

PRAYER:

Begin with a few moments of sharing thanks and praises in prayer

Leaders, it's your call; you may choose to incorporate more information/scriptures as time allows for your small group lesson. Reflecting: Joshua's sending the spies to Jericho was an act of wisdom, not unbelief (Prov. 20:18). The report of the two men encouraged Israel for the invasion and reminded them that God was fulfilling His promise to them (Deut. 2:25). But the visit also meant the salvation of Rahab and her family. Although the Bible does not commend Rahab for her lies, it does commend her faith. (Heb. 11:31) that revealed itself in works (James 2:25). Her faith saved her and her family from destruction (Joshua 6:17-19), and it resulted in her becoming an ancestress of the Messiah (Matt. 1:5). Once you begin to trust God and obey Him, you never know what He will do!

OPENER:

If you went incognito, or "underground" as a spy, what kind of identity would you want?

When you were in High School, what was one of the most daring things you tried?

What event in history would you like to go back and spy on?

Read: Joshua 2:1-24

DISCUSS:

Why do you suppose Rahab felt safe harboring two spies? What if she had been caught by her own people, or turned against by spies she had no prior reason to trust?

Other than safety and an escape plan, what does she provide the spies? Why do those in Jericho feel that way about the Israelites (vv. 9-11)?

What was Rahab's request of the spies? In this request, is she being: self-serving? Other-centered? God-honoring? Why do you think so?

What further conditions to her request do the spies and Rahab agree upon (vv. 17:21)? What does their conversation reveal about Israel's intentions? About the binding nature of promises? About Rahab's saving faith?

What is the key element in the spies' report (vv. 9, 24)? Upon first hearing that report, how would you respond?

Given her disreputable occupation and her obvious lie, what in this story builds Rahab's reputation as a woman of faith (see Heb. 11:31; James 2:25)?

How do you react to Rahab's joining the Israelites after the fall of Jericho (Joshua 6:22-25) and apparently becoming an ancestor of Jesus Christ?

PLAN for ACTION:

Rahab's actions spare her family. What can you do to help insure the salvation of your family?

What "scarlet thread" (or life-line) will you hold out, and hold onto, for life?

When told of how God has worked through those "on the other side," how do you respond: with fear? Jealousy? Vicarious joy? Inspired faith?

What great things has God done "on your side" that might offer hope to others? What groups of people live "on the other side," whom you need to reach out in Christian love to include in your circle?

How can this group pray for you this week?

To view the complete teaching from the Sunday services go to www.centralcommunity.org/media/index.html