

Rahab: God Saves a Canaanite Woman

Bible Lesson: Rahab: God Saves a Canaanite Woman – Joshua 2; 6

Main Teaching: God offers mercy to all sinners

Word Up: God is Merciful!

Supplies:

- Word Up Booklet – Word Up (Resource Pack)
- Recording for “I Believe” and “Trust in the Lord” - Worship (Sing About the King 3 CD)
- Optional Song Visual for “I Believe” – Worship (cefpress.com)
- God loves Everyone paper slips – Small Group (Resource Pack)
- Bucket or Bag – Small Group
- A piece of paper and scissors - Object Lesson
- Flashcards for Bible Story “Rahab: God Saves a Canaanite Woman” – Bible Lesson
- Blocks and Beanbags – Review Game
- Isobel Kuhn Flashcard Visual 3 – Missionary Story (Resource Pack)
- Color Sheet Week 2 – Small Group (Resource Pack)
- Quiet Time Sheet Week 2 for each child – Dismissal (Resource Pack)

Schedule at a Glance (75 min club):

- 15 min – Small Group
- 10 min – Worship / Rules / Word Up
- 10 min – Object Lesson
- 15 min – Bible Lesson
- 10 min – Review Game
- 5 min – Missionary Story
- 10 min – Small Group

INTRODUCTION

God offers His mercy and love to everyone and He can use anyone to fulfill His purpose. A main theme that runs through this Bible lesson is God's mercy and love toward all people. The Bible lesson is an evangelistic narrative about Rahab. Even though Rahab had a lifestyle that was not pleasing to God, He used her to fulfill His purpose. He showed His mercy to Rahab and her family and put her in the bloodline of Christ! Keep this in mind when you work with children who add an extra level of challenge to your club. God loves them dearly and offers them mercy and grace. Ask God to help you offer the same.



SMALL GROUP

Say Memory Verse

Have kids say their memory verse from last week to their small group leader.

God Loves Everyone

All of us are different but God loves every one of us! He never treats people differently because of where they are born or what they look like and neither should we. We're going to pass this bag around. When you are holding the bag, choose a slip of paper and read it out loud. It might say, “God loves people with _ hair!” or “God loves people who live in _!” You fill in the blank. There is no wrong answer because God loves all people! (Do with children.)

WORSHIP

To learn songs and motions, go to YouTube and type in CEF and the name of the song in the search bar.

"I Believe"

"Trust in the Lord"



RULES

Review the Up Rules reminding the kids that following the rules helps everyone be able to feel safe and learn. If there is a particular rule the children are having trouble with, do a skit to highlight that rule and why it is important.

WORD UP!

"God is Merciful!"

Can you think of a time when you did something wrong and had to have a punishment? Maybe you were grounded or had to sit in time out. What if that punishment was taken away? Even though you had done that wrong thing you were not grounded, you didn't have to sit in time out. That would be mercy. The Bible tells us that God is merciful towards us. You sinned, but God made a way, through Jesus, so you didn't have to be punished for your sins. **WORD UP! "God is Merciful!"** (Say with children)

OBJECT LESSON

God's Love

What you need:

- A piece of paper
- Scissors

What you do:

Cut the corners of the paper off one by one. Notice that as you cut a corner off the number of corners doesn't decrease, but increase.

Video Demonstration:

https://youtu.be/B0p_ParLXeI?si=r3wAuUeiyfvV24IF

What you say:

I have here a piece of paper. Now, how many corners does this piece of paper have? Let's count, "1, 2, 3, and 4." Four corners! If I cut one corner off how many corners will there be on the paper? Let's try it. (Cut one corner off) "1, 2, 3, 4, and 5!" There's 5 now! If I cut off another corner, how many will there be then? (Cut another corner off) "1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6!" The corners are increasing instead of decreasing! That is what God's love is like. The more he gives it away the more it becomes. God's love will never run out. He loves everyone, with a love that will last forever. It is because God loves us so much, that he chooses to offer us mercy from the punishment of our sin. God's true book the Bible says, (Read Ephesians 2:4-5) This verse tells us that God's mercy is so rich and his love is so great towards us, that even though we have sinned against God. Jesus still came to die for us. So, when we believe in him, we can have a life with him. A relationship that starts the minute you believe, and lasts forever. That's pretty great love, and very rich mercy. **WORD UP! "God is Merciful!"** (Say with children)



BIBLE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Look at everybody in the room. Do you see anybody exactly like you? (Allow response.) We are all different. Sometimes people don't like other people because they look different or act differently. But God made each person unique—one of a kind. The Bible reminds us that His love and mercy are for all people! **WORD UP! "God is Merciful!"** (Say with children.)

PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Flashcard 2-1

The Bible tells us about some people who lived in a land called Canaan. There were many different groups of people in this land, but because they all lived in Canaan, they are usually called "Canaanites" in the Bible. Let's practice saying "Canaanite" by whispering it together four times. (Say with children.)

God had given the Canaanites many good things, but the Canaanites did not want to serve God. They enjoyed doing very bad things and they didn't want to stop. They were hurting each other, hurting themselves, and worst of all, ruining their lives by worshiping idols (false gods) instead of the one true God. So God promised to punish them.

Because God is merciful and patient, He did not punish them right away. **WORD UP! "God is Merciful!"** (Say with children)

He waited for hundreds of years, giving them a chance to change. But they only got worse. They did wicked things to each other and their animals. They would even murder their own babies and children!

They would not stop their horrible wickedness so God promised to punish them by destroying them and giving the land of Canaan to someone else. The Canaanites would not turn from their sin. Their sin deserved to be punished. God does not take pleasure in punishing sinners but God is just. That means God always does what is right and part of what is right is punishing sin. God planned to destroy the Canaanites and give the land of Canaan to His chosen people, the Israelites.

Flashcard 2-2

One of the Canaanites was a woman named Rahab.

She lived in Jericho, one of the most important cities in Canaan. She was well known in her city for the sinful way she lived. Rahab was a sinner.



You and I are also sinners. Sin is living, thinking, or talking in ways that do not please God. God is pleased with everything that is truly good, so anything that does not please God is always bad for you and bad for others. You automatically want to do things that do not please God because you were born with a "want to" to sin. Being mean to people, or even to animals, or disrespecting your teachers or your parents are things that not only hurt other people but also displease God. God will not allow these types of things to go on forever. He has promised to punish all sin. (Read Jeremiah 17:9-10.) God knows everything you've ever thought or done. He warns you and me

about all our sins because He doesn't want us to be separated from Him. God offers mercy to all sinners. He wants to save you from your sin! You are very special to God but your sin deserves to be punished. You and I have sinned.

Rahab was a sinner. She did many things that did not please God. One day, spies from the Israelite army came to Rahab's house. They came to look at the city God was going to give them. Rahab knew who the spies were and what they were doing, but she hid them when the soldiers from the king of Jericho tried to catch them.

Flashcard 2-3

She took them up to her roof and hid them so the king's men couldn't find them. Can you pretend to be the spies hiding on Rahab's roof? (Do with children.) These spies were her enemies! Why do you think she saved their lives? (Allow response.) Keep listening to find out if you are right. After the king's men left, Rahab went to the spies and said, (read Joshua 2:9-10a). She knew it wasn't really the Israelites who were punishing the Canaanites and taking away their land—it was the Lord God! The Canaanite people served many made up gods, but Rahab saw that the Israelites served the one God who was real. She said, (read Joshua 2:11). Rahab knew God is the one true King of everything and everyone. God loved Rahab and had helped her to learn about what He is like.



God also loves you. The Bible tells us God is love. (Read 1 John 4:8b.) Because He loves you, God wants to help you learn about what He is like. He tells you a lot about Himself in His Word, the Bible. One thing the Bible teaches is that God made all things and is in control of all things. God is good, He always does what is right, and He loves you. He will never tell you to do something bad. God says, (read Jeremiah 27:5a). God has the right to be ruler over everything He created. Let's all shout out something God created that belongs to Him. (Do with children.) The whole Earth belongs to God and He gets to decide what happens to it. Every decision God makes is right and good because He is always perfect. God wants you to learn about what He is like.

Rahab had learned what God is like by hearing about the awesome things He had done for the Israelites.

Rahab knew God was going to destroy Jericho and give the whole land of Canaan to the Israelites. So she showed kindness to the spies and hoped they would show kindness to her. Wanting her and her family to be safe when God punished the city, Rahab asked the spies to make a vow (a very serious promise) to save her family. Then she told them how to escape from the city.

