

# THE UNLIKELY ALLY

Rahab Believes  
Joshua 2  
1406 BC

## OVERVIEW

### BIBLE TRUTH

God is gracious.

### BIBLE VERSE

The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. Numbers 6:25

### LEARNER GOAL

I understand that God is gracious.

### LAW & GOSPEL

By nature, I am an enemy of God and deserve death.

**Through Christ, God adopts me into His family and graciously gives me new life.**

### SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

As they prepare to enter the Promised Land, Joshua sends two spies to explore Jericho. Rahab, a prostitute, first hides the spies from the authorities, and later she helps them escape out her window in the city wall. Because of her faithfulness, the spies promise to spare Rahab and her family when the Israelites come to occupy the city.

## LESSON PREP

**BASIC** Read Joshua 2 and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

**MORE TIME** Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

**IN DEPTH** Read the article “The Peoples of Canaan” in *TLSE*, page 345.

## SUPPLY LIST

### FOR THIS LESSON

- Piece of rope
- Treasure box or bag, two paper figure cutouts or action figures, yellow strips of paper, red yarn
- Tissue or shoe box, construction paper, string or shoelace, red ribbon, cups
- Clear contact paper, red ribbon, yarn
- Stick pretzels, red rope licorice, strawberries
- Ten red cords
- Red finger paint, hand wipes

### FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible
- Device with prepped music
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Copies of Enduring Faith Page
- Supply Box

# LAUNCH

Plan your lesson by reading through the options in each section. Choose the activities that will best fit your learners, and mark those boxes to guide you as you teach the lesson.

## BEGIN

- Follow the Order of Opening Worship, use the Lesson Opening, or do both (part of the planning resources in the digital resource center).
- Sing songs, using music found in the digital resource center or your own favorite songs.

## SAY

- Hi, friends! I'm glad to see you here today. I wonder, did anyone help you this week? What are some things people did for you? Were you a helper? How did you help?**
- Hold up a piece of rope. If I said I was going to save your life with this rope, what would you think? In our Bible account today, we're going to learn about someone who was saved by a red rope and why. Be listening for how that happened.**

## PRAY

Dear God, thank You for loving us and saving us from our sins through Jesus. Amen.

# LEARN

Show your Bible, and remind the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

## TELL THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Choose one of the options on the next page to tell the Bible narrative.

### DO THIS!

Use one or both of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative as you read it.

- FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE YOUNGER** Use a treasure box (or bag) with visual aids to tell the narrative. Pull out the clues just before you tell that part of the account. Use two paper figure cutouts or action figures to represent the spies, yellow strips of paper to represent the flax, and red yarn to represent the red cord in Rahab's window. After you have used these to tell the narrative, let students use the same items to retell the narrative.
- FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE OLDER** Have students work in pairs or small groups to identify all the people and events of this narrative by writing a sequence of events on a piece of paper. Have them start with the words *first*, *next*, *then*, and so on until you get to the word *finally*. Let students reference their Bibles. Have them make a running list of the people in this narrative along the margin of the page. Ask for volunteers to do the writing.

## TALK ABOUT IT

Choose the questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

- How did Rahab help the spies in Jericho?
- What did Rahab believe about God?
- What did the spies tell Rahab to do to save her family when God's people came back?

## KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion, using these key points.

- Hospitality was important in the Middle East, but Rahab went above and beyond what was expected of her. She had heard of the one true God and all He had done for His people, who would soon be taking over her land. God used her to accomplish His work.
- Rahab had heard about the God of the Israelites and how He had rescued them, and this hearing about God had brought her to faith.
- Rahab asked the spies to save her and her family from destruction. Through the spies, Rahab and her family were brought into the community of God's people too. This is a reminder to us that God's Word isn't just for us; it's for all people.



### CHRIST CONNECTION

God saved His spies in Jericho through Rahab. Rahab would be in the line of Jesus, the One who would come to save us.

# BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: Do the story actions.

God's people had a new leader now. His name was Joshua. Like Moses before him, Joshua was taking God's people to the land God had promised to give them. But there were already people living in this land who didn't believe in God. One big city was called Jericho. It had a big wall and gates so that God's people couldn't get in.

