

SAVED BY FAITH

CONCEPT

God saves all those who come to Him in faith.

GOAL

Christian students will learn that Rahab was a sinner like all of us, but she had faith. She believed that God would save her and she acted on her faith when she put the red rope in the window.

Non-Christian students will learn that we can put our faith in God to be saved just like Rahab put her faith in God.

PASSAGE: JOSHUA 2:1-24; 6:17, 25

Key Verse: "It was by faith that Rahab... was not killed with those who refused to obey God." Hebrews 11:31 (NCV)

PLANNING AHEAD*

Lesson Supplies

Lesson:

- *Mighty Acts of God*, Starr Meade
- Colored laminated picture cards from *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, Lloyd-Jones pp. 108-109, 96-97; *Children's Illustrated Bible*, Hastings p. 93; *The Battle of Jericho*, Penny Frank, pp. 7,8,9; *Mighty Acts of God*, Starr Meade p. 63
- 10' length of red yarn
- 6 "spring-type" clothespins
- "Elements of Faith" representations, 1 set/room
- 3' pieces of red yarn, 3/room

Learning Activity #2:

- 54" lengths of red cord, 1/student

Optional Activity:

- 2' length of yarn, 1/student

Craft Supplies

Activity Stations:

- God's Travel Plans map, 1/student
- Markers

* **Teachers please note:** For clarity, the shaded areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag. **Items followed by an asterisk* are to be supplied by the teaching team.**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION / TEACHER HELPS

"Faith without works is dead, and faith without assurance is something of which this writer can find no mention in Scripture. We refer, of course, to a *saving* faith. What is that faith? It is taking God at His Word, appropriating it unto myself, personally resting upon the testimony of Him who cannot lie. Now I either am doing so, or I am not. If I am, then I must be conscious of so doing, for I cannot possibly be trusting in God and relying on His promise and yet be unaware that I am so doing. Read through the N.T. epistles and nowhere is there a single passage addressed to saints who questioned their acceptance by God, but everywhere the language is "we know" II Cor. 5:1, Gal 4:9, Eph 6:9, Phil 1:6, Col 3:24, I Thess 1:4, I Peter 1:18,19."¹

"[Rahab]... had been profoundly impressed with the news of the strength of the God of Israel. **For the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath** (vs. 11). In all the achievements of the children of Israel it was God who gave them the victory. Rahab believed they were in the special keeping of God. It was not merely a matter of armed might but of omnipotent power. Hence her forthright confession.

"Deep underneath the bravado and arrogance of evil there has always been the recognition of the irresistible power of spiritual forces... Such is the testimony of evil to the power of God. It knows it is doomed. Face to face with God, it knows it has no chance and no future."²

God gave those in Jericho a true picture of Himself and the opportunity to believe in Him, an example of God's desire for *all* to be saved. This knowledge convinced Rahab, alone, that He was the one, true God. She believed that Jericho would fall at the hand of the Israelites, and because she put her trust in God, she was saved. She was not only saved from death when Jericho was conquered, but eternally, as well. Rahab married into the line of Judah and is included in the genealogy of Christ (see Matt. 1:5).

"The destruction of Jericho and the subsequent campaign throughout Canaan was the fulfillment of God's judgment on the wickedness and corruption of the nations living in Canaan. Hundreds of years before, God had told Abraham that the wickedness of Canaan was not yet ready for His judgment (see Genesis 15:16). This statement shows that God is always patient and waiting, much longer than seems necessary, for man to repent and turn to Him (see 2 Peter 3:9). Some never do. The Canaanites, like the people of Noah's time, had become so corrupt that God could no longer withhold His just judgment. In this case, God used the Israelites as His means of judgment on the Canaanites, just as the heavenly Man with the drawn sword indicated would happen. God was the leader of the Israelites in defeating the highly fortified city of Jericho."³

¹ Arthur W. Pink, *Gleanings in Joshua*, p. 67-68.

² *The Interpreter's Bible*, Vol. 2, 1987, Abingdon Press, pp. 560-561.

³ Martha McCallum, Jane Hamblin, *God's Incredible Plan*, p. 53.

