



# Rahab Shows Her Faith in God

*Joshua 2*



## LESSON GOAL

Students will learn to submit in both faith and deed to the victorious God.

## BIBLE TRUTHS

- Joshua sent spies into Jericho to search out the land.
- Rahab believed in God and helped the spies escape.
- Believers should have a faith that is proved by deeds.
- Rahab encouraged Israel by her news that Jericho was afraid.

## KEY VERSE

“And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath” (Joshua 2:11).

## APPLICATION

- Realize that God alone is the God of heaven and earth.
- Encourage others by telling them of God’s works.
- Remember that the believer’s faith is to be accompanied by deeds.

## NEXT WEEK

God Reveals His Might at the Jordan  
Joshua 3:1–5:1

### Symbol Key



Craft



Finger Play



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Center



Activity



Q & A



Age Group

4

# Teacher Planning Sheet

## PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Personal Application

*As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

*Three ways students need to apply this passage are*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Materials Needed

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## POINT

*Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## PROCLAIM

*Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.*

### Presentation Ideas

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Praise/Music Ideas

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## PRACTICE

*Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

*“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).*

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

### Bible Background

In Joshua 1:2–8, God encouraged the new leader, Joshua, by promising to give Israel the Promised Land, to grant him victory in battle, and to be with him. God also exhorted Joshua to be strong and courageous and to obey and meditate on the Law. Many people might have become arrogant with the promise of such victory. But Joshua, a wise and experienced general, still followed the sensible practice of sending spies. Joshua sent two spies to search out the land of Canaan, particularly the city of Jericho (2:1). Joshua himself had once been sent as a spy into Canaan (Num. 13). Of the 12 spies who had been sent, only Joshua and Caleb had trusted God and reported that He would give Israel the land of Canaan (Num. 14:7–9). Now, 40 years later, Joshua was still waiting for God’s victory over the Canaanites. Having sent the spies, Joshua probably waited eagerly but confidently for the spies’ report that God would give them the land. When the spies returned, they not only were certain of God’s future victory, but they also had already seen His victory in Rahab’s faith and actions.

From man’s perspective, it would also seem that the spies’ report about Jericho almost did not make it back to Joshua. Not knowing that God was going to bring down the walls of Jericho, the spies had wisely gone into the city to gather information about the city and its inhabitants. Although their hiding place was well chosen (since neighbors would have been used to seeing strangers enter into the home of Rahab, a harlot), the king of Jericho found out that the Israelite spies were in the city (Josh. 2:1–2) and told Rahab to bring them out (2:3). Little did the spies know that God had directed them to just the right house! Rahab betrayed her own city and hid the men beneath stalks of flax that she had laid out to dry on the roof (2:6). Both Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25 praise her for receiving and hiding the spies. Before the book of Joshua reveals the content of Rahab’s faith, it reveals the actions that were prompted by her faith. James uses Rahab as an example of someone who reveals her faith through her works (James 2:18).

Rahab lied in order to protect the spies. She admitted that the spies had been in her house but claimed that they snuck out of the city before the gates had been shut (Josh. 2:4–5). She urged the men to pursue the spies (2:5). After the men left to follow the spies, whom they thought had tried to go back toward the Jordan, the gates of the city were shut—with the Israelite spies safely locked inside (2:7)!

The spies must have been shocked by what had just happened. What had motivated this Canaanite prostitute to hide two foreign spies? Before the men fell asleep (Josh. 2:8), Rahab revealed to them the faith that had motivated her actions. Rahab, like the rest of the Canaanites, had heard about God drying the Red Sea 40 years ago and giving Israel victory over kings Sihon and Og on the other side of the Jordan (2:10). Rahab admitted, “The terror of you has fallen on us...all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you” (2:9). The hearts of the Canaanites had “melted” in fear (2:11).

Unlike the other citizens of Jericho, Rahab's fear had turned into faith. She admitted to the Israelites, "I know that the LORD has given you the land" (2:9). Hearing of God's mighty acts had convinced her that Jericho could not withstand God's plan. But Rahab did not just admit defeat; she embraced the God of Israel. She confessed, "The LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath" (2:11). God had granted Rahab true faith in Himself. From a Canaanite who had no doubt been idolatrous and polytheistic, such faith is remarkable. She even called the God of Israel by name—Yahweh. The report of God's powerful acts on behalf of Israel had transformed Rahab into a woman who believed that Yahweh was the only God in heaven and earth, not just a god of Israel. God had revealed to the spies His future victory in a most remarkable way through Rahab's faith and works. Her example provides strong motivation for those who are waiting for God's future victory over this rebellious world to proclaim His mighty works so that the lost will come to believe in and obey in Yahweh. He is the God in heaven above and earth below!

Rahab knew that God's victory was coming and asked the spies to swear to protect her family when Israel conquered Jericho (Josh. 2:12–13). The spies had been encouraged by God's protection, by the people's fear of Israel, and by Rahab's confession. They also were confident of the future defeat of Jericho. They promised Rahab, "When the LORD has given us the land, ...we will deal kindly and truly with you" (2:14). To protect Rahab when Jericho was defeated, the spies told her to hang a line of scarlet cord in the window. When Israel conquered Jericho, anyone who stayed inside Rahab's house would be saved—as long as Rahab did not tell where the spies were hiding (2:19–20). Rahab agreed and tied the cord to the window (2:21). Because Rahab's house was on the city wall, the men were able to climb down a rope through the window and land outside both the city's wall and the locked gates!