So Joshua sent two spies to find out about the city. (*Make spyglasses with hands and put to eyes.*) Remember, a spy is someone who tries to find out something in secret. What do you think the spies saw?

The spies Joshua sent to Jericho went to the house of a woman named Rahab and stayed there. The king of Jericho found out the spies were in the city. He sent men to Rahab's house. They knocked on her door. (*Knock, knock.*) When Rahab answered the door, they said, "Bring out the men of Israel. They are spies."

Rahab knew where the men were. She had helped the men hide on her roof. But she told the king, "They were here, but they left." So the men of Jericho hurried off to find the spies. (*Use both hands to pat on legs as if running.*)

That night, Rahab talked to the spies. Rahab said, "I know God is with you. My people are afraid to fight you because your God rules over the whole world. We have heard how He protects you from your enemies. I was kind to you and

helped you. Please be kind to me and my family and help us. Don't hurt us when you come to take over Jericho."

The spies agreed. They said, "Don't tell anyone what we are doing. We will be kind to you. You can trust us."

Rahab's house was on a city wall. She used a rope to let the spies down through the window so they could get out of Jericho. (*Pantomime climbing down a rope.*) Before they left, the spies said, "Take this red cord. Tie it in your window. Stay in your house with your family. When we come back to take over the city, you will all be safe."

Rahab took the red cord. She said, "I will do what you say." (*Nod head yes.*)

The spies went back and told Joshua, "God has given the land to us. All the people are afraid of us."

Later, the Israelite army went back to Jericho and took it over. But Joshua would not let anyone hurt Rahab and her family. He protected her because Rahab believed in God and helped the spies.

After that, Rahab lived with God's people, the Israelites. She had children and her children had children and grandchildren. Many years later, Jesus, our Savior, would be born from one of them. Jesus came to earth to suffer and die on the cross to save us from sin.

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# BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Moses was dead, and Joshua was now Israel's leader. Across the Jordan River, he saw an important city called Jericho. It blocked the way into the Promised Land and was protected by a huge, strong wall.

Joshua sent two spies to go into the city, see how strong its walls were, and report on how the soldiers guarded it. They sneaked inside and went into the house of a woman named Rahab.

But someone told the king of Jericho that Israelite spies were hiding in Rahab's house. He sent soldiers to capture them. The soldiers told Rahab to bring out the men.

This could have been really scary for the spies. Bad things would happen if Rahab handed them over to the king. But bad things didn't happen. Rahab believed in the Lord, the God of Israel. When she learned the men were spies, she took them onto her roof and told them to hide behind stalks of flax stacked up there.

Then, she told the soldiers the men had been there before, but they had gone out before the gate closed for the night. The soldiers rushed out to search for them.

After the soldiers left, Rahab went back to the spies on the roof. She told them that she had heard of how God had dried up the Red Sea so the Israelites could pass through on dry land but sent the waters back down on the Egyp-

tians. That had happened forty years before, but the people of Jericho still remembered and were really scared. They were also scared after hearing about the battles the Israelites had won on the other side of the Jordan River. When Rahab heard this, she knew that this was the one true God.

Rahab knew God would give the Promised Land to Israel. So she asked the spies to protect her and her family the same way she was protecting them. They gave her a red cord and told her to tie it in her window. When the Israelites saw it, they would protect her and everyone in the house with her.

She let the spies down by a rope from that window, and they returned safely to the Israelite camp. The spies told Joshua and the Israelites about Rahab and how everyone in Jericho was scared of them. The whole camp was glad and praised God.

God was looking out for both Rahab and the spies that day. He led them to her so she could protect them and they could protect her. The Israelites kept their promise, and Rahab and her family were saved.

Later, Rahab married an Israelite who was in the line that led from Adam and Eve to God's promised Savior. They had a baby boy who was in that line too, the line that ended with God's Son, our Lord Jesus.

# LIVE

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

## Bible-Times House

Cover a tissue box or shoe box with construction paper to make a Bible-times house in a wall. Draw a window and cut a slit under it. Draw stones or bricks around it for the wall. For storytelling, poke a piece of string or a shoelace through the window slit for the rope. Poke a piece of red ribbon through it for the scarlet cord. Draw faces of Rahab and the two spies on cups for storytelling puppets.



