

### 13.01 Rahab (Joshua 2:1-24)

✓ “*Check*” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. It also indicates answers to questions.

#### Visuals and Tools:

- “Joshua” Flash-a-Cards by A Beka Book, Pensacola, FL, 1985, and/or pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional needed materials.
- Linen napkin or other item made of linen; (optional) flax plant; flax seeds

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Tips and terms are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *flax*: a food and fiber crop; textiles made from flax are linen, used in bed sheets, handkerchiefs, *etc.*
- *pursuer*: someone who chases after another

#### Scripture: (ESV)

Joshua 2:1 And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.”

And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there.

2 And it was told to the king of Jericho, “Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land.” 3 Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, “Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land.”

4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, “True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. 5 And when the gate was about to be closed at dark, the men went out. I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them.”

6 But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof. 7 So the men pursued after them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. And the gate was shut as soon as the pursuers had gone out.

8 Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof 9 and said to the men, “I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. 10 For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. 11 And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.

12 Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father’s house, and give me a sure sign 13 that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death.” 14 And the men said to her, “Our life for yours even to death! If you do not tell this business of ours, then when the Lord gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you.”

15 Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was built into the city wall, so that she lived in the wall. 16 And she said to them, “Go into the hills, or the pursuers will encounter you, and hide there three days until the pursuers have returned. Then afterward you may go your way.”

17 The men said to her, “We will be guiltless with respect to this oath of yours that you have made us swear. 18 Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us

down, and you shall gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father's household. 19 Then if anyone goes out of the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we shall be guiltless. But if a hand is laid on anyone who is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head. 20 But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be guiltless with respect to your oath that you have made us swear."

21 And she said, "According to your words, so be it." Then she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

22 They departed and went into the hills and remained there three days until the pursuers returned, and the pursuers searched all along the way and found nothing. 23 Then the two men returned. They came down from the hills and passed over and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and they told him all that had happened to them. 24 And they said to Joshua, "Truly the Lord has given all the land into our hands. And also, all the inhabitants of the land melt away because of us."

### **Introduction/Review:**

God had delivered Israel from Egypt. Moses, the great leader and prophet, had led the Israelites through the dry Red Sea to Mount Sinai and, after forty years, to the edge of the promised land of Canaan. Israel had conquered almost the entire eastern side of the Jordan River. Sihon and Og, the two main kings, had been destroyed along with their cities and people.

Two and one-half tribes—Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh—decided they would just as soon live on this eastern side of Jordan [locate on map]. Moses agreed to this decision as long as the soldiers from these tribes went to fight with the other tribes for their land on the west side of Jordan. "That's fine with us," said the two and a half tribes and promised to fight for their brothers.

Israel remained in an area named Shittim [pronounced *shih TEEM*] [locate on the map found below] for a fairly long time. It was here that King Balak of Moab hired Balaam (with his talking donkey) to curse the people of God. Instead, Balaam ended up blessing Israel, but he also got Israel to become interested in Moabite and Midianite women who caused many Israelites to worship idols. A great plague, sent by God for this sin, killed many thousands of Israelites. However, God then gave victory in battle over the Midianites.

Here at Shittim Moses took a census of all the men ready for war, he composed his song, and delivered his farewell speech and final blessing to the people. He also commissioned Joshua to be Israel's next leader.

### **Story:**

#### ***Two spies***

Moses had told Joshua to be strong and courageous, for God would give Israel the land of Canaan. Although Joshua might have been strong and courageous, he also needed to be wise. ✓As he thought about the first city, Jericho, that he was to attack, he decided to send a couple of spies to check things out. "Go, view the land, especially Jericho," he said to the spies.

So the two men crossed the Jordan and went to Jericho, arriving in the evening. They found a room at ✓an inn/hotel in the home of a woman named Rahab. Rahab recognized these men as being Israelites and knew they were in danger. She ✓immediately hid them under stalks of flax on the flat roof of her house.

#### ***Messengers from the king***

Soon the king sent messengers to Rahab's door. (Knock, knock.) When Rahab answered the door, they demanded, "Bring out the men who are in your house, for they have come to search out the land."

"True, the men came to me," replied Rahab. Then her reply became a lie: "But I did not know where they were from. When the gate was about to close at dark, the men went out. I do not know where the men went. If you hurry, you will catch them."

The king's men believed Rahab and took her advice, searching everywhere the entire five miles to the

Jordan River.

### ***A believing woman***

Rahab came back to the men up on the rooftop and said, “I know that the Lord has given you the land. I can tell you that the fear of you has fallen upon us all; the inhabitants of the land will melt away before you. We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea when you came out of Egypt. We also heard what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings across the Jordan. Indeed, as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in anyone because of you.” Then Rahab said ✓something that was amazingly encouraging: “I know the Lord your God is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.”

