

Lesson

Engaging Introduction

Hello, kids! Today, we are going on an exciting journey right through the pages of the Bible. Have you ever played hide and seek or been part of a super-secret mission? Well, the story from Joshua 2 is full of adventure, secrets, and surprises just like that. It's about a city called Jericho, two brave spies, and a very unexpected hero named Rahab.

Once upon a time, a long, long time ago, there was a special group of people called the Israelites. They were God's chosen people and had a special mission—to find a beautiful new land that God promised them. Joshua was their leader, and he decided it was time for them to enter this new land. But there was a problem! A big city called Jericho stood in their way, with strong walls surrounding it and people ready to defend it. Joshua needed to find out more about the city, so he sent two brave spies on a secret mission.

The spies' job was to sneak into Jericho, find out all they could, and return safely to Joshua. But how would they manage that? As they tiptoed into the city, they met someone who would make all the difference. Can you guess who helped them? It was Rahab, who made a brave and daring choice that you might not expect! Let's dive into the story and see what happens, why Rahab's choice was important, and what it means for us today. Remember, God often uses unexpected people or ways to accomplish His plans.

Main Teaching Points

1. The Secret Mission Begins

Joshua handpicked two men and told them to be like spies in Jericho. Have you ever played spy games? The spies had to be very quiet and careful, because if anyone found out why they were there, they'd be in big trouble. Imagine all the interesting sounds and smells they would have noticed in a big city like Jericho. But they couldn't just enjoy it—they had a job to do!

They needed a safe place to stay the night, and that's when they met Rahab. Rahab wasn't an Israelite. She lived in Jericho, and she had heard stories about how God was helping the Israelites. Even though she lived in Jericho, Rahab decided to help the spies. Hearing the stories about how God parted the Red Sea and helped the Israelites in battles made her believe that their God was powerful and real.

2. Rahab's Important Choice

Rahab knew the King of Jericho wouldn't be happy about having spies in his city. She took a big risk. Rahab made a choice to hide the spies on her roof. In those days, houses had flat roofs so it was the perfect hiding spot. She covered them with flax—a plant that was used to make clothes. Imagine lying very still under all that flax, hoping not to sneeze or move too much!

Then, the King's guards came to her house, asking if she had seen the spies. What would Rahab do? She told the guards that the spies had already left the city and sent them on a wild goose chase. Rahab trusted God and protected His people, even though it was scary.

3. The Promise and Escape

Because Rahab helped the spies, they promised her something special. They told her to hang a red cord from her window when the Israelites attacked Jericho. That way, they'd know which house was hers, and they would keep her and her family safe. That red cord was a symbol of their promise and Rahab's trust in God.

When it was dark, Rahab helped the spies escape. She let them down from her window using a rope, sort of like how people go rock climbing with ropes today. It was an adventurous escape, like a scene from an action movie, but it was all real!

4. God's Plan for Everyone

What makes this story amazing is that God used Rahab, someone who seemed like an unlikely hero to help Israel. Even though she wasn't one of God's people at first, God had a special plan for Rahab. When the spies returned to Joshua, they told him all about Rahab's bravery and the city of Jericho. Rahab's faith was a big part of their success.

This story tells us that God can use anyone to fulfill His purposes. It doesn't matter where we come from or what we've done, God's love and plans can reach us, just like they reached Rahab.

Personal Application for Elementary Students

Now that we've explored this exciting story together, let's think about what it means for us. Rahab's story teaches us about being brave and having faith, even when things are tough. But most importantly, it reminds us that God has a plan for each of us, no matter who we are.

Let's talk about being brave. Have you ever felt scared of trying something new or doing the right thing when others might not agree? Rahab knew helping the spies was the right thing, and she stuck to her decision. This shows us that being brave is not about not being scared, but about doing the right thing even when we are scared.

Next, let's think about trust. Rahab put her trust in God even though it was dangerous. She believed that God would protect her and her family. We might not have spies hiding on our rooftops, but we do encounter moments where trusting God makes a big difference. Whether it's trusting Him when we're scared, sad, or alone, or patiently waiting for our prayers to be answered, trusting God is important.

Finally, realize that like Rahab, you are important to God. He has plans for each of you. Don't underestimate what you can do, no matter how small you feel. You can show kindness, help those in need, and stand up for what's right.

Interactive Discussion Questions

Now let's have a little chat about what we've learned. I have some questions for you to think about and discuss. These questions aren't about having the "right" answer, but about thinking and sharing ideas together.

1. Why was Rahab brave in this story?

- Guiding Answer: She hid the spies even though it was dangerous. Let's think about why it's important to be brave and what helps us make brave choices. Talking about moments when you've been brave can help us learn from each other.

2. What does this story teach us about God's plans?

- Guiding Answer: God can use anyone and anything to fulfill His plans. Use examples from our lives to see how He might be working through people around us. The students can share stories of when they've seen unexpected kindness or help.

3. How can we show trust like Rahab did?

- Guiding Answer: It involves relying on God even when it's difficult. Encourage the children to share times they've trusted someone or something faithfully. How did it feel to trust, and what was the outcome?

4. Why is Rahab's story still important today?

- Guiding Answer: It shows God's love for everyone, and that everyone can play a role in His story. Ask the kids to reflect on how they can be part of God's story today, doing good with faith and kindness.

Remember, everyone, Rahab's story is just one of many that shows how amazing God's plans are. Just like the spies trusted Rahab, we can trust God and remember that we have important roles to play in His big story. Now, as you go about your day, think about how Rahab's example might inspire you to be brave, trust God, and discover your own special mission!