Flashcard 2-4

Rahab's house was built right into the wall of the city. Using a rope, she helped the spies climb out of her window and down to the ground. Let's pretend to climb down a rope like the spies did. (Do with children.)

The spies had agreed to show kindness to Rahab because of what she had done for them. They told her to take a scarlet (red) cord and hang it in her window. They promised that anyone who was in Rahab's house when the city was destroyed would be saved as long as the scarlet cord was hanging out of the window. God mercifully provided a way for Rahab to escape.

God has also mercifully made a way of escape for you! **WORD UP! "God is Merciful!"** (Say with children)



Being merciful means showing kindness by not giving someone the punishment they deserve. The Bible says, (read Titus 3:5a). You and I can't do anything to save ourselves. We can only be

saved because of God's mercy. Your sin deserves to be punished, but God made a way so you don't have to be punished. He mercifully gave your punishment to someone else instead—His perfect Son, Jesus. Listen to what the Bible says about Jesus. (Read 1 Peter 2:24a.) Jesus came to Earth and willingly suffered for the wrong things you have done when He allowed men to nail Him to a wooden cross. Jesus was your substitute, taking on Himself the price God required for sin—death. He completely took your punishment when He bled and died in your place. But He didn't stay dead. God brought Him back to life! Now He lives in Heaven, ruling as King. Anyone who accepts God's mercy has their sin forgiven.

WORD UP! "God is Merciful!" (Say with children) God has mercifully provided a way for you to escape the punishment your sin deserves.

God mercifully provided a way for Rahab to escape. What did Rahab have to do to be saved when the city was being destroyed? (Allow response.) She had to tie a scarlet cord in the window. Let's pretend to do that. (Do with children.) That's what Rahab did after the spies left because she was trusting in God.

Soon after this, news reached Jericho that God made a dry path for the Israelites to walk right through the Jordan River. The Israelites were on their way to take the land God had promised to give them. The Canaanites shut the gates of Jericho and waited for the Israelites to attack.

People related to Rahab gathered in her home so they could be saved. They must have watched as the Israelite army came nearer and nearer.

Flashcard 2-5

But the Israelite army didn't attack. They just blew trumpets and marched around outside the walls of the city. Can you make a sound like a trumpet? (Do with children.) That probably seemed like a strange way to fight a battle! But God had given Joshua, the leader of the Israelites, special instructions for attacking Jericho. God wanted everyone to know that it wasn't the Israelites who were punishing the Canaanites for their sin and taking their land. It was God Himself.

Unlike Rahab, the people of the city chose to trust their own strength and the mighty walls of Jericho to save them instead of trusting the one true God.

For six days, the Israelite army blew their trumpets and marched around the city one time before leaving. Then, on the seventh day, the Israelites marched around the city seven times. Let's all count to seven while we march in place. (Do with children.) After the seventh time, the Israelites began to shout as the trumpets blew.

CLIMAX

Flashcard 2-6

Suddenly the enormous walls of Jericho crumbled to the ground!

CONCLUSION

How did that happen? Let's try to knock something down by yelling at it and making lots of noise. I have something here that is not as strong as the wall of Jericho so it should be easier to knock down. (Show a small, sturdy structure or box.) Let's all stand up and shout for it to fall over while I count to three. (Do with children.)

The reason it didn't fall over is because our voices don't have that much power. Neither did the Israelites' voices. Nothing they did made the walls fall. The walls fell because God said they would.

The walls of Jericho were completely destroyed, except for one small part. What part do you think that was? (Allow response.) Even though Rahab's house was actually part of the city wall, it stayed up when the rest of the wall fell down. The scarlet cord was still in the window.

When God made the walls of Jericho fall down, He kept Rahab's house up. God mercifully protected Rahab and all those who had chosen to accept the way of escape God provided. **WORD UP! "God is Merciful!"** (Say with children) He made the way for Rahab and her family to be saved!

God kept His promise to punish the Canaanites and give the land of Canaan to the Israelites. But that's not all God did. He did something amazing to show His love for everyone—even the Canaanites. He chose Rahab for something very special. She married an Israelite and they had a family. Hundreds of years later, a very special baby was born into this family. On the count of three, guess who it was! One, two, three! (Allow response.) It was Jesus! God used Rahab as part of His promise to send the Savior. He had a plan for her life.



