Preschool–Grade 6

Rahab and the Spies

Sunday School Lesson for Preteens (Ages 11–12), 45–60 minutes

Main point: Faith comes by hearing what God has done, and real faith acts. Rahab trusted the LORD, and God saved her and her whole house.
Bible passage: Joshua 2:1–24 and Hebrews 11:31. Students read them out loud themselves.
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)* and "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." *Romans 10:17 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each student, paper or a notebook and a pen for each student, a whiteboard and a marker, and one take-home sheet for each student.
Before class: read Joshua 2, Joshua 6:22–25 and Hebrews 11:31. Write both memory verses on the board. Decide who reads which verses, or go around the room a few verses each.

1. Opening game: Same News, Different Answer (5–10 minutes)

Read each piece of news. Students call out two different ways a person could answer it. 1) "A storm is coming tonight." 2) "Your friend is in trouble and needs help." 3) "The coach says practice starts at six." 4) "God says He loves you and will save you." Ask: *Why do two people hear the same news and do different things?* Say: "A whole city heard the same news about God. Only one woman acted on it."

2. Bible story: Students Read It (15 minutes)

Read out loud: Joshua 2:1–24. Students take turns, a few verses each. Old words in this passage:

- **Shittim** (2:1): where Israel was camped, east of the Jordan; **to spy secretly**: to look over the land without being seen; **lodged**: stayed
- **an harlot's house** (2:1): the Bible says plainly that Rahab had lived a sinful life. Don't explain further; the point is that God saved her when she believed (Hebrews 11:31)
- **wist not / wot not** (2:4–5): did not know. Her words to the king's men were not true, and the Bible never praises them (Proverbs 12:22)
- **flax… laid in order** (2:6): stalks of a tall plant, laid in rows on the flat roof; **fords** (2:7): shallow places to cross a river
- **your terror is fallen upon us… faint… our hearts did melt** (2:9, 2:11): the people were very afraid
- **utterly destroyed** (2:10): wiped out completely; the LORD had given Israel victory over Sihon and Og

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

More old words in Joshua 2:

- **swear unto me by the LORD** (2:12): promise in the LORD's name; **true token**: a sure sign; **brethren** (2:13): brothers
- **Our life for yours** (2:14): we will guard your life with ours; **utter not this our business**: don't tell what we are doing
- **blameless... quit of thine oath** (2:17, 2:20): free from the promise if its terms aren't kept
- **his blood shall be upon his head** (2:19): if he goes out of the house, what happens to him is his own fault
- **befell** (2:23): happened

Then read out loud: Hebrews 11:31. Perished not means she did not die; **received the spies with peace** means she welcomed them and kept them safe. **Tell the end in your own words:** when Jericho fell, the two men brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers and all she had, and Joshua saved her alive. She lived among God's people (Joshua 6:22–25).

3. Questions to ask (15 minutes)

1. All of Jericho heard about the Red sea and Sihon and Og (2:10–11). Everyone was afraid, but Hebrews 11:31 says the others "believed not." What is the difference between being afraid of God and trusting Him?
2. Rahab said, "the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath" (2:11). What did it take for her to say this and act on it, in the middle of Jericho?
3. Hebrews 11:31 says she was saved "by faith." Find three things she did because she believed (2:6, 2:15, 2:21). What does faith that acts look like for you this week?
4. Rahab's words to the king's men were not true (2:4–5), yet the Bible praises her faith (Hebrews 11:31). Why is it important that the Bible tells the truth about people's wrongs and doesn't hide them? What does Proverbs 12:22 say God wants from us?
5. Rahab asked for her father's whole household (2:13), and they were all saved (6:23). Who are you praying for and telling about God?
6. Romans 10:17 says faith comes by hearing the word of God. Where are you hearing God's Word right now, and what are you doing with what you hear?

4. Memory verse (5 minutes)

Old words in Joshua 2:11 and Romans 10:17: **our hearts did melt** means we were very afraid; **courage** means being brave; **beneath** means below; **cometh** means comes.
Read both verses together. Then students cover one phrase at a time and quiz a partner. Say Joshua 2:11 this week; keep working on Romans 10:17 next week too.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

5. What this means for us (5–10 minutes)

Say: "Rahab heard what God had done, believed, and acted on it, and she 'perished not with them that believed not' (Hebrews 11:31, KJV). God loves you, and 'all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, God who came as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). 'Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures' (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, KJV). We obey the gospel the way Peter preached it: '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) We **repent**, turning from sin, and our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are buried with Jesus by baptism in His name, all the way under the water. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we rise to walk in newness of life, a brand-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 utterance, which means as He gives the words (Acts 2:4). Jesus called this being born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5)."
Pray with the students, 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.

6. Activity: Journal (10 minutes)

Each student writes privately. No one has to share. Write these three prompts on the board:

1. What have I heard about what God has done, in the Bible or in my own life?
2. What is one thing I will do this week because I believe Him?
3. Write a short prayer for someone in your family or a friend you want to know God.
   If there is time, invite a few volunteers to share one sentence.

This week: put a red thread or a red mark somewhere you will see it. Each time you see it, remember that Rahab trusted the LORD, and pray for one person who needs to hear about Him.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, You are God in heaven above and in earth beneath. Thank You that faith comes by hearing Your Word. Give us faith that acts, help us tell the truth, and help us bring our families and friends to You. Thank You for loving us and making a way to save us through Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a student asks about what happened to Jericho: that is the next part of the story (Joshua 6). Say simply that God judged the city, as He had said, and He saved Rahab and her family, who believed (Joshua 6:17, 6:25). The full story is in the walls of Jericho lesson at vbshq.com/lessons/jericho-lesson.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post