The two spies followed Rahab's recommendation, went to the mountains, and hid for three days until the men from Jericho returned (Josh. 2:16, 22). After crossing the Jordan, the spies went directly to Joshua and shared everything that had happened to them (2:23). They said to Joshua, "Truly the LORD has delivered all the land into our hands, for indeed all the inhabitants of the country are fainthearted because of us" (2:24). The report confirmed what God had already revealed. Israel was going to be victorious when they crossed the Jordan.

Joshua 2 is a powerful foreshadowing of the future success Joshua and the Israelites would have when they crossed the Jordan River to enter into the Promised Land. The Canaanites were shaking before God and His people Israel. They would not have the heart to resist the Israelites' entrance into their land. God was going to keep His promise, and Israel was going to be victorious. But the spies being hidden by Rahab was more than an opportunity for God to show the temperament of the Canaanites. Not only had God promised Abraham the land, but He also had promised that all nations would be blessed in him (Gen. 12:3). Rahab was among those non-Israelites who were able to participate in that blessing. Although the Old Testament records the conversion of relatively few Gentiles, the story of Rahab shows how God would bless the Gentiles by granting them faith and the works that accompany faith. Because Rahab was used twice as an example in the New Testament (Heb. 11:31; James 2:25), she has become an example of how God has granted faith and produced works in countless Gentiles. God is both victorious and gracious!

## POINT TO THE TRUTH

*“Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth”  
(Psalm 78:1).*

This section includes questions to review last week’s lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week’s lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



### Review Questions

*Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.*

Name the four parts of God’s promise (covenant) to Abraham.  
*A son, nation, land, and blessing.*

What part of the promise is the book of Joshua about?  
*The land.*

Who became the leader of the Israelites after Moses died?  
*Joshua.*

Who was going to give the Promised Land to Joshua and the Israelites?  
*God.*

What attitude did God command Joshua to have?  
*Be strong and courageous.*

What three things was Joshua to do in order to have success?  
*Obey the Law, talk about the Law, and think about the Law.*



### I Spy

Play a game of “I Spy” with the students. In today’s lesson, they will learn about two spies who were sent into the city of Jericho. What kind of report do they think the spies would bring back?



### Hide the Spy

Have the students sit in a circle and close their eyes. Pull one student from the group, and have him hide behind a desk or door in the classroom. Have the rest of the students open their eyes and guess who is missing. In today’s lesson, they will learn about two spies who had to hide from soldiers.



### Jericho Crackers

To make each snack, put frosting (or whipped cream, marshmallow sauce, peanut butter, or pudding) between two squares of graham crackers. Then poke a four-inch strip of thin red licorice into the frosting and hang it over the top.



### Spies

Hide objects around the classroom to give clues about this week’s passage. As students enter class, direct them to search for the clues. When a student finds a clue, he should keep it until the lesson begins. Ask the “student spies” who found

clues to present their findings to the class. Lead the class in a discussion of what the day's lesson might be about, based on what these spies discovered. Tell the students to listen carefully for the clues they found to be mentioned in the lesson and to raise their hands when they discover the meaning of each. If students do not hear the clues mentioned, point them out as you teach the lesson. (The verse references for each clue are listed below.) You can be creative with the visual aids by using household items or by cutting pictures from magazines and gluing them onto cardboard for flashcards. (This activity also could be altered for use during the lesson time.)

*Suggested Items*

Number 2 (2:1, 23)

Cityscape of Jericho made from blocks (2:1)

House with roof made from tissue box (2:1)

King's crown (2:2)

Gate (2:5)

Stalks of flax (2:6)

Picture of river (2:7)

Heart cut from red felt (2:9, 11, 24)

Rope (2:15)

Window (2:15, 18)

Picture of a mountain (2:16, 22)

Number 3 (2:16, 22)

Scarlet cord (2:18, 21)

## PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

*"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).*

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

### Bible Lesson

Our lesson today is very exciting. It comes from Joshua 2:1–24. As we learned last week, Joshua was the new leader of Israel. God had given him the job of leading the Israelites into the Promised Land, and Joshua was ready for the task. He chose two men and sent them to spy out the city of Jericho. Their reports about the land and its people would help Joshua to determine the best way to conquer the city. As the spies traveled, they had to be very careful. They were on a secret mission and did not want to be caught by their enemies.

The spies traveled to the city of Jericho. It was a long trip. The spies came to a special house, the house of Rahab, and stayed there for the night. Rahab's house

was on the city wall. This location would give the spies a quick escape if they needed it.

That night, someone told the king of Jericho that there were spies in his city. The king was upset by the news and sent soldiers to Rahab's house, demanding that she bring out the spies. Instead of turning in the spies whom she had hidden, she told the messengers, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from, and when it was dark and time to shut the gate, the men left. If you leave quickly, you will be able to catch them." After the soldiers left, Rahab went back to the spies. They had not left but were actually hidden on her roof, covered up with flax (which is like straw).