If you have believed in Jesus, God has a plan for your life too. Maybe you have been told that you're good at a lot of things—God is the one who gave you those abilities! Or maybe you have been told that you're not good at things, or even that you aren't worth anything. The Bible says that is not true—you were specially made by God to do the special things He designed you to do. God works in you every day to help you do the things He created you to do. You are precious to Him and He will use your life if you let Him. Do you remember our memory verses? Let's say them together. (Quote Proverbs 3:5-6 with children.) When you trust God and acknowledge Him, He will direct you as you live your life. God can help you know His plan and direction for your life as you read your Bible and pray every day. He will help you take opportunities to learn new things and help others. Even though you may not see what the whole plan is for your life, keep loving and trusting Him. God has a plan for your life, just like He had a plan for Rahab. She got to be part of the family of the Savior of the world!

INVITATION



Jesus is the Savior. He is the only one who can save you from your sin. He died on the cross, was buried, and came back to life to make a way for you to escape the punishment you deserve. No matter what you have done, God wants to show you mercy. You cannot do anything on your own to be saved. It is only through God's mercy. You receive God's mercy when you believe on Jesus as your Savior from sin. (Read Acts 16:31.) When you believe on Jesus, you trust completely in Him as your Savior. God will show you mercy by not punishing you for your sin and by giving you eternal life with Him! He will be your God and will be with you now and forever. If you have not yet believed on Jesus as your Savior, will you believe on Him today and receive His mercy? Please bow your head and close your eyes. If you want to talk to me about believing on Jesus, show me by looking up at me. (Acknowledge responses.) You may all open your eyes. Those of you who looked at me can meet me (designate time and location). I'll bring my Bible and show you what it says about believing on Jesus.

? REVIEW GAME

Walls of Jericho

Divide children into teams. Provide blocks for each team. Ask questions, alternating between teams. When a child answers a question correctly, award his team 100 points and allow him to add a block to his team's "wall." The team with the most blocks on his wall at the end wins. When all the questions have been asked, each team gets to use the beanbag to knock down their wall.

1. Why did God give the Canaanites a chance to change? (He is merciful and patient; He loves everyone.)
2. What Canaanite city did Rahab live in? (Jericho.)
3. What is sin? (Living, thinking, or talking in ways that do not please God.)
4. What did Rahab do with the Israelite spies? (Hid them from the king's men.)
5. Why does God get to decide what happens to the Earth? (He created it; He is good; it belongs to Him; answers may vary.)
6. What did the spies tell Rahab to do to save her house and the people in it? (Hang a scarlet cord in her window.)
7. How did Jesus show you mercy when He died on the cross? (He took my punishment for sin so I wouldn't have to be punished.)
8. How was the battle at Jericho different than most battles? (The Israelites marched around the city instead of attacking it.)
9. How did God use Rahab to keep His promise to send a Savior? (Jesus was born through Rahab's family.)
10. What does God promise will happen when you believe on Jesus? (I will be saved; God will show me mercy by not punishing me for my sin; I will have eternal life.)
11. How can you find answers to tough questions about the Bible? (Use the rest of the Bible to understand what it means; don't make up answers on your own; pray and ask God to help you understand; answers may vary.)
12. How can you acknowledge God in all your ways? (Answers will vary.)

MISSIONARY STORY

Isobel Kuhn

Part 3



Does anyone remember something about the missionary we've been talking about? (Allow response.) Isobel had grown up with parents who believed in Jesus but when she went to college Isobel realized she didn't believe in Jesus as her Savior. As she continued through college she was

more and more unhappy. Finally the day came when Isobel prayed, "God, if you even exist...if you give me peace, I will give You my whole life! I'll do anything You ask me to do, go where You send me, obey You all my days."

When she went to sleep that night, God gave her a peace she had never felt before. That night she started to believe that God was real. But she wanted to know more about Him.

Well, she thought, I know Jesus was a real person. So I'll read about Him in the Bible. She underlined everything Jesus said. Isobel was determined to find God for herself. Since Jesus had prayed, she prayed too. And God answered her prayers! As she read the Bible, she learned more and more about Jesus. She knew it must be true and she trusted Jesus as her Savior!

