

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Joshua 2:1-23. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you find most challenging? Why?
2. Have you ever judged the outward appearance of someone and then was surprised by who they really were? How did you feel afterwards? What happened?
3. When Joshua sends the spies on a secret mission to Jericho, is that a sign that Joshua fails to trust the Lord completely for their victory? Why or why not? How are faith & common-sense compatible? (See Luke 14:28-29 to help you with your answer)
4. Rahab gives the spies a remarkable summary of the history of God's miraculous work on Israel's behalf. How are the people of Jericho responding to the news of Israel's success? Why?
5. Why does Rahab act deceptively against the best interests of her nation to hide & then rescue the Israelite spies? What does that tell you about her?
6. Look again at today's theme verse, (vs 11). Rahab makes a startling confession of faith. The book of James (2:20-24) mentions Rahab as a prime example of faith. Luther said faith & works are like fire & burning; where you have one the other is sure to be. How does Rahab courageously live what she believes to be true about Yahweh? Given what you know to be true about God's love revealed in Jesus, what does your faith call you to courageously do as a result?
7. In both Joshua 2:18 & 2:21 the Hebrew word "*tiquah*" is translated "cord or thread." Elsewhere it is translated as "hope." In Psalm 71:5-6 & 1 Timothy 4:9-10, to what is our hope "tied"?
8. Read Joshua 6:22-25 and Matthew 1:1 & 1:5. What's the long-term result for Rahab's courageous living?
9. How is Joshua 24:23-24 a fitting description of Rahab's new life in relationship to the God who saved her life from destruction?
10. What does this text call you to do?

Remember:

There is always a place in God's kingdom for those with the courage to act on the knowledge that He is Lord and walk with Him into the unknown.

Living Water Fellowship

1st Sunday after Pentecost – Trinity Sunday

26TH MAY 2024

COME TO JESUS

SONGS:

O Breath of Life

No Other Name

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING:

Joshua 2:1-23

¹ Joshua secretly sent out two spies from the Israelite camp at Acacia Grove. He instructed them, "Scout out the land on the other side of the Jordan River, especially around Jericho." So the two men set out & came to the house of a prostitute named Rahab & stayed there that night. ² But someone told the king of Jericho, "Some Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land." ³ So the king of Jericho sent orders to Rahab: "Bring out the men who have come into your house, for they have come here to spy out the whole land."

⁴ Rahab had hidden the two men, but she replied, "Yes, the men were here earlier, but I didn't know where they were from." ⁵ They left the town at dusk, as the gates were about to close. I don't know where they went. If you hurry, you can probably catch up with them." ⁶ (Actually, she had taken them up to the roof & hidden them beneath bundles of flax she had laid out.) ⁷ So the king's men went looking for the spies along the road leading to the shallow crossings of the Jordan River. As soon as the king's men had left, the gate of Jericho was shut.

⁸ Before the spies went to sleep that night, Rahab went up on the roof to talk with them. ⁹ "I know the Lord has given you this land," she told them. "We are all afraid of you. Everyone in the land is living in terror." ¹⁰ For we have heard how the Lord made a dry path for you through the Red Sea when you left Egypt. And we know what you did to Sihon & Og, the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan River, whose people you completely destroyed. ¹¹ No wonder our hearts have melted in fear! No one has the courage to fight after hearing such things. For the Lord your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below.

¹² "Now swear to me by the Lord that you will be kind to me & my family since I have helped you. Give me some guarantee that ¹³ when Jericho is conquered, you will let me live, along with my father & mother, my brothers & sisters, & all their families." ¹⁴ "We offer our own lives as a guarantee for your safety," the men agreed. "If you don't betray us, we will keep our promise & be kind to you when the Lord gives us the land."

¹⁵ Then, since Rahab's house was built into the town wall, she let them down by a rope through the window. ¹⁶ "Escape to the hill country," she told them. "Hide there for three days from the men searching for you. Then, when they have returned, you can go on your way."

¹⁷ Before they left, the men told her, "We will be bound by the oath we have taken only if you follow these instructions. ¹⁸ When we come into the land, you must leave this scarlet rope hanging from the window through which you let us down. And all your family members—your father, mother, brothers, & all your relatives—must be here inside the house. ¹⁹ If they go out into the street & are killed, it will not be our fault. But if anyone lays a hand on people inside this house, we will accept the responsibility for their death. ²⁰ If you betray us, however, we are not bound by this oath in any way." ²¹ "I accept your terms," she replied, and she sent them on their way, leaving the scarlet rope hanging from the window.

²² The spies went up into the hill country & stayed there three days. The men who were chasing them searched everywhere along the road, but they finally returned without success.

²³ Then the two spies came down from the hill country, crossed the Jordan River, & reported to Joshua all that had happened to them. ²⁴ "The Lord has given us the whole land," they said, "for all the people in the land are terrified of us."

CHILDREN'S TIME:

FAITH CHAT:

1. Who is someone you admire for their courage & conviction?
2. Where in your life would courage & conviction be most helpful right now?

SONG: *Only a Holy God*

THE MESSAGE: *LIVING COURAGEOUSLY: RAHAB*

OFFERING SONG: *In Christ Alone*

PRAYERS:

OUR CHRISTIAN CONFESSION: *THE APOSTLES' CREED*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, & sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE COMMUNION:

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship Video during Communion: To The Table (Zach Williams)

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God,
Christ has made you his to live courageously in his Name!
-- Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: *Let Your Kingdom Come*

SHOW HIS LOVE

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