The king's men went quickly to try to find the spies. They hunted for them through the woods and by the streams, all over the countryside. But they were nowhere to be found. Rahab protected the spies by hiding them from the king's men. Rahab knew that the God of Israel had protected His people in the past. She had heard how God had led the Israelites through the Red Sea on dry ground, and how God had helped Israel to destroy the two kings of the Amorites. She knew that the Israelites' God was powerful, and she was afraid of what was going to happen to her and her city. She wanted to protect the men because she knew the power of God. She recognized that He was the Lord of "heaven above and on earth beneath" (Josh. 2:11). She showed faith in the God of Israel, even though her people did not have faith in Him.

Rahab asked the spies to be kind to her and her father's household. In other words, she wanted her family to be protected when the Israelites came to destroy the city. The spies told Rahab to put a scarlet (red) cord in her window so they would know which house was hers. If her family stayed in the house when the city was destroyed, they would be saved. If not, they would be destroyed with the rest of the people. Do you think Rahab did what the spies asked? Yes, she did. Rahab let the spies down through the window by a rope, and then she hung the scarlet cord in the window for them to see. The spies went through the window and out to the mountain. They waited three days to make sure that the king's men had returned to the city, and then they returned to Joshua and told him what they had discovered. They told him all about Rahab and what the city was like so that he could make plans to capture the city of Jericho.

We can learn a lot about faith from this part of God's Word. We see that Rahab's faith was very important. She is even listed in the New Testament as having great faith. Faith is a very important factor for us all. We can see throughout the Bible that God is always faithful to what He says. It should be easy for us to put our faith in Him because He is always faithful to do all that He says He will do. Let's ask God to give us faith like Rahab and help us trust in His great promises.



## Lesson Questions

How many spies did Joshua send into Jericho?

*Two.*

Whose house did the spies stay at for the night?

*Rahab's.*

What did Rahab do when the king sent messengers to her house demanding that she turn over the two spies?

*Rahab hid the spies and told the king's soldiers that the spies had left.*

Why did Rahab help the spies?

*She had faith in God.*

What did Rahab hang from her window as a sign that the Israelites were not to destroy her?

*A scarlet cord.*

## Presentation Ideas



### A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



### Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



### Red Cord

Make a window from black construction paper. Attach it to the wall or a bulletin board. Hang a red cord from the window when you talk about what Rahab had to do to keep her family safe.

## Praise and Worship

*God Is So Good*

*He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*

*Make Me a Servant*

*Mighty Is Our God*

*My God Is So Great*

*This Little Light of Mine*



### Rahab's Faith

Joshua sent two men to go

*(Hold up two fingers.)*

Spy out the land of Jericho,

*(Shield eyes with hand; look around.)*

They stopped at Rahab's house to hide.

*(Crouch down; put index finger to lips.)*

The king found out they were inside.

*(Hold hands up at head to indicate crown.)*

He sent his soldiers to the house.

*(March in place like a soldier.)*

They said to Rahab, "Bring them out!"

*(Place hand on hip; shake finger demanding.)*

But Rahab knew of God's great deeds,

*(Point to temple.)*

And in His Word she did believe.

*(Place hand over heart; nod.)*



She hid the spies beneath some flax;  
(Pretend to lay down stalks of flax.)

Her faith was proven by her acts.  
(Hold hand over heart; pound one fist into palm.)

## PRACTICE THE TRUTH

*“That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments” (Psalm 78:7).*

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



### “Rahab’s Faith in Action”

Materials: copies of the “Rahab’s Faith in Action” craft page, crayons, scissors, red yarn, glue

Directions: Give each student a copy of the craft page, and have him cut out the shape and fold along the dotted lines. The students should color the walls and glue a piece of red yarn hanging from the window.



### Escape Plan

Do you know what to do in an emergency? Have you talked with your parents about what to do in case of a fire? Show the students building plans of escape routes. Maybe the students participate in fire drills at school. Talk about the plan the spies had for Rahab when Israel would conquer the city. Talk about the future. We know God “wins,” so what plans have the students made (salvation).



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### Heaven and Earth

Materials: copies of the “God of Heaven Above” craft page, scissors, cotton balls, glue, blue and green crayons

Directions: Give each student a copy of the craft page. Direct the students to glue cotton balls to the clouds and color the globe blue and green.

**Variation:** Instead of gluing on “clouds,” have the students color the sky black or gray and stick on silver or gold star stickers.



### “Rahab Hides the Spies”

Materials: copies of the “Rahab Hides the Spies” craft pages, scissors, glue, crayons

Directions: Give each student a copy of the craft pages, and have him cut out the two rectangles on the first page and then cut a slit along the dotted line. The students should cut out the circle on the second craft page and then insert it in the slit on the roof of Rahab’s house. They should glue the edges of the rectangles together, and the circle should rotate down to hide the spies.



### Rahab Shows Her Faith

Materials: copies of the “Rahab Shows Her Faith” craft pages, stapler, crayons, scissors or cutting board

Directions: Before class, make double-sided copies of the two craft pages (so that they now are both on one page). During class, give each student a copy of the double-sided page. They should cut the page in half, along the dotted line. Then they can put the pages together to create a book, and color and decorate it. After the craft is complete, walk through each page with the students.

