

RAHAB HIDES THE SPIES

Scripture:
Joshua 2, 6

Materials Needed:
Pictures
Script of Joshua interview

Memory Verse: James 2:18 Someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds and I will show you my faith by what I do.”

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know: that when Joshua was about to take Jericho and the people were scared, Rahab hid the spies, told them how to escape, and put a scarlet cord in the window to demonstrate her faith in God, and as a result, she and her family were saved from destruction.

To Realize: when they have true faith in God’s judgment it will demonstrate itself in actions leading to salvation.

To Respond: by having genuine faith that demonstrates itself in actions.

Note: *this lesson is not meant to in any way suggest that a person can get to God by faith + works. Rather, it is to show the truth that genuine faith RESULTS in works, thus demonstrating the reality of its presence.*

Setting Up the Story—

“How many have seen the wind?” (have a show of hands). Have students describe when they saw the wind. As they tell of trees being blown, or waves on the water, counter each statement with, “You didn’t really see the wind. You saw trees and water.” They might argue that the wind was what was making those things happen to the trees/water. Press the argument, “But you didn’t really **see** the wind, did you? You saw what the wind did but not the wind itself.” In the end, they would have to agree that what they saw was the effects of the wind, not the wind itself. When we see the effects of the wind, we say, “Oh, look! There’s the wind!” We are *certain* the wind is there, why? Because we see what it does.

(Write on the board--) *It can’t be seen. We see what it does.*

This would be a pretty close description of faith. “It can’t be seen. We see what it does.” Today we are going to look at a person in the lesson who has faith. But we’re not going to be able to see their faith directly only what the faith does. At the end of the story I want you to be able to tell me everything the person does that shows they had faith.

But first we need to get an update from Joshua on how his war against Canaan is going since last week. (Assign two students to read the following script, or one student who will answer your questions from the following script.)

News interviewer:

Joshua, I hear you have a special job you say God has given you.

Joshua: I and my army have to destroy all the Canaanites, young and old, living in the land.

Interviewer: Why?

Joshua: God has given them a long time to turn away from idol worship. It's gotten worse and worse. So now He's using us to bring judgment on them. Our job is to totally get rid of the idols and the people.

Interviewer: What if someone in the city wants to turn from idols?

Joshua: These people believe in their idols. It's unlikely that any will change.

Interviewer: Do you know which city you will attack first?

Joshua: Definitely Jericho.

Interviewer: What will you do first to take it?

Joshua: I just sent a couple of my men over to check it out and see what kind of city it is. After we talk, we'll know better what to do.

Interviewer: Your men actually went over into Jericho when they knew you wanted to attack them?! How did they accomplish that? What did they find out?

Joshua: Let's find out.

Telling the Story—

Scripture:

I. Joshua About to Take Jericho

A. Spies come to Rahab's house

B. King finds out and sends to get them

II. Rahab Demonstrates Her Faith

Scripture:

A. Hides and Lies for Spies

1. put them on the roof with the flax
2. "I didn't know where they were from."
3. "They left."
4. "I don't know where they were going."
5. "You can probably catch them if you hurry."

B. Professes Faith in God

1. "I know that the Lord has given the land."
2. "Everyone is terrified of your God."

As you tell the story—

If the king knew Joshua was going to win, it would seem he would be begging for mercy. It seems Joshua was right about these people not wanting to turn to God.

Why would Rahab do that? Is anyone else doing that? What would happen to Rahab if it were found out that she was hiding the men?

So she's risking her life for these two Jewish men? Why? She tells us in verse 11.

3. "Your God is god above and below."

--she knows God is above all
--she knows she will be destroyed

Does she REALLY believe these things? Don't the other people believe these things are going to happen?

How do we know that Rahab is different from the other inhabitants of the city? What does she do?

--acts on what she knows

That red rope was going to be the demonstration of her faith. Everyone who was in that house was under the protection of that red rope.

C. Makes Spies Swear to save her

D. Helps them Escape

1. lets them down by a rope
2. tells them where to hide

E. Puts Scarlet Cord in Window

1. She must have the rope
2. Everyone must be in her house
3. She must NOT tell

Scripture:

III. Rahab is Saved from Destructions

A. Israelites take Jericho

B. Rahab is spared

1. and all in her house
2. Because she hid the spies

C. Israelites burn the city

Summarize this because the details of the taking of Jericho are told in next weeks lesson. Don't tell how the city is taken and destroy, only that Rahab is spared.

Concluding the story:

Did Rahab have faith that her city was going to be destroyed? Did you see her faith in the lesson? You didn't see her faith directly, but you did see what it did. (point back to opening statement: It can't be seen. We see what it does.) What things did she do that showed she had faith? (write on board as students tell them)

If someone asked you, "Do you have faith in God?" what would you say? I want you to think for a minute. What is one thing in your life that you can say demonstrates the truth that you have faith. Someone could point to your life and say, "Yep. They have faith, because this is what they do."
Let's pray.

Boardwork:

RAHAB HIDES THE SPIES HELPS FOR THE TEACHER

Personal Application Questions:

1. If someone didn't know you followed God, what things in your life would demonstrate your faith?
2. Write down three or four promises from God's Word. What actions would accompany someone who has faith in these statements?
3. What areas do you profess to believe but have actions that don't demonstrate the reality?
4. What steps will you take to demonstrate faith in a specific promise or command of God?

Application Questions to think through for your Students:

1. What actions would demonstrate faith in your students?
2. What might lead your students to feel that they have faith even if it is not biblical faith?
3. What steps can your students take to demonstrate biblical faith?

Memory Verse:

James 2:18 *Someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.*

Write here which game you will use to teach this verse and any supplies you might need:

Post-Lesson Activity:

Divide the students into two teams. One team will be the 'faith' side, one team will be the 'deeds' side. Read the following five scenes and tell each side they have to respond to the statement with faith or with deeds.

1. A follower of Jesus should give generously.
2. Believers should pray.
3. God tells us not to worry about the future.
4. God says judgment is coming on those who don't follow His ways.
5. Jesus says He will come again.
6. Follower of Jesus are to share their faith.

Homework Ideas:

Have your students copy this statement down:

"What I do is what I believe. Everything else is just religious talk." Do they agree or disagree? Have them defend their answer, and give examples to back up their viewpoint.