## Red Cord Hunt

Hide ten red cords. Tell children to be spies and work together to find the red cords hidden in room. Say, **You found all the red cords! It's fun to help one another. Rahab helped the spies. She hid them on her roof and helped them get away. The spies helped Rahab. They gave her a red cord to put in her window so she and her family would be saved. What are some ways we can help others? How has God helped us? He sent Jesus to be our Savior.**



## Red Cross Suncatcher Craft

For each suncatcher, you will need two 8-inch squares of clear contact paper, 5-inch and 7-inch red ribbons, and yarn. Tape edges of one square of contact paper to the table, sticky side up. Have children make a cross with the ribbons on the sticky paper. Place the other square of contact paper on top. Punch holes in the top and add a yarn hanger. Say, **Hang this red cross in your window to remind you that Jesus saves you from sin.**



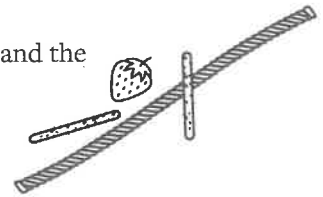
## Hide-and-Seek

Young children love to play hide-and-seek. In this version, encourage students to hide and not be found. Have some students hide like the spies, with an appointed "Rahab" helping them. Have other students act as the king of Jericho's soldiers who try to find the "spies." Do this several times, each time finding new places to hide or switching roles.



## "Jesus Saves" Snack

Serve strawberries, stick pretzels, and red rope licorice. Let the children pass out napkins and the snack. Talk about how they are being helpers. Say, **The red licorice reminds us of the red cord the spies told Rahab to put in her window so they would know who to save when they came back.** Show children how to poke two stick pretzels through a strawberry to make a cross. Talk about how Jesus saved us on the cross.



## Red Handprints

Have children wear old shirts. Put a dab of red finger paint on the palm of a hand, rub it over palm, and have child make a handprint on paper. Label it "Thanks for Helping Hands." Children can help one another wash off their hands with wipes or soap and water. Say, **God gave us hands to help one another. How do you use your hands to help?** Point out ways you saw each child helping today.



## Thank You for Helpers Prayer

God gives us many helpers. After each line of this prayer (\*), have children say: "Thank You, God, for helpers." Pray: Dear God, You give us many people to help us.\* For police officers and firefighters.\* For doctors, teachers, and pastors.\* For garbage collectors and farmers.\* For presidents and other leaders.\* Most of all, for Jesus, who saves us from our sins.\*



# LEAVE

## SAY

God was gracious to Rahab and the Israelites, and God is gracious to us today.

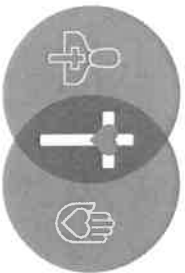
## PRAY

Dear Jesus, You are gracious to us every day. Help us to be gracious to others and to share the wonderful good news of Your love. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.

## THE UNLIKELY ALLY

LESSON 4  
Joshua 2

GOD IS GRACIOUS.



### CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

#### IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God calls me to leave behind my sinful past and serve Him in word and deed.

#### CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can serve God in response to His forgiveness and love for me.

### GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age.

#### ADULT

I can recognize, in the narrative of the spies, how God was gracious to His people and relate that to how He is gracious to me in Christ.

#### YOUTH

I can relate God's grace given to Rahab and the Israelites to the grace He has given me in Jesus.

#### ELEMENTARY

I understand that God is gracious.

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God sent Jesus to save me.

### BIBLE VERSE

The LORD make His face to shine upon you  
and be gracious to you.

Numbers 6:25

### SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

As they prepare to enter the Promised Land, Joshua sends two spies to explore Jericho. Rahab, a prostitute, first hides the spies from the authorities, and later she helps them escape out her window in the city wall. Because of her faithfulness, the spies promise to spare Rahab and her family when the Israelites come to occupy the city.