### Coloring Sheets

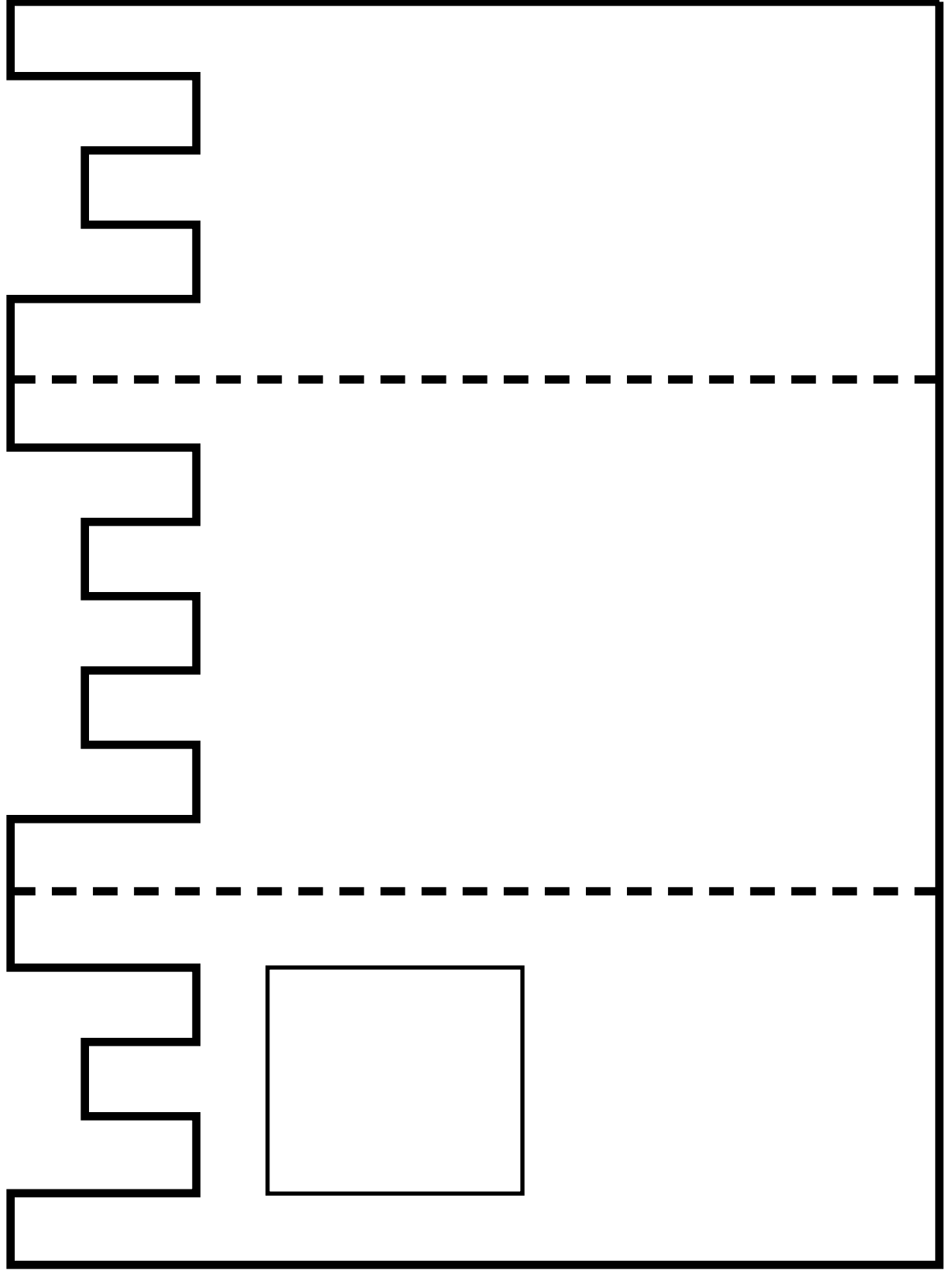
Give each student copies of the coloring sheets from the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.



