

SEQUIM COMMUNITY CHURCH
WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

Rahab

Rahab is known as the woman who gave shelter to Joshua's two spies when they were sent to size up the take over of the walled city of Jericho. Enemy soldiers caught wind of the spies presence and surrounded Rahab's house. They demanded that Rahab turn over the spies to them which she was not about to do. Rahab told the soldiers that they had already escaped. With this they left. The grateful spies instructed her to hang a red rope out of her window on the day of assault. When the Israelites laid waste to the city and its inhabitants, the rope would identify Rahab and her family as allies, and they would be spared.

Small Group Opener:

When have you judged the outward appearance of someone and then was surprised by who they really were? _____

MAIN BIBLE STUDY:

Read Joshua 2:1-2:21 & 6:22-25 and answer the following questions.

1. As you read through the story of Rahab in the verses below, underline the points below where you most identify with Rahab, then explain why.

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|---|--|
| • Her promiscuous past (Joshua 2:1) | • Her concern for family (Joshua 2:12-13) |
| • Her courageous acts (Joshua 2:3-6) | • Her trust in strangers (Joshua 2:21) |
| • Her acknowledgement and reverence for God (Joshua 2:8-11) | • Her miraculous redemption (Joshua 6:22-25) |
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2. Re-read Joshua 2:8-13. How many times does Rahab refer to the Lord in these verses? _____

- How do we know that Rahab didn't simply tell these men what they wanted to hear so they would spare her life? _____

Are there clues in her behavior that point to true faith - not falsehood - in action? _____

- Now read Romans 10:10. What two actions does someone have to enact to be saved?

- How is Rahab's bold declaration of belief similar to the two simple steps identified in Romans 10:10? _____

3. Re-read Joshua 1:2-3; 6:1-5 & 21. Why did the Lord destroy Jericho and (almost) all of its inhabitants? _____

4. Read Deuteronomy 7:1-5. This passage makes it very clear how such destruction was to be accomplished when the children of Israel entered the Promised Land. Note those activities that were indeed carried out in Jericho.

- According to Deuteronomy 7:6-10, why was this claiming of the land necessary? _____

5. Re-read Joshua 2:17-18. What particular steps of obedience did the spies require of Rahab in order for her to be saved from destruction? _____

- How did she respond verbally in Joshua 2:21? _____

- What proof do we have in Joshua 6:23 that she obeyed physically? _____

6. In both Joshua 2:18 and 2:21 the Hebrew word "tiquah" is translated as "cord or thread." Elsewhere it is translated as "hope." In the following passage, to what is our hope "tied" ?

- Psalm 71:5-6 _____

- I Timothy 4:9-10 _____

7. Read Joshua 6:25 and Matthew 1:1 & 5. What's the happy ending to this former bad girl's story? _____

8. How are the truths in Joshua 24:23-24 a fitting description of Rahab's new life in God?

- In these verses, Joshua asks two things of the people of God, and they make two promises in return. Write down all four statements below.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

Going Further – Additional Study

A. Former prostitutes are not the only ones among us who need to know that grace and mercy can be found at the throne of God. Romans 3:22-24 describe our universal need for forgiveness. According to these verses:

- Where does righteousness come from? _____
- What do we have to do to be forgiven? _____
- How is the grace of God demonstrated? _____
- Who needs God's grace and why? _____
- How much does it cost us? _____
- How much did it cost Christ Jesus? _____

B. What do the following verses tell us about forgiveness?

- Romans 4:7-8 _____
- I John 2:12 _____

C. It's easy to judge others in the church who have a "colorful past." What do the following verses tell us about judging others?

- Luke 6:37 _____
- Romans 14:10 _____
- James 4:12 _____

D. According to the following verses, how can we push past our prejudice (or pre-prejudice) of people and see them simply as sinners saved by grace, just as we are?

- John 13:34-35 _____
- Ephesians 4:32 _____
- Colossians 3:13-15 _____
- I Peter 3:8 _____
- In what way did Rahab demonstrate these virtues? _____

E. Read Hebrews 11:31. Even in the New Testament, Rahab is still known by her old job title. If you identify with Rahab's previous life in some way, what names might you have been called because of your past? _____

- If those names still have the power to wound you, the following verses assure us that God has forgiven - and forgotten - those sins and the labels that went with them. Rewrite these verses in the form of a personal praise and thanks for you to God.

◦ Psalm 103:11-12 _____

◦ Psalm 130:3-5 _____

◦ Hebrews 4:15-16 _____

F. Read James 2:25. What was the result of Rhab's being obedient to God instead of to her heathen king? _____

- What do you find in the following verses to motivate you to obedience?

◦ John 14:15 _____

◦ 2 John 6 _____

- Jot down the benefits of obedience as demonstrated in the following two verses:

◦ Romans 16:19 _____

◦ I John 3:24 _____