

Everyday FAITH Family Page

I Spy Salvation's Story

Law/Gospel

God will punish all who fight against Him and refuse to fear and trust Him, as happened with the people of Jericho. **God's mercy is even greater than His wrath, for He forgives and restores to life all who repent and fear Him, as happened with Rahab.**

Bible Words

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Psalm 103:8

The Big Picture

From the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1, we see that Rahab's family joined the Israelites after the fall of Jericho, and that she became an ancestor of the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Read and Reflect

Read Hebrews 11:1–2, and 31. Consider these questions and discuss them with your children to explore how Rahab's story helps us understand the idea of faith without sight.

1. Could Rahab see God? How did she know she could trust and believe in Him?
2. How did Rahab show her faith through her actions?

The Case of the Scarlet Cord: Rahab Believes

Joshua 2

After the Israelites had wandered in the desert for forty years, God prepared to give the Israelites the land He promised them. Joshua, the new Israelite leader, sent two spies to examine this land, especially the nearby city of Jericho.

When the king of Jericho tried to capture the spies, a prostitute named Rahab hid them in her house. Even though she was a Canaanite, an enemy of the Israelites who worshiped idols, Rahab heard about how God blessed the Israelites by parting the Red Sea and helped them defeat other powerful kingdoms. She believed in God's promises and confessed, "The LORD your God, He is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath" (2:11).

Rahab had no earthly reason to help the spies. She came from a large city with a strong military. She could have turned in the spies for a reward. But because of her faith in God, she protected the spies. In return, they promised to protect Rahab and her family when the city fell.

A Special Symbol

The spies gave Rahab a scarlet cord to hang in her window as a symbol of her faithfulness and their promise to protect her family. When the Israelite army invaded Jericho and saw the cord, they knew to spare everyone inside Rahab's house.

The cord's vibrant color is also a symbol of the blood shed by Jesus on the cross to cleanse the sins of all people. This promise of salvation by grace through faith is for Rahab and for us today (Ephesians 2:8–10).

Even though Rahab was a prostitute from idolatrous and sinful people, God offered her His merciful forgiveness and used her to play a role in His salvation story. God offers us this same hope of forgiveness and uses us to further the work of His kingdom through the Holy Spirit.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the forgiveness and grace won by Your Son's cleansing blood on the cross. Like Rahab, help us faithfully trust in Your promises. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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