

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

July 2012

Joshua: Hope for God's People

Lesson #2: Life Changing Faith

What are some of the challenges that a committed Christian would face as a spy? Prov 12:22

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Joshua 2

Note: Jericho was an old, prosperous and strategically significant city because it controlled the important trade route running the length of the Jordan valley. It also controlled access to the hill country of Canaan from the East. It covered about 8 acres with walls 30 feet high. The inner wall was 12 feet thick and the outer was 6 feet thick. Fed by a spring at the foot of the city, it still flows at a rate of thousands of gallons per minute, making it an oasis among the arid land. A prostitute's house makes a great place for spies because people come and go during the night and do not arouse suspicion.

1. How do you think the spies found Rehab?
 2. Why would Rehab risk her own safety for the safety of the spies?
 3. Why did the spies trust Rehab to not turn them in? vs. 11; 1 Cor 1:27-29; 1 Jn 5:9-13
 4. What role did Rehab's relatives play in their own "salvation?" Prov 11:30
 5. Do you think Rehab's lies to her countrymen were excusable? Why or why not?
 6. What evidence implies that Rehab became a Christian (person of faith)? Matt 1:5,6; Heb 11:31, Ja 2:8-13
- Note: Sarah (Abraham's wife) was a godly woman, the wife of the founder of the Hebrew race; and God used her dedicated body to bring Isaac into the world. But Rahab was an ungodly Gentile who worshiped pagan gods and sold her body for money. Humanly speaking, Sarah and Rahab had nothing in common. But from the divine viewpoint, Sarah and Rahab shared the most important thing in life: They both had exercised saving faith in the true and living God. Not only does the Bible associate Rahab with Sarah; but in James 2:21-26, it also associates her with Abraham. James used both Abraham and Rahab to illustrate the fact that true saving faith always proves itself by good works. But there's more: The Bible associates Rahab with the Messiah! When you read the genealogy of the Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 1, you find Rahab's name listed there (v. 5). She has certainly come a long way from being a pagan prostitute to being an ancestress of the Messiah! "But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound" (Rom. 5:20).¹*
7. What three conditions did Rehab have to meet to save her family?
 8. How does this story compare to The Passover in Egypt? Ex 12:21-23; Dt 2:25; Heb 7:25
 9. Why must genuine faith express itself in action? James 2:18; Matt 7:21 How does faith compare to risk?
 10. Moses didn't have a good experience with spies. Num 13:1-33 How did the spies' report this time compare that of years before? Why the difference?
 11. What effect did Rehab's faith have on the Israelites? On Joshua?
 12. How can our faith affect Christians and non-Christians around us during these challenging times of change and economic hardship?

APPLICATION

1. What actions have you taken recently as a direct result of your faith in Christ?
2. What scarlet cord do you offer in times of trial? Why?

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *Be Strong*. "Be" Commentary Series (33-34). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.