



LIFE GROUP GUIDE

WEEK 3: JOSHUA 2:1-24 • HOMEWORK 2/13-2/18 • SERMON 2/16, 2/19

Forty years earlier, Israel was in a similar situation as we'll read about this week. The edge of the Promised Land, spies were sent in, but the results will be drastically different at this point in redemptive history. An unlikely character will be used in a way that moves the story of God's redemption along. Through Rahab, we will see courageous faith that gives us a glimpse of a greater act of deliverance to come.

DAY 1: MEDITATE

1. Read Joshua 2:1-24. Record observations below.

DAY 2: DWELL

2. Reflecting on the back story, there was a similar situation Israel was in 40 years earlier. Read through Numbers 13:1-14:38. What similarities and differences did you find in Joshua 2 and Numbers 13-14? List below.
3. Joshua 2 is full of unexpected things and unexpected people God uses to fulfill His promise. What was most surprising to you as you read through Joshua 2:1-24?

DAY 3

4. In 2:3-7 we see an account of Rahab hiding and then telling what some commentators refer to as a "faithful lie". Her response to the king has been much debated. God's law commands his people not give false testimony against their neighbors (Exodus 2:16), so what are we to make of this?

It's important to note that the book of Joshua is historical narrative, which means the author is describing the events that took place, not necessarily commending them. Rahab's actions here are not a command for all people, in all generations. It was the recording of what happened. The weekly sermon will cover more on this topic, but it's good to consider (even if we can't yet find the answer) what this does teach us here. Is there a higher ethic of the preservation of human life here? Is this a strategy of camouflage used in war? Was this merely an exception to a rule, a law broken covered by grace?

*How was this event perplexing to you?

5. Rahab is an unlikely character in the redemptive history of Israel. What makes her unlikely? In contrast, looking at Joshua 2:9-13, what does her speech to the spies reveal to us about her faith in Yahweh?
6. Rahab has a scandalous past and profession, yet in several places she is mentioned in the bible both as a prostitute and a woman of great faith. Read the following passages and summarize what they teach about Rahab.
- Matthew 1:1-17
 - James 2:24-25
 - Hebrews 11:31
7. Considering your answers to questions 3 & 4, what does this account in Joshua 2 teach you about the kind of people God uses to bring his plans and purposes to fruition?

DAY 4

8. In verse 2:12 the word "kindly" is used to show the interaction between the spies of Israel and Rahab, a Canaanite woman. That word "kindly" is the Hebrew word "chesed" which translates to mean "loving kindness". This term is often used as an attribute of God, as well as a love between people. How does seeing these two ethnic groups demonstrate "chesed" toward one another teach us about God's redemptive plan toward all people groups (every tribe, tongue, people, and nation Revelation 5:9)?

GOSPEL CONNECTION:

This unlikely character and unlikely situation is marked by something very significant in Joshua 1:18.

9. Record what the men give her to tie to her window? _____

The scarlet cord would give us glimpses of both the Passover (Exodus 12) and the ultimate mark of a Deliverer to come in Jesus. In fact, we can trace this theme of a "scarlet thread" throughout the bible, ultimately culminating in the work on The Cross. From Genesis first act of God's mercy in a sacrifice of blood all the way to Jesus' first and second coming, we see the scarlet cord as a symbol for deliverance.

10. Read Hebrews 9:22 and Revelation 19:11-16. In what ways does the scarlet cord point us to the Cross? Why is this significant as we consider what Jesus did on our behalf to deliver us from our sin?

DAY 5: APPLY

11. What was most significant to you as you studied this week's passage and its backstory?

12. In what ways did this passage encourage you? Challenge you?

Close in prayer this week reflecting on what was most significant to you regarding God's plan to use Rahab to fulfill His promise to His people. How does her life cultivate courageous faith in your own?