### MEMORY VERSE

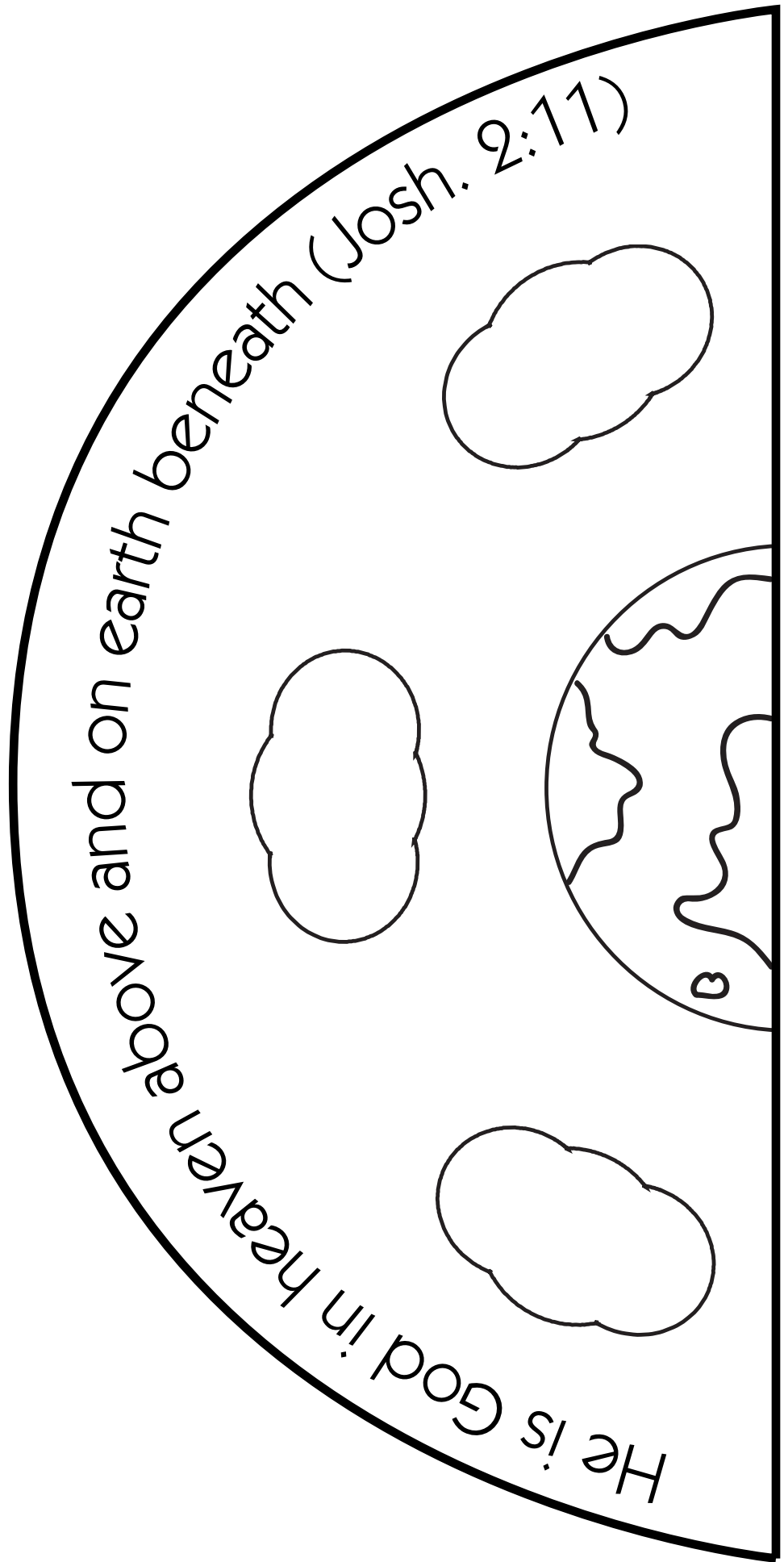
“And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath” (Joshua 2:11).

