

3rd Yr. Ambassadors

Lesson 32



I want a Faith That Is Real, Lord

Read: Joshua 2:1-24; 6:22-22; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25

When people become a Christ-follower, their faith begins to show in their actions. An Old Testament woman, whose life shows she was a true believer, is Rahab. Before she trusted the Lord she was a prostitute, but God used her to help His people. He also made her an ancestress of His Son, Jesus Christ (look in Matthew 1:1-2, 5).

God Prepares Those He Uses

After Moses died, Joshua led the Israelites in taking the land God promised them. His first objective was Jericho. It was ruled by a king and was well protected. But, unknown to the Israelites, God was working inside Jericho, in the heart of a woman, to help ensure the success of their mission.

Joshua sent two spies to secretly look over the city. Needing a place to stay, they entered the house of Rahab. They probably did not know Rahab was a prostitute or they would have searched for another place to stay. But God had a purpose for them to be directed to her house. Rahab heard of the mighty works of God for His people, and she was convinced He was the One true God (Joshua 2:10-11).

The Bible said Rahab risked her life by taking in the two strangers. Aiding the enemy was a crime of treason, and she could expect no mercy if she got caught. Still, she hid the men on her roof, under the stalks of flax drying in the sun. (*Flax was plant material used in making linen and candle wicks*).



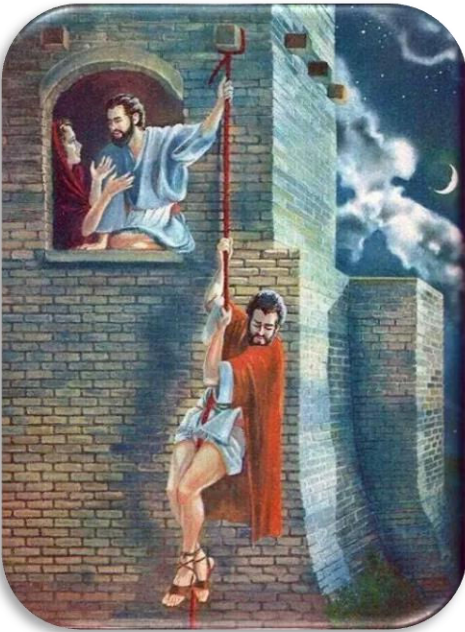
However, someone had spotted the Israelite spies going into Rahab's house and told the king. The King immediately sent a message telling Rahab to turn the men in. But Rahab had made up her mind to switch sides. She admitted that the men had been in her house but said that they had already left. She urged the King's men to hurry and chase them.

Did God approve of Rahab's lie? Nothing in Scripture suggests that He did. Lying is sin. But, sometimes, God uses the sinful actions of people to accomplish His purposes. In fact, God commended Rahab's faith and bravery (James 2:25)

Rahab and Real Faith

Later that night, Rahab went up to the roof and talked to the men she was hiding. She told them that she had given up Canaan and its gods and now believed in the Lord God of Israel. Notice her words in Joshua 2:9-11: *“I know that the Lord hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan,*

Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.”



It must have given the spies tremendous confidence to hear that everyone in Jericho was trembling in fear of the Israelites. That was great news to deliver to Joshua!

Certain that Jericho was going to be destroyed, Rahab asked that, in return for the kindness she had shown the two men, the lives of her family members be spared. They instructed her to bring all her family into her house and tie a scarlet cord in her window. When the Israelites entered the city, they would see the house with the scarlet cord and save the people inside.

On the day the Israelites destroyed Jericho, Joshua sent the two men who had spied out the land to Rahab's house. They took her and all her family to a safe place. Then they burned the city and everything in it. But Rahab and her family lived safely among the Israelites (Josh. 6:22-24).

Think About It!

How was Rahab saved? **By having faith in the Lord.** That is the only way any sinner can be made right (justified) in God's sight. But faith is more than just knowing that Jesus is God's Son or that He died for sinners.

Faith that saves is the “head-and-heart” faith that Rahab had. Not only did she hear about the Lord and become convinced that He is the one true God, she trusted Him as the One who could save her and her family. She **confessed her faith in Him** (head faith) and **showed that He had changed her heart** by hiding the spies. Faith that does not produce good works is dead, like a body without a spirit.

Do you have a “head-and-heart” faith in the Lord Jesus, or are you faking faith in Him?

Now click here to watch this Supplemental Video about your lesson:

<https://youtu.be/rklrYs2QqD4>

3rd Yr. Ambassadors Lesson 32 Quiz



Click here if you are taking your quiz online, then send the email you receive to your mentor to grade and discuss: <https://forms.gle/xAGbcyVX7PFGwddg8>

Complete this assignment and set up a time to meet with an adult mentor who will go over this with you. Mentor, after you have graded this lesson using the Answer Key, please enter the lesson online using the links on our website in order to receive credit. Thanks.

Student Name: _____

1. True/False. After Moses died, Joshua led the children of Israel into the Promised Land.
2. True/False. Jericho was the first city the Israelites invaded.
3. True/False. Rahab was a prostitute who had never heard of Israel or Israel's God.
4. True/False. Rahab hid the spies under piles of flax on her roof.
5. True/False. Rahab told the king's men the spies had left her house.
6. True/False. God approved of the lie Rahab told to protect His servants.
7. What did Rahab ask in return for her kindness to the spies?
8. What did they tell her to do?
9. On the day Jericho was destroyed, what happened to Rahab and her family?
10. What does Rahab's life teach you about what it means to have faith in the Lord (according to what the lesson mentioned).