Preschool–Grade 6

Rahab and the Spies

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Rahab trusted the LORD, and God saved her and her family. We can trust Him too.
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, 6 paper strips, a marker, tape, a long piece of red yarn, two small toys or blocks, a pile of paper strips, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 6 paper strips (see part 4). Put bookmarks in your Bible at Joshua 2:6 and Joshua 2:11.

1. Opening game: Find the Two Men (5 minutes)

Show the class two small toys or blocks. Say: "These are two men." The kids close their eyes while one child hides the two toys somewhere in the room under a pile of paper strips. Then everyone looks for them. Play two or three times. Say: "Today we will hear a true story about a woman who hid two men on her roof, under a pile of plants."

2. Bible story: Rahab Trusts the LORD (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Joshua 2, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Joshua was the leader of God's people, Israel. Before they went into the land God promised them, Joshua sent two men to **spy** out the city of **Jericho**. To spy means to look around secretly (Joshua 2:1). The two men came to the house of a woman named **Rahab**, and they stayed there (2:1).

Someone told the king of Jericho that men from Israel had come (2:2). The king sent word to Rahab: "Bring forth the men" (2:3). But Rahab had taken the two men up to the **roof** of her house. She hid them under stalks of **flax**, a tall plant, that she had laid in rows on her roof (2:4, 2:6). The king's men did not find them. They went looking for them on the road to the river Jordan, and the gate of the city was shut (2:7).

Then Rahab went up on the roof to talk to the two men (2:8). She said, "We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you" (2:10). The people of Jericho had heard what God did for Israel, and they were afraid (2:9–11). **Read Joshua 2:11 from your Bible.** Point to the words "he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath." Say: "Rahab believed the LORD is the one true God, over heaven and earth!"

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The story continues: Rahab asked the men to promise to save her father, her mother, her brothers and her sisters (2:12–13). The men promised. They said, "Our life for yours" (2:14).

Rahab's house was built on the town **wall**. So she let the two men down by a **cord**, a strong rope, through her **window**, and they got away (2:15). She told them to hide in the mountain for three days (2:16).

The men told her, "Thou shalt bind this line of **scarlet** thread in the window." Bind means tie, and scarlet means bright red. She was to bring her father, her mother, her brothers and all her family into her house (2:18). Rahab said, "According unto your words, so be it." That means, "Let it be just as you said." And she tied the scarlet line in the window (2:21).

The two men hid in the mountain three days. Then they went back to Joshua and told him everything (2:22–23). They said, "Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land" (2:24).

Later, when God gave Jericho to His people, Joshua saved Rahab and all her family, just as the men had promised (Joshua 6:25). The Bible says Rahab was saved **by faith**, because she believed God (Hebrews 11:31).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Who did Joshua send to Jericho? *(Two men, to spy secretly, Joshua 2:1)*
2. Where did Rahab hide the two men? *(On her roof, under stalks of flax, 2:6)*
3. What did Rahab say about the LORD? *("He is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath," 2:11)*
4. How did the men get out of the city? *(Rahab let them down by a cord through her window, because her house was on the town wall, 2:15)*
5. What did Rahab tie in her window? *(The scarlet line, a bright red cord, 2:21)*

4. Memory verse: Scarlet Line Verse (5 minutes)

Tape the red yarn across the wall or board. Tape the 6 strips under it in order: *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.* Explain the old words: **our hearts did melt** means we were very afraid; **courage** means being brave; **beneath** means below. Read the verse together. Then take one strip away and read it again. Keep taking strips away, one each time, until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Rahab heard what God did, and she believed Him. God saved her and her whole family. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (Acts 2:4)."
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: when you feel afraid, remember that the LORD is God in heaven above and in earth beneath, and tell Him, "I trust You."

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Rahab word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/rahab-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the craft (vbshq.com/crafts/rahab-craft), or **Into the House:** mark a "house" on the floor with tape or a rug, and tie the red yarn to a chair beside it for the window. Kids walk around the room. When you hold up the red yarn and call "Scarlet line!", everyone hurries into the house. Ask one child to name someone in Rahab's family (father, mother, brothers, sisters, 2:13), then play again.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, You are God in heaven above and in earth beneath. Thank You for saving Rahab and her family when she trusted You. Help us trust You too, even when we are afraid. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks what Rahab told the king's men: she said the men had already gone out (Joshua 2:4–5), and that was not true. The Bible never praises those words; God wants us to always tell the truth (Proverbs 12:22). What the Bible praises is Rahab's faith: she believed God (Hebrews 11:31).

About Rahab: the Bible calls her "Rahab the harlot" (Joshua 6:17). This lesson just calls her Rahab. If a child asks, say simply that she had lived a sinful life before, but she believed in the LORD, and God saved her (Hebrews 11:31). Don't explain the word further.

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