What a lot of intelligence information Rahab gave these spies! The people of the land were terrified of Israel and Israel’s God! This was great news. Also, Rahab’s statement of trust in the God of heaven✓ blessed them.

### ***A promise***

But Rahab was not finished. She wanted to make a deal with these spies. “Please swear to me by the Lord,” she said, “that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my family. Give me a sure sign that you will save alive my father and mother and all my family and deliver our lives from death.”

The men said to her, “If you do not tell about our spying, then when the Lord gives us this city, we will deal kindly with you. Gather your family into your house when our army comes. Then if anyone goes out of your house, his blood shall be on his own head, and we shall be guiltless. But if anyone from our army hurts someone who is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head.”

Students, so that I know you understand, please explain what the spies promised Rahab. [Her family, except ones who left her house, would be safe. If Israel hurt any of her relatives, the Israelites would be guilty.]

The spies could not leave the city through the gates. Why do you suppose this was true? [They would be recognized; the gate was shut after the king’s men left.] How could the spies get out of the city? Well, Rahab’s house was built right into the city wall. They could escape through her window. Rahab tied a scarlet/red rope in her window and let it hang over the wall; the spies could shimmy down that rope.

Before they left, the spies gave one last instruction: “When we Israelites come into the land, tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and your family will be safe.”

### ***The escape***

Rahab said, “May it be as you have said.” Then she sent them away, warning them, “Go into the hills, or the pursuers will find you. Hide in the hills three days until the pursuers have returned. Then it should be safe for you to go your way.”

That’s what they did. While the pursuers searched everywhere and found nothing, the spies stayed in the hills. After three days, the pursuers returned to Jericho, and the two spies returned to Joshua with information about all that had happened to them. They said to Joshua, “Truly the Lord has given all the land into our hands. And also, all the inhabitants of the land melt away because of us.”

### ***A Bible hero***

Rahab became a true hero in Israel. Her name appears four times in Scripture: First, in today’s story. In James 2:25 she is an example of one whose faith works. She’s listed with other great people of faith in Hebrews 11:31. But most important, in Matthew 1:5 her name appears in the ancestry of Jesus Christ. You see, she married an Israelite man named Salmon. ✓Some people think he might have been one of the spies, but we don’t know. Rahab and Salmon had a son named Boaz, who had a son named Obed. Obed’s son was Jesse, and Jesse’s son was King David. David was the ancestor of Jesus Christ, King of kings!

### **Lessons from this lesson:**

- We see Jesus:

The red cord is considered a symbol of Christ's blood. As the red cord saved the lives of the two spies and, later, of Rahab and her family, so Jesus' blood saves from sins those who trust Him as their Saviour.

- Rahab was not a good woman, but she believed in the one true God who saved her from Jericho's destruction and also saved her soul. A person does not have to be good in order for God to save him or her. A person must, however, repent of sin and trust Jesus Christ as Saviour.

### Activities:

- Play dough: wall; red cord
- Snack: With ground flax seeds as an ingredient, here is a recipe for No-Bake Energy Bites: <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/239969/no-bake-energy-bites/>
- Sing "R-A-H-A-B" (tune: "B-I-N-G-O"; first stanza written by Sharon Broome; second stanza written by Kathy Hamilton; found on internet; source unknown). More stanzas are in Lesson 13.04 Jericho.

There was girl God used for good, and Rahab was her name-O.

R-A-H-A-B, R-A-H-A-B, R-A-H-A-B, and Rahab was her name-O.

She hid the spies that came from God with flax upon her roof-O.

R-A-H-A-B, R-A-H-A-B, R-A-H-A-B, and Rahab was her name-O.

- Review questions: (Game: Cut red yarn into ten 3-inch pieces. For each correct answer a student lays a piece of the yarn on a flannel board. The student/team with the longest length wins the game.)
  1. What city were the spies to check out? [Jericho.]
  2. In whose house did the spies find a room? [Rahab's.]
  3. Who came to Rahab's house after the spies arrived? [Messengers from the king of Jericho.]
  4. What did the messengers want? [They wanted Rahab to give the spies over to them.]
  5. Where had Rahab hidden the spies? [On her roof under flax stalks.]
  6. How did the people of the land view Israel? [They were terrified of Israel.]
  7. What agreement with Rahab did the spies make? [To save her and her family if she didn't tell the spies' business, if family members were inside her house when Israel came, and if she tied the red cord to her window.]
  8. What did Rahab say about God? ["He is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath."]
  9. What did the spies tell Joshua? ["The Lord has given all the land into our hands."]
  10. What special person is a descendant of Rahab? [David; more importantly, Jesus.]

### Memory Verse[s]:

- Joshua 2:11b: "The Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath."