# Rahab's Faith in Action





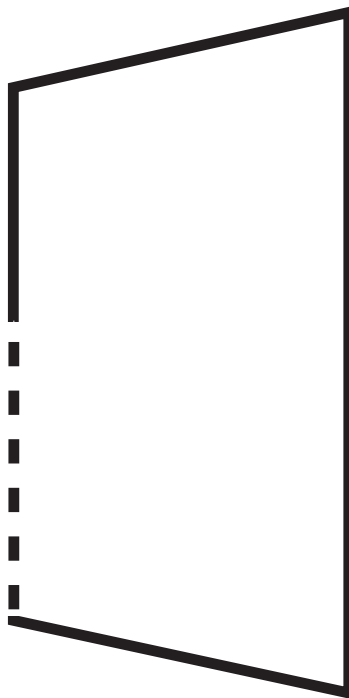
# God of Heaven Above





# Rahab Hides the Spies

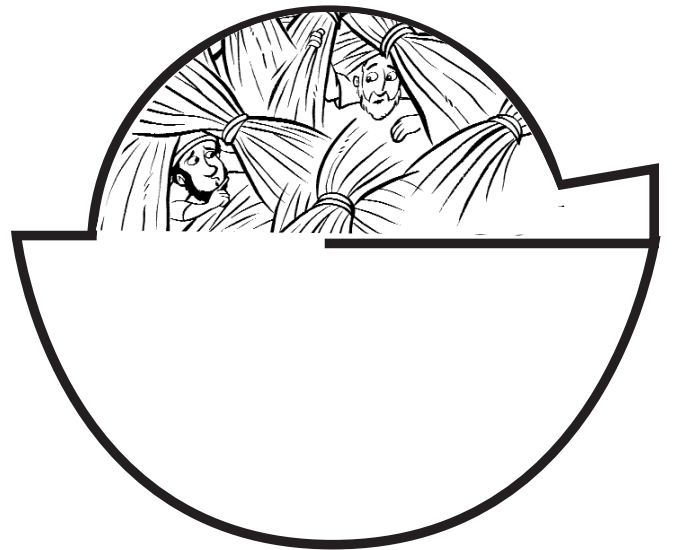
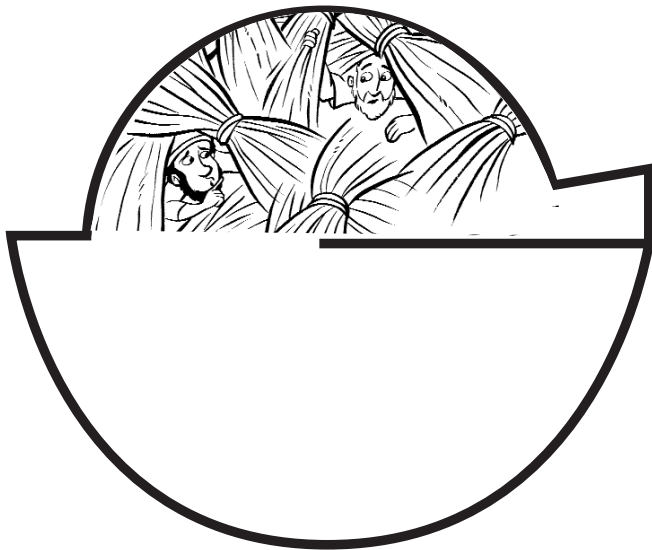
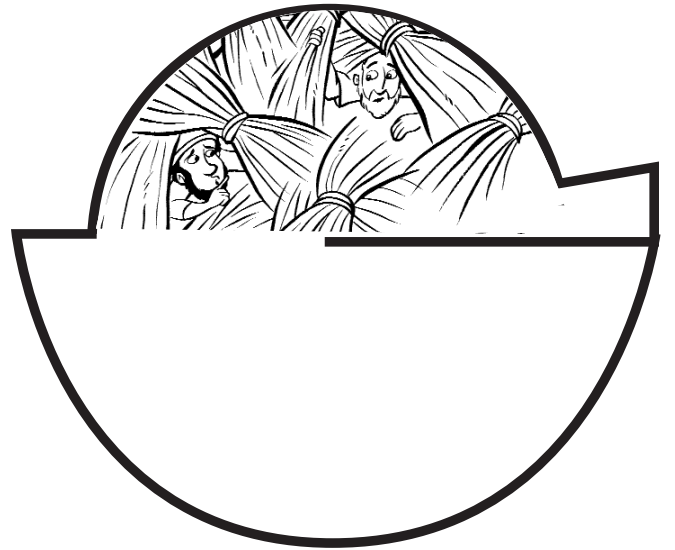
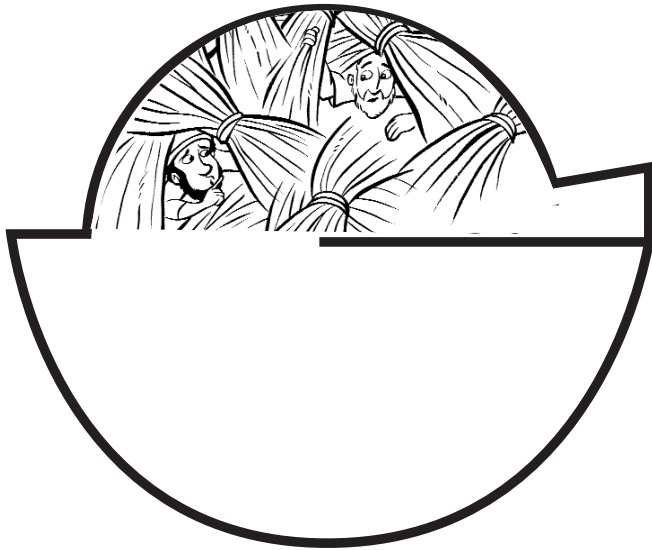
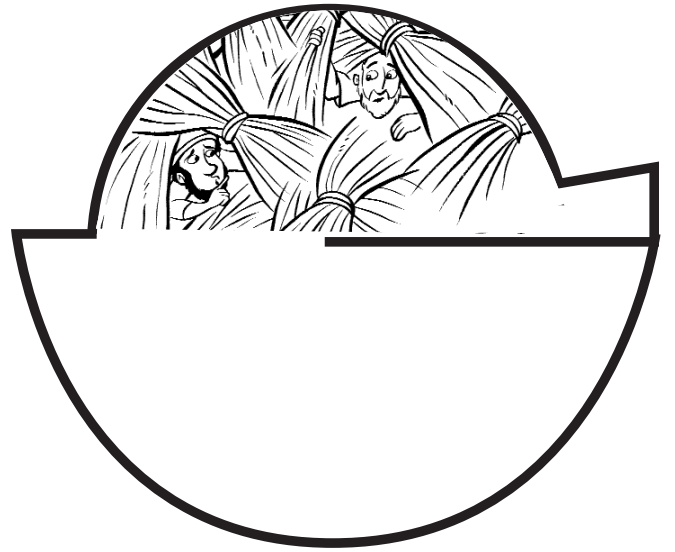
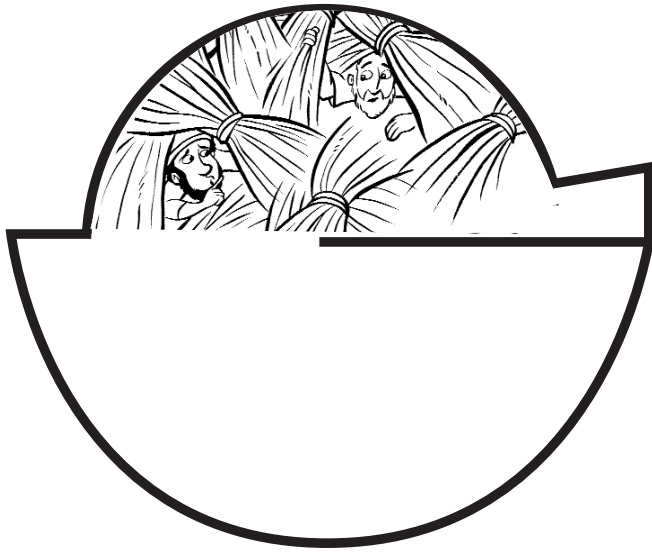
**Rahab Hides the Spies**







