

Session 2 - Rahab

Joshua 2 and 6

Part 1

Today we will be looking at status and past and how that doesn't define us in God's eyes. We are following on in our series looking at the women in Jesus' family tree. You can find that in the front of your booklets.

Last week we looked at Tamar and her story and how God not only brought her out of her situation but also restored her worth. This week we will be looking at Rahab.

The Bible is split into many different books over a number of years. Tamar was near the very beginning and Rahab is just a few books later and a few generations down the line of God's people.

I will give you a little bit of background to Rahab. She was a Canaanite. The people who lived in the land of Canaan were doing all sort of things that were really bad. *This is suggested in the Bible (Deuteronomy 20:17-18)*. Rahab lived in the city of Jericho. Jericho was a city surrounded by walls. Due to the bad stuff that was going on, it was probably a pretty dark place to be living. The Bible is clear about one thing, that Rahab was a prostitute.

Where Rahab is introduced is at a time when God's people, the Israelites, were moving into the land God promised them. So, two spies were sent into the city of Jericho, and they arrive at Rahab's house and that is where the story begins.

Discussion Questions

- ▶ What do you think of Rahab so far?
- ▶ How do you think people would have seen her?
- ▶ Have you ever been judged by something from your past? Good or bad?
- ▶ Has anyone ever judged you?

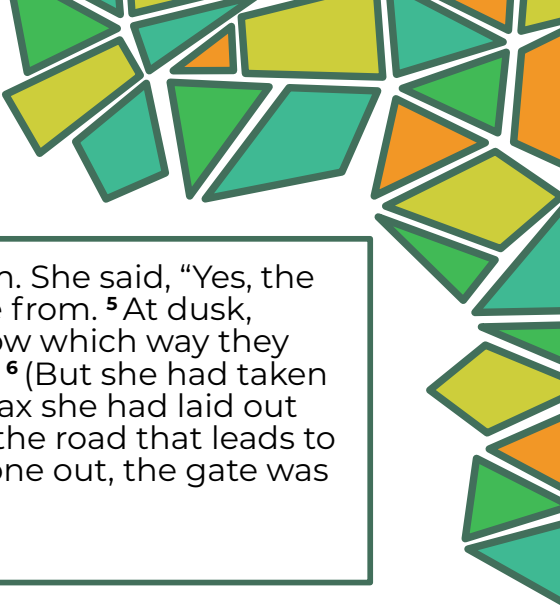
Craft Time

Part 2

The two spies are staying in Rahab's house and the King of Jericho was told about this. So, he sent a message to ask her to bring out the spies.

So, we have a woman who is a prostitute, living in a really dark place and in what I imagine to be quite a scary situation where she has two spies staying with her. If they were caught, they would probably be killed and if she was found to be helping them, she probably would have been killed too.

This is what the Bible says next:



“⁴ But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. ⁵At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don’t know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them.” ⁶(But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) ⁷So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.”

Joshua 2:4-7.

So, despite the price on her life for helping them, Rahab helps them anyway.

Discussion Questions

- ▶ Has your view of Rahab changed?
- ▶ Why do you think she would do this? (hide the spies despite possible death)

Craft Time

Part 3

She hides the spies on her roof and, before the spies go to sleep, she tells them that she knows God (their God) has given them the land that her people are living in. She also says that they all know what God is capable of and goes on to say this...

“...for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.”

¹²“Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign ¹³that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.”

¹⁴“Our lives for your lives!” the men assured her. “If you don’t tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the Lord gives us the land.”

Joshua 2: 11b-14.

Remember the city of Jericho was surrounded by walls, Rahab’s house was inside the city wall, so she let them down through the window by a rope and told them to go to the hills and hide for 3 days while the guards were looking for them and then it would be safe to go on their way. The 2 spies say when they take over the city, Rahab and her whole family will be saved if she ties a red cord in the window so they will see it and protect them. Rahab agreed to this and let them go and tied the cord in her window.

So, we have a woman who is aware of God and who he is and also seems to know of the war that is coming. But it is also made clear who she is and what her job and status is.