LESSON PLAN

SET UP	Instructions: Stretch the 10' red yarn between and fasten to two adult chairs in a "clothesline" manner for the LESSON.
INCORPORATION 15-20 MIN	Activity Stations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geography – God's Travel Plans Instructions: Have the students find Jericho and the Jordan River on the map. Circle Jericho and color the Jordan River blue. • Missions Prayer Instructions: Talk about and pray for Oasis Giving campaign and adopted missionary child.
INTRODUCTION LG GROUP 2 MIN	Do you remember the new leader of the Israelites after Moses died? (It was Joshua.) Last week we learned about Joshua and the Israelites' incredible journey across the Jordan River. We pretended to cross the Jordan River. But let's go back in time, just before they crossed the river to learn what happened when Joshua sent two spies into Jericho. Jericho was a beautiful city in the land of Canaan, the land God promised to give to Abraham's great, great, great, great grandchildren. Jericho was about 4 miles west of the Jordan River and was surrounded by a huge wall. (Show location on God's Travel Plans map from the Activity Station.) As with every city in Canaan, it even had its own army. Joshua sent the spies to check out the first city the Israelites would come to in the Promised Land. Let's find out what happened to those spies while they were in Jericho.
TRANSITION – 2 MIN	Grab a Bible.
LESSON LG GROUP 15 MIN	<p>Instructions: Read <i>Mighty Acts of God</i>, pp. 63-65. Have a student put each picture up as the story is read. The pictures are numbered in the order they should be hung.</p> <p>Turn to Hebrews 11 in your Bibles. Our key verse today is Hebrews 11:31. Who'd like to read it for us? When Rahab and the others in her city of Jericho heard about the God of Israel, they were afraid that the Israelites would come to take their cities and land. It's hard to believe that even though they knew about the LORD, they decided to fight rather than follow the God of Israel.</p> <p>However, Rahab was saved because she believed God. When Rahab hung the rope out her window it was a sign to the Israelites that she and her family were to be saved. Does anyone know about chapter 11 in the book of Hebrews? This chapter tells us about many people who had great faith throughout biblical history. It's about those who were saved from God's judgment because they had faith, they believed God. "It was by faith that Rahab... was not killed with those who refused to obey God" (Hebrews 11:31). Everyone else in the city of Jericho was killed because they refused to believe God. Rahab was a sinner like all of us, but she had faith. She believed that God would save her and she acted on her faith when she put the red rope in the window. Do you know that we also need to be saved? We need to be saved from the punishment for our sin. God sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to take the punishment for ALL sin. Jesus died for us so we would not have to be separated from God because of our sin. You can put your faith in God to be saved just like Rahab put her faith in God.</p> <p>"Roping" It all Together Instructions: As you discuss each element, clip a representation to the bottom of each three foot length of red yarn with a clothespin.</p> <p>Our key verse today is Hebrews 11:31, "It was by faith that Rahab, the prostitute, welcomed the spies and was not killed with those who refused to obey God." Rahab had to believe God would destroy Jericho and save her. If Israel did not conquer Jericho and the king</p>

discovered her lie, she would be in great danger. It took a lot of faith in a God that Rahab hardly knew for her to house the spies, hide them when the soldiers came looking, lie to the soldiers, help the spies escape, and then leave the red rope hanging from the window.

You may think that Rahab must have had some "SUPER HUMAN" amount of faith. She didn't! She was a lot like any of us in this room, just a normal person. She applied the three elements of faith.

Belief in the ONE true God

Rahab knew the God of Israel was the supreme God of heaven. Even though the others in her country didn't believe in God, Rahab chose to believe Him.

Willing Heart

Rahab did not just believe in God, she was willing to be used by God. Just as God used Jacob, Moses and all of the people we've learned about this year, God used Rahab because she had a willing heart. She was willing to help the spies in Jericho even though she could have been caught and punished. She put her faith in God and trusted Him to protect and take care of her.

- Are you willing to trust Him?
- Have you trusted God for your salvation? That's the beginning of a willing heart.

Once we trust God for salvation, He continues to show us ways to trust Him more deeply in our lives each day.

Action

The final element of faith is action! If we believe in God and are willing to trust Him we want to put that faith into practice in our lives. Faith is not just something to think about and pray about.

Genuine faith believes, is willing and is ACTIVE. When you put all three of these together, your faith in God will strengthen just like this rope. (Ask 3 students to each hold one of the representations on the yarn. While they hold them, braid the three together to make one strong, thick "rope.")

TRANSITION – 2 MIN

Let's get into small groups to talk about ways to put our faith into action and to pray.

LEARNING ACTIVITY

#1 - SM GROUPS 10 MIN

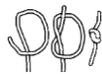
Rationale: to apply scripture to real life.

Craft – Bookmark

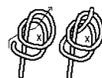
Instructions: Give each student 54" of red cord. For a braided bookmark, cut the cord into 3 equal pieces. Knot the strands together at one end and braid. For a knotted bookmark, fold the cord in thirds and cut 1/3 off. Knot with the longer piece. See sample illustrations at the end of the lesson. To finish either bookmark, knot the strands together at bottom. **Try this during small group to see if it helps the discussion. Sometimes kids will talk more if they have something to do with their hands.**

- So, consider the following. You're a Christian and you know that God loves you and He tells you to love others. You want to love other people and for the most part you do a pretty good job at it. But some people are hard to love. There is this boy in your class who is always picking fights and he lies to the teacher. He is in from recess one day trying to work on his math problems.
- Okay, so imagine you decide you might help him, but what are some reasons you don't think it's a good idea?
- What would it look like if you decided to trust God in this situation?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you trust God, does it always turn out the way you want it to? If it doesn't, does that mean you shouldn't have trusted Him? • Let's pray.
OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES	<p>Game – Roped Together Instructions: Give each student a two-foot length of yarn. Pair the students and have one of the pair tie the ends of the yarn around each of his own wrists. The other person of the pair will tie one end of his yarn around one of his own wrists, thread the other end of the yarn between the arms of his partner, and then tie the end on his other wrist. The object is to figure out a way to separate the partners without taking the yarn off any wrist.</p> <p>Game -- Rope Tag Instructions: Clear away as much space as you can. This game is just like chain tag. Start with a safety zone at each end of the room. The game begins with one player in the middle who is "it." The object of the game is to get from one safety zone to the next without being tagged. If a player is tagged they hold on to "it's" hand and become "it." As players are added to either end of the "rope" they become "it." Only "it" can do the tagging. The "rope" must be connected at all times. If a player is tagged when there is a disconnected "rope," that player is free to go to the safety zone. The game ends when all players are a part of the "rope."</p> <p>(If possible, go outside for this game.)</p>

The Overhand Knot⁴**The Overhand Knot or Half Knot**

This is the simplest knot..

The Double Overhand Knot

The double overhand knot is beautiful, thicker than the common overhand knot. This knot has several ways of tying and in principle two ways of working up.



⁴ <http://www.realknots.com/knots/stoppers.htm>