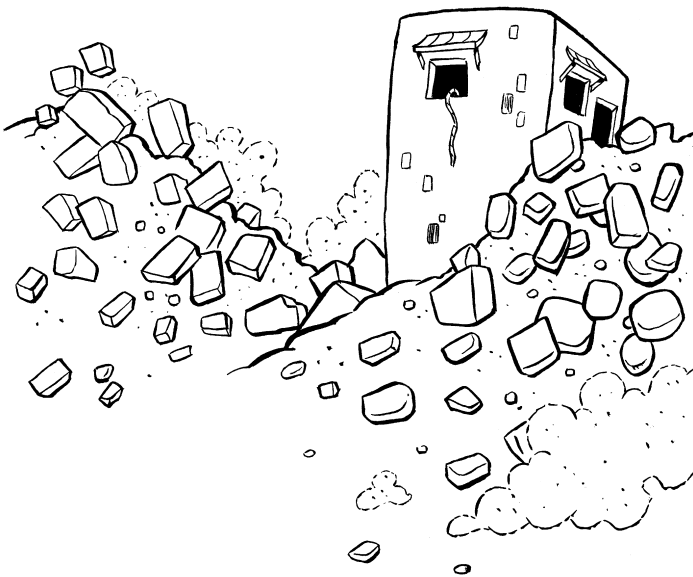
# Rahab Hides the Spies





# Rahab Shows Her Faith

## Joshua 2



### Rahab asked the spies for protection.

“Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father’s house...and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.’ So the men answered her, ‘Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. And it shall be, when the LORD has given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with you’” (Joshua 2:12–14).



### Rahab knew about God and had faith in Him. Because of her faith in God, she hid the Israelite spies.

“By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace” (Hebrews 11:31).

# This story book belongs to

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**Rahab was saved by faith. Today people are also saved by faith in the work of Jesus Christ.**

“For by grace you have been saved through **faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the **gift of God**, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Ephesians 2:8).



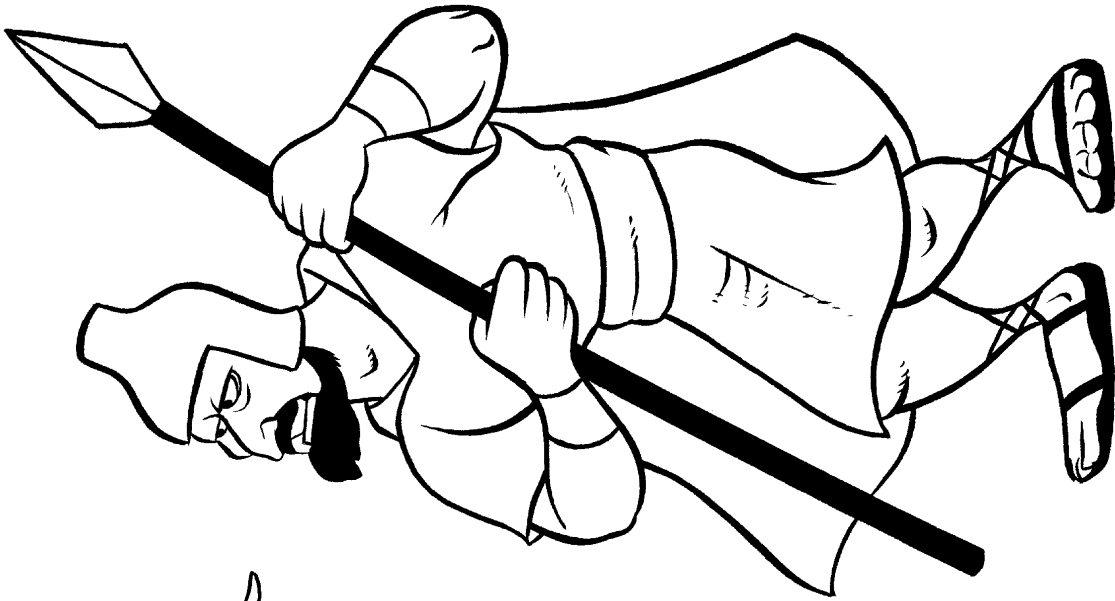
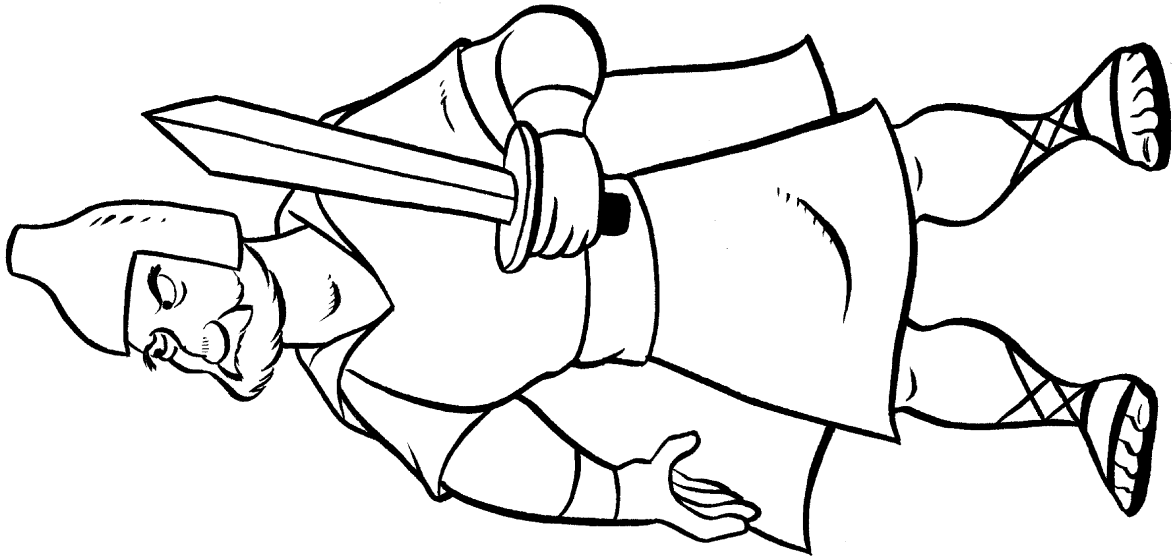
**The people of Jericho feared God!**