At a summer Bible conference a few years later, Isobel met Mr. J. O. Fraser, a missionary who had come from one of the farthest corners of China to tell about his work with the Lisu (Lee-sue) people.

He described how the Lisu lived in little bamboo shacks perched on the sides of towering mountains. He explained how these people knew nothing about the one true God before he had gone there, how they lived in fear of demons and how the power of Jesus could change their lives.

Mr. Fraser told how he had finally learned to speak Lisu and had figured out a

way to write their language. Now, after years and years of work, a few of the Lisu were beginning to trust Jesus as their Savior. As he spoke, Isobel was filled with a longing to work with the Lisu.

When Isobel told her mother about her desire to work with the Lisu people, she was amazed to find out her mother didn't understand. Her mother even thought it would be a disgrace to have a missionary daughter. "No!" her mother cried. "I will never give my consent!"

Isobel had to make a choice. Should she go to China or stay home? She believed God wanted her to go, but she knew it would be really hard. Did she really want to move so far away and work so hard? Isobel prayed, "Lord, show me what path I should take." Whenever she looked up at the beautiful mountains that surrounded Vancouver, she would think about the Lisu people in their tiny mountain homes. I can't forget how much they need Jesus, she decided. I will go.

To be a missionary, Isobel first had to go to Bible school. To her surprise, her mother allowed her to go even though she still didn't want Isobel to go to China. So Isobel went off to Bible school in Chicago, praying that God would change the way her mother felt about her becoming a missionary. Finally her Mother agreed that Isobel had made the right choice.

Isobel had a lot of hard work ahead of her. **Would she ever make it to China and the Lisu people?**



SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Color Sheet and Discussion

Review the Rahab story as kids color the Rahab picture. Talk about how God showed Rahab mercy even though she wasn't an Israelite. Ask, "What does this show about who God is? How could you show God's mercy this week?"

DISMISSAL

Hand out a Quiet Time Sheet (Week 2 in the Resource Pack) to each child. Encourage them to fill it out and bring it back next week. As children are getting picked up, try and connect with the parents and let them know the kids are working on showing mercy this week.

Rahab: God Saves a Canaanite Woman

This page has been designed for you to photocopy and place in your Bible as a ready reference.

Lesson Outline	
I. INTRODUCTION Do you see anybody exactly like you? We are all different.	
II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS	
A. Flashcard 2-1 (Genesis 15:16, 18; Deuteronomy 9:4-5; 2 Peter 3:9)	
1. The Canaanites enjoyed doing very bad things and they didn't want to stop.	
2. Because God is merciful and patient, He didn't punish them right away.	
3. They didn't stop their horrible ways so God promised to destroy them and give the land of Canaan to someone else.	
B. Flashcard 2-2 (Joshua 2:1)	
1. One of the Canaanites was a woman named Rahab who lived in the city of Jericho.	
2. One day, Israelite spies came to Rahab's house.	
C. Flashcard 2-3 (Joshua 2:2-14)	
1. Rahab hid the spies so the king's men couldn't find them.	
2. Rahab knew that God is the one true King of everything and everyone.	
3. Rahab asked the spies to make a vow that she and her family would be safe.	
D. Flashcard 2-4 (Joshua 2:15-21)	
1. Rahab helped the spies climb out of her window.	
2. The spies agreed to show her kindness and told Rahab to hang a scarlet cord from her window.	
3. God provided a way for Rahab and those in her house to escape.	
E. Flashcard 2-5 (Joshua 6:1-20a)	
1. The Israelite army marched around the wall, blowing their trumpets.	
2. On the seventh day they marched around the city seven times and began to shout.	
III. CLIMAX	
Flashcard 2-6 (Joshua 6:20b)	
Suddenly the enormous walls of Jericho crumbled to the ground!	
IV. CONCLUSION	
A. Nothing the Israelites did made this happen; the walls fell because God said they would.	
B. God kept Rahab's house standing and protected Rahab and all who were with her.	
C. God used Rahab as part of His promise to send the Savior.	
It is through God's mercy that you can be saved.	

Scripture verses in parentheses are background text.
Bracketed verses should be quoted or read from God's Word.

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God's Faithfulness: Return to Canaan Coloring Sheet, Lesson 2