab helps the Spies”

Make one copy for each student. Have the children put the bible story back in the right order. Use this activity to check for understanding. Then allow the children to color the sheet while you enjoy a snack together. Please see the above website for the worksheet.

Grades 3-5**What Does He See?**

Fold a red (or pink or purple) sheet of construction paper in half and cut out a heart shape leaving part of the fold connected for a “hinge.” Open the heart and have the children write down what they would like for God to see when He looks into their heart. Use this activity as a way to explore what kinds of things should be in our hearts. If you need to give further guidance and direction for such qualities, have the children check out Galatians 5:22-23 (The fruit of the Spirit).

Journal*Optional***Grades K-2**

Draw a large heart on your paper. Then draw pictures (or write) what things you think you should have inside your heart.

Grades 3-5

If God could look into your heart today, what do you think he would see? Write about it.

When was the last time you helped someone in need? How did it make you feel? Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read at home with a grownup the story about the **Crossing the Jordan River** (Joshua 3 to 4).
- Learn the memory verse: “...the hand of the Lord...is mighty.” --Joshua 4:24 (NIRV)
- Work on memorizing commandment # ____.
- Color the “**Crossing the Jordan River**” coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- Ask at home to see some old picture albums. Maybe you have a favorite one, or one from when you were very young. Take 5-10 minutes to look at the album with one of your parents if possible. If you like, bring it to class to share. (Make sure you have permission from your parents first.)

Other Resources

www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade school → Lessons → Old Testament: “Joshua” – 2. Rahab helps the Spies
<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Support Curriculum → Page 6 → “Rahab and the Spies”

Name: _____

Crossing the Jordan River



"...God works for the good of those who love Him."
-- Romans 8:28 (NIRV)



Take Home Page: E10. Joshua, Rahab and the Spies

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that **God always looks at the heart.** The children explored the story of Joshua, Rahab and the spies. They also talked about how God always knows and sees what lives in our hearts.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"Put your love into action." --1 John 3:18

Ask me...

1. How did Rahab help the spies in today's lesson?
2. Would you have chosen to help the spies? Why or why not?
3. Do you think Rahab had a good heart? Why or why not?

Live Your Faith...

Play a game of hide and seek. After a few rounds, meet at the table for a yummy snack and talk about how easy/hard it was to hide from each other. Remind your child that we can never hide from God, because He sees us all the time. He also sees everything that is in our hearts. Pray together that God would help you to have a heart that loves God more than anything or anyone else.