Rahab said, “I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you....And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath” (Joshua 2:9, 11).

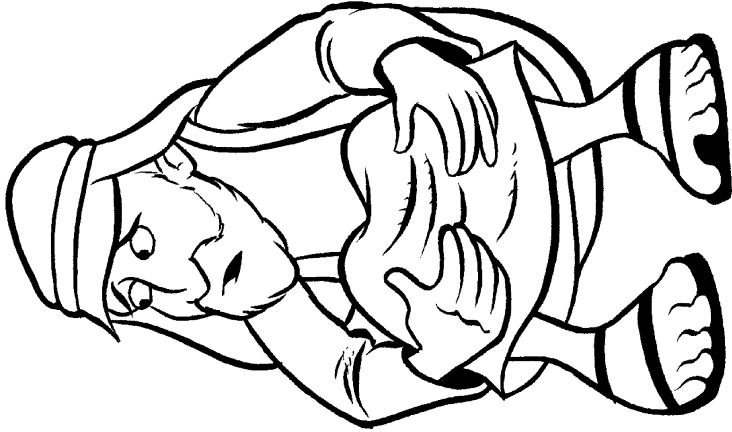
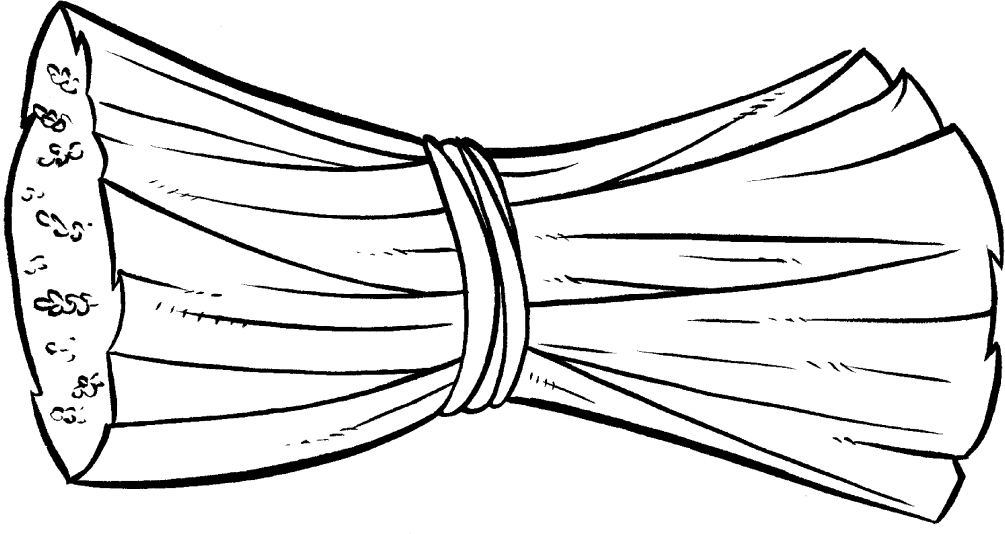


**Many people heard about Israel’s God and the amazing things that He had done to protect and provide for Israel.**

“For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt” (Joshua 2:10a).













**“So the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying ‘Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the country!’”  
(Joshua 2:3).**





**"I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you" (Joshua 2:9b).**