Discussion Questions

- What do you make of the story and Rahab's actions?
- What do you think God's view of Rahab was?
- Does God care about your past?

Craft Time

Part 4

If we moved forward a few chapters to chapter 6 in the book of Joshua, we see what happens to Rahab. After the Israelites break the walls down, they go into the city, Jericho, to take it over.

"²²Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, "Go into the prostitute's house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her."²³ So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother, her brothers and sisters and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel.

...

²⁵ But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—and she lives among the Israelites to this day."

Joshua 6:22-23, 25.

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Rahab was saved?

(Depending on discussion, may say at end) She trusted in God and who he was and the sacrifices she made of her life was a real act of faith. God in his grace honoured that act of faith and saved not just her but her family and it didn't matter about her bad choices, actions or status as a prostitute. The whole city was destroyed but she and her family were saved through her act of faith in God.)

Rahab definitely wasn't perfect, and the Bible is very clear about sexual acts and what is wrong. Rahab's life would not have been encouraged and would not have been a godly one. If I look at my own life, I can see all the wrong things I've done.

(Leader can share if they like)

- Looking at our own lives and brokenness, do you think God would save us?

Craft Time





Part 5

If we look at other places where Rahab is mentioned in the Bible (found in your booklets), they are in the New Testament, the second half of the Bible. This is hundreds of years later. You can see that her life wasn't just saved by God, but God also restored her as a woman of faith. She had a new identity. Her past didn't define her because of the act of faith in God she made. She was remembered and honoured even hundreds of years later.

Hebrew 11:31

³¹ By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

James 2:25

²⁵ In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? ²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead."

We can see that Rahab was more than saved. Her status was completely changed and elevated as she married into the line that would ultimately bring Jesus, the Son of God, into the world. From a prostitute in a wicked land to an ancestor of Jesus.

Discussion Questions


- ▶ What do you think that says about the way God sees us?
- ▶ Have you ever struggled with being defined by your past?
- ▶ What would it look like if you lived like your past didn't define you?

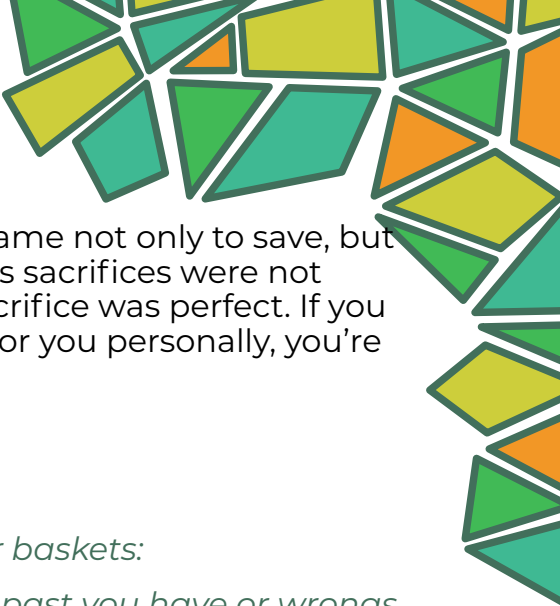
Craft Time

Summary

Despite all the wrongs Rahab came with and the background she had, her faith and her trust in God brought her not only to being saved but also restored. God weaved her story into his plan despite her wrongs and brokenness. Her past didn't define her.

This doesn't mean she could do anything, and God would save her. As we have seen, it took great faith and sacrifice from Rahab, she put herself and her family in serious danger. She risked everything. We saw that with Tamar too.





Jesus came for the broken, not for perfect people. He came not only to save, but to save and restore. And, unlike Rahab and Tamar, who's sacrifices were not perfect and only affected those around them, Jesus' sacrifice was perfect. If you want to know what that means, and what that means for you personally, you're welcome to ask or read a bit more.

Finish off craft.

Link craft to theme - example, if using weaving bowl or baskets:

Hopefully this will remind us all, that despite whatever past you have or wrongs you have committed; you are not worthless. God still weaves your past in his restoration plan for you if you put your trust in Him.