### Handwork:

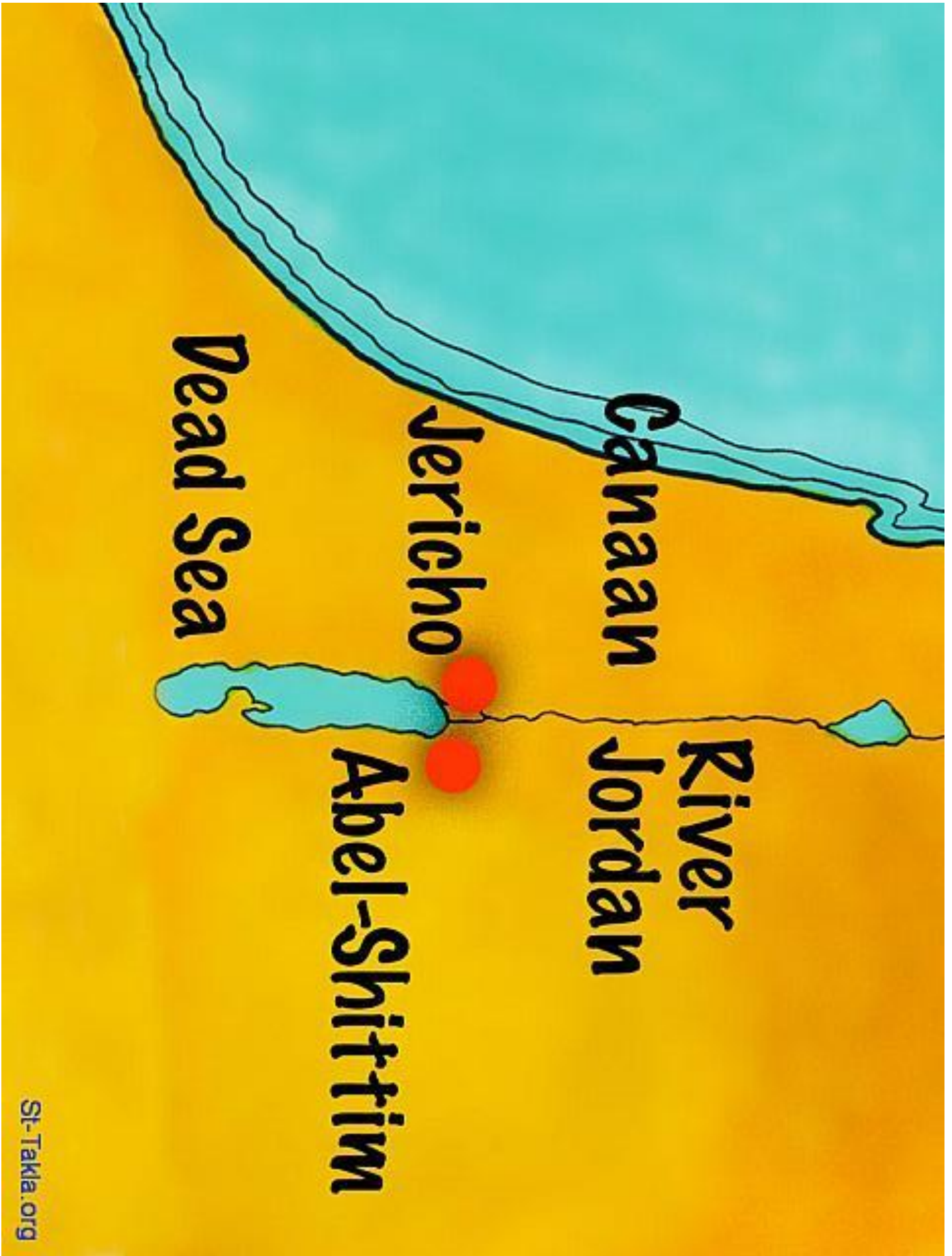
- Tie together in a knot three 18-inch lengths of thick red yarn at one end of the strands. Pin this end to the top of a cardboard measuring about 5" x 18". Students will braid the three strands to within 4 inches of the lower end of the strands. Tie a knot at the 4-inch point and at the end of the 18 inches. This opening will become the top of the braid. Detach the braid from the cardboard.

Cut strips of paper found below that read, "Rahab said. . . ." Students will attach a strip to their braids with tape or glue. They may hang the braid on a door handle at home to remind them of Rahab and her trust in the living God. (The following site contains a video of a simplified method for braiding:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=how+to+braid+3+cords&docid=607986894251884937&mid=03CBBAF61440ECFB215A03CBBAF61440ECFB215A&view=detail&FORM=VIRE.>)

**flax**

**pursuer**





Drying flax ([http://www.ac.aup.fr/~a14631/photos/capture-release\\_gallery/flax\\_drying.htm](http://www.ac.aup.fr/~a14631/photos/capture-release_gallery/flax_drying.htm))

