Preschool–Grade 6

Rahab and the Spies

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: Rahab heard what the LORD had done and trusted Him, and God saved her and her family. Faith in God shows in what we do.
Bible passage: Joshua 2:1–24. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath." *Joshua 2:11 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board.

1. Opening game: What Did You Hear? (5–10 minutes)

Whisper a short sentence to the first child, like "God dried up the Red sea for His people." Each child whispers it to the next. The last child says it out loud. Did it stay the same? Play twice. Ask: *Have you ever heard news that made you change what you did?* Say: "Today we will meet a woman who heard what God had done, and it changed everything for her."

2. Bible story: Rahab Trusts the LORD (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to Joshua 2. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

Two men to Jericho. God's people, Israel, were camped at **Shittim**, ready to cross the river Jordan into the land God promised them. Joshua, their leader, sent two men "to spy secretly" and look at the land, even the city of **Jericho** (Joshua 2:1). They came to the house of a woman named Rahab and **lodged** (stayed) there (2:1).

Hidden on the roof. Someone told the king of Jericho, and he sent to Rahab: "Bring forth the men" (2:2–3). Rahab hid them. She told the king's men that the men had gone out at dark, when the gate was shut, and that they should chase after them quickly (2:4–5). That was not true, and the Bible doesn't praise it (see the note at the end). **Look up Joshua 2:6. Flax** is a tall plant; she had laid its stalks **in order**, in neat rows, on her flat roof. The king's men chased the way to the Jordan, to the **fords** (shallow places to cross a river), and the city gate was shut behind them (2:7).

What Rahab believed. Rahab went up to the roof and said, "I know that the LORD hath given you the land" (2:8–9). **Look up Joshua 2:10.** The people of Jericho had heard how the LORD dried up the Red sea when Israel came out of Egypt, and what Israel did to two kings, Sihon and Og. **Look up Joshua 2:11.** "Our hearts did melt" means they were very afraid. But Rahab said the true thing about God: "the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath."

A promise. Rahab said she had **shewed** (shown) them kindness, and she asked them to **swear** (promise) by the LORD to save her father, mother, brothers, sisters and all they had, and to give her a **true token**, a sure sign (2:12–13). **Look up Joshua 2:14.** "Our life for yours" means they would guard her life with their own.

Down the wall. Look up Joshua 2:15. Her house was upon the town wall, so they could get down outside the city. She told them to hide in the mountain three days until the men chasing them came back (2:16).

The scarlet line. Look up Joshua 2:18. Scarlet means bright red. Everyone inside her house would be kept safe (2:19). **Look up Joshua 2:21.** "According unto your words, so be it" means "Let it be just as you said." She did exactly what they said.

Back to Joshua. The two men hid in the mountain three days, then crossed back over and told Joshua everything (2:22–23). **Look up Joshua 2:24.** Later, when Jericho fell, Joshua saved Rahab and all her family (Joshua 6:25). Hebrews 11:31 says that "by faith" Rahab "perished not with them that believed not."

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. Everyone in Jericho heard what God did (2:10–11). Why do you think Rahab believed, and turned to God's people, when the others did not?
2. Rahab said the LORD "is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath" (2:11). What does that tell you about how big God is?
3. How did Rahab show her faith by what she did? (Look at 2:6, 2:15 and 2:21.)
4. Rahab asked the men to save her whole family (2:13). Who would you want to tell about God?
5. Romans 10:17 says, "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Where do you hear about what God has done?

Recall questions

1. Which city did the two men spy out? *(Jericho, Joshua 2:1)*
2. What did Rahab hide them with? *(Stalks of flax on the roof, 2:6)*
3. How many days did they hide in the mountain? *(Three, 2:16, 2:22)*

4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **our hearts did melt** means we were very afraid; **courage** means being brave; **beneath** means below. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Rahab heard about the LORD and believed, and God saved her and everyone in her house. God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."

Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

This week: tell one person something God has done. Rahab believed because she heard.

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6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. Joshua 2:1: From which place did Joshua send the two men? *(Shittim)*
2. Joshua 2:6: What did Rahab hide the men with? *(The stalks of flax)*
3. Joshua 2:7: Which way did the king's men chase them? *(The way to Jordan unto the fords)*
4. Joshua 2:10: What had the people of Jericho heard the LORD did? *(He dried up the water of the Red sea)*
5. Joshua 2:15: Where was Rahab's house? *(Upon the town wall)*
6. Joshua 2:16: Where did Rahab tell the men to hide? *(In the mountain, three days)*
7. Joshua 2:18: What did she have to bind in the window? *(This line of scarlet thread)*
8. Joshua 2:24: What did the men tell Joshua? *(Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land)*

7. Prayer

"Dear God, You are God in heaven above and in earth beneath. Thank You that faith comes by hearing Your Word. Help us believe You, show it by what we do, and tell others what You have done. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

About what Rahab told the king's men (2:4–5): say it plainly: it was not true, and the Bible never praises it. God's Word says, "Lying lips are abomination to the LORD" (Proverbs 12:22). The Bible praises Rahab's faith (Hebrews 11:31), not her words to the king's men.

About Rahab: if a child reads the word "harlot" (Joshua 2:1; Hebrews 11:31), say simply that she had lived a sinful life, and don't explain further. The point is what God did: she believed, and she was saved.

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