### TAKING IT HOME

- ▶ *On the Go*—How did Rahab show strength and courage that could only have come from God?
- ▶ *At Mealtime*—In exchange for keeping their escape a secret, what did Rahab ask the spies to do? How does this show God's mercy?
- ▶ *Something to Do*—The spies kept their promise to Rahab, which was symbolized by a scarlet cord, the same color as the blood Jesus shed for us on the cross. Make a piece of jewelry using scarlet beads or string to remind you that God keeps His promises.
- ▶ *Before Bed*—Talk about a time God granted you strength and courage to help someone like Rahab helped the spies.



**Leader Devotion LESSON 4**  
**THE UNLIKELY ALLY—RAHAB BELIEVES**  
**JOSHUA 2**

**BIBLE TRUTH**

God is gracious.

**BIBLE VERSE**

The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. Numbers 6:25

**LAW & GOSPEL**

By nature, I am an enemy of God and deserve death.

**Through Christ, God adopts me into His family and graciously gives me new life.**

**DEVOTION**

Fear can be a real problem for some people. Extreme fear literally paralyzes some individuals, causing them to be unable to make decisions or take action on decisions.

“Our deepest human fears arise from a sense of guilt and the deserved judgment of God. Although these fears flourished at Jericho, as they do today, the God of free and faithful grace grants forgiveness, safety, and peace to repentant sinners, who are justified by grace through faith in Christ and who perform works that prove their God-given faith” (T<sup>L</sup>S<sup>B</sup>, p. 343).

**Pray:** Lord, You call people of all kinds out of the darkness of their sin and fear into the light and of Your Word. Forgive us and empowers us to serve You in all that we do. Amen.

# LESSON 4 OPENING

## THE UNLIKELY ALLY—RAHAB BELIEVES

Today, I brought something that you've probably never seen or even heard of before. *Show plumb line.* Does anyone know what this is called? *Allow for guesses.* It's called a plumb line, and it has a plumb bob at the end.

A plumb line is used when people build houses or anything with a wall; it is used to make sure the wall is perfectly straight. If a basement wall isn't straight, the walls above it will be crooked and maybe crack or even come crashing down. To find out if a wall is straight, you could make a plumb line like this by taking a string, tying a heavy weight at the end, and holding it up at the top of the wall.

You know, there are times in our lives when we should check to see if what we are doing is right or straight. We don't use a plumb line to do that. What we use is the Bible, God's very special Word to us. *Show Bible.* The Bible tells us how we should live. It tells us the way God wants us to live. It tells us the right way to be.

When we measure ourselves and our lives with the Bible, we will always look crooked. That's because we can never keep all of God's rules; we aren't perfect, as God is perfect. There are many places in the Bible where people like Rahab who had lived a sinful life repented and believed in God. Rahab trusted God to do what He said He would do. God promised her salvation in this life and the life to come.

No one could do everything right. Not then and not now. Even today, as hard as we try, we can't live perfectly. That's why God sent His Son, Jesus, into our world. Jesus died for our sins so God could forgive us and take us to heaven when we die, even though our lives are not straight, the way they should be.

**Pray:** Lord God, help us to live the way You want, the way You tell us in Your Word. Forgive us for the mistakes we make so we can live in heaven with You forever. Amen.

### LESSON TEXT

Joshua 2

### BIBLE TRUTH

God is gracious.

### FAITH FOCUS

The Third Petition

### LAW & GOSPEL

By nature, I am an enemy of God and deserve death.

**Through Christ, God adopts me into His family and graciously gives me new life.**

### BIBLE VERSE

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### VISUAL HELPS

Plumb line, Bible

# THE UNLIKELY ALLY—RAHAB BELIEVES

## Unit 5, Lesson 4

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### Spying the Truth: A Review of Joshua 2

**Directions:** Use your best investigative skills as you solve these riddles based on the truths found in Joshua 2.



1 This Israelite leader sent two men to Jericho to gather information.

\_\_\_\_\_



2 The two spies entered this woman's house.

\_\_\_\_\_



3 The woman hid the spies from the king of Jericho in this material found on her roof.

\_\_\_\_\_



4 The woman who hid the spies knew that God had rescued the Israelites from slavery in this country.

\_\_\_\_\_



5 This is who the helpful woman believed in.

\_\_\_\_\_



6 The spies promised the woman they would do this for her and her family when they returned to Jericho.

\_\_\_\_\_



7 The color of the cord of rescue.

\_\_\_\_\_