September 27, 2026

Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church

Grand Prairie, Texas

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Lesson Leaders:
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Rahab was a Canaanite prostitute who'd put her faith in Yahweh even before she met the two Israelite spies.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK:
Dear God, please help me be ready for Your calling, for the mission You might have for me.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.
(Joshua 2:11 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", Sept. 30, 2023)

Fall Series: Generations: From Canaan to Jerusalem

NEXT WEEK

Unit 2: From Settled People to Judges

A Renewed Covenant

Joshua 24:18-27

Rahab Welcomes Spies
Joshua 2:8-13, 6:16-17

Lesson Background and Introduction

After forty years of wandering in the wilderness, the Israelites were on the verge of crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land. Moses had died, and the new leader, Joshua, initiated the conquest by sending two spies on a reconnaissance mission to evaluate the land of Canaan in general and the city of Jericho in particular (Joshua 2:1). During Moses' leadership, the Lord commanded that twelve spies be sent into the land (Numbers 13), one of whom was Joshua himself (13:8; 14:6, 30, 38; etc.). However, this time, the decision to send spies was likely Joshua's. He undoubtedly wanted to know more about Jericho's fortifications and its inhabitants. Cities in the ancient world were situated in locations that favored three things: defensibility, access to water, and access to trade routes. Jericho was no exception.

The city of Jericho mentioned in the Old Testament was located northwest of the Dead Sea and about five miles west of the Jordan River. Freshwater springs are in the region, causing the city to experience fertility in the wilderness, leading to the city's nickname, "the City of Palms" (Deuteronomy 34:3; 2 Chronicles 28:15). Archeology reveals that there is more than one location for Jericho as the city was rebuilt from time to time (compare Joshua 2:1; 6:26; 8:2; Judges 3:13; 2 Kings 2:4). The complex rebuilt by Herod is mentioned in the New Testament (examples: Mark 10:46; Luke 19:1). The modern city of Jericho includes more than one of the ancient sites.

The Israelite spies entered Jericho and went to the house of a woman named Rahab. The text refers to her as a "prostitute" (Joshua 2:1). The underlying Hebrew word has a broad range of meanings, including "prostitute" or "innkeeper." Centuries later, the writers of the New Testament, who wrote in ancient Greek, identified her as a prostitute (Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25). Regardless of her profession, she was an independent woman with financial means whose house may have been similar to a modern-day hostel or motel.

As a bit of speculation, the spies may have gone to Rahab's place because (1) strangers going to her home would not be unusual, (2) the location of her home on the wall could facilitate an emergency escape, and/or (3) the Lord led them there because she was an astute individual who was developing a faith in the God of Israel.

But the spies were noticed. During the ensuing investigation, Rahab lied to the king and misdirected the pursuers (Joshua 2:2–7). Our lesson text begins with Rahab's revealing of her motives for hiding the Israelite spies.

(*Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary*)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Welcomed through God's Reputation (Josh 2:8-13)

Reputation based on knowledge (8-9)

Knowledge from the enrichment of God (1 Cor 1:5)

Knowledge from the light of God in our hearts (2 Cor 4:6)

Knowledge of insight to discern what is best and pure (Phil 1:9-11)

Knowledge of the mystery of God (Col 2:2-3)

Knowledge that is renewed by God (Col 3:9-10)

Reputation based on what has been heard (10)

Hearing is being receptive to what God's says (1 Sam 3:10)

Hearing has as its foundation the intent to practice what one has learned (Heb 5:14)

To truly hear God one has to know God (1 John 4:6)

Hearing means spiritually discerning what God says (1 Cor 2:14)

Not only should one hear, but also do God's word (James 1:22)

The goal of hearing is to gain more knowledge and depth of insight (Phil 1:9-10)

Reputation based on faith (11)

The result of faith should be action (2 Cor. 4:13)

It is not the size of faith, it is the power of the object of faith (Luke 17:5-6)

Even in faith, we need encouragement (Romans 1:12)

Anything not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23)

Some questions should give over to faith (Job 38:1-4)

Reputation based on promise of deliverance (12-13)

Deliverance that is continual and proven (2 Cor 1:10)

Deliverance from all troubles (Ps 34:19)

Deliverance from trials (2 Peter 2:9)

Deliverance from the hands of enemies (1 Sam 12:10-11)

Deliverance from evil attacks (2 Tim 4:18)

Welcomed Resulting in God's Victory Josh 6:16-17

Victory through proclamation (16)

Proclaimed because deliverance will come (1 Tim 4:15-16)

Proclaimed by being obedient (Eccl 11:6)

Proclaimed because it is our purpose (Luke 4:43)

Proclaimed because God must find us doing His will (Luke 12:42-43)

Victory through destruction (17)

Destruction by the Almighty God (Isa 13:6)

Destruction because of man's sinful nature (Gal 6:8)

Destruction by a just God (2 Thess 1:6-9)

Destruction of the ungodly (2 Peter 3:7)