

Aim of lesson

To show how Rahab responded to God and, through her response, had her life totally transformed.

Bible background

Joshua 2; 6:22-25; Matthew 1:1-5; Hebrews 11:31.

Outline of lesson

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed

Read together Joshua 2 dramatically by giving the different characters to various members of the class.

Make the point that the call of Rahab was very different from that of Joshua. From Joshua 2, discuss with the group what she knew of God and how she had learned of him. Compare this brief, 'second-hand', understanding with the long years of learning experienced by Joshua; each had a mission to perform. And each had an important role in God's plan.

Lead the group to recognise that God calls people from all backgrounds and in different ways. The important lesson to learn is that both Joshua and Rahab recognised God's hand in their lives and responded. It could well be important to discuss how God calls people now. Don't be afraid to talk about your own response and conversion.

In Jericho

Help the group to capture the atmosphere of this event. It was known in Jericho that this huge group of people were moving towards the city. The citizens had heard of the incredible events of the sea crossing and knew of Israel's God overcoming the powerful Amorites. Help the group to feel the nervy panic in Jericho and (Joshua 2:11) the anxious discussions 'when we heard ...'. Discuss with the group the reasons for their fear. The city was well fortified and had withstood sieges before, what was so different then as to cause such anxiety?

Foundations of faith

You may find it useful to introduce the workbook at this stage to build a picture of Rahab's faith and hope. Help the group to see that her knowledge was second hand, she had 'heard about.....' and that was enough. Her faith and hope, at this stage of her life, were simple and basic.

Possible ideas for the workbooks

- She risked her life (Joshua 2:1-7).
- She had heard what God had done and she declared her faith (Joshua 2:8-11).
- She believed that those who accepted the Lord would be true to their promises and show kindness (Joshua 2:12-13).
- She accepted God's right to destroy Jericho, all her old life, and believed that he would build a new life for her and her family (Joshua 2:15-21).

Seeing Rahab in this way may help the group to understand why she lied when the soldiers searched for the spies. Her lie was never criticised; she was not expected to act beyond her understanding.

There could be great value in the group completing the 'personal bricks' in the workbooks, to help them see where their own faith and hopes lie.

The siege

Discuss what Rahab would have learned about God during the siege and through her own deliverance. Help them to see that her understanding would grow through her marriage to one of God's people and that her whole life was changed for ever; so much so that she was chosen to figure in the 'family tree' of Jesus.

Digging deeper

The promised land

This section covers the entry into the promised land and explores whom it was promised to, and whether they received it.

Relevance to our lives

This is one of the Bible's most powerful illustrations that God's ways are not ours. Discuss, and maybe list, the factors on which the group's opinions of people are based, and compare them with Jesus' values. Then learn the lesson; 'Look for the good, don't condemn'.

Prayer

Dear Lord, Help us to see that we are all different, and are at different stages as we grow up before you. So help us to support each other; help us all to a fuller understanding of your love, joy and peace.

Other suggestions for activities

- A newspaper of the day could be prepared by the class. Articles in the 'Jericho Times' could describe the invading army of Israelites and the march around the city, police reports of the spies having been reported in the city and the fact that Rahab had been questioned.
- The class could write a letter from a relative of Rahab; for example, her brother or sister, to a friend after the fall of Jericho.