**GROWING TOGETHER:** FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Session 2 of 4

# Rahab

### MEETING AIM

To explore with the children how, as Christians, we are sometimes called to stand out and be different to those around us in order to show God’s love and follow his ways.

### BIBLE PASSAGE

Joshua 2

### BACKGROUND

This session plan is intended for use either in-person or online, depending on how you’re meeting. Adapt the activities to fit your situation.

The story of Rahab tells of a woman bought up in a non-believing society, who was prepared to risk her life in order to stand for God, protect his people and play her part in God’s big story. As Christians we too are called to stand out for God, to live courageously and often differently to those around us.

It’s worth noting that the passage mentions Rahab being a prostitute. You can choose whether or not you give this attention depending on your group, but you may need to be prepared to explain it to the children if they ask. You could say it meant she had the kind of relationship God planned for married people, with lots of people she wasn’t married to. With older children it could be explored further as a good example of God using imperfect people.

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### STARTING OUT – 5 mins

Gather the children together for a time to catch up, build relationships and reflect on the week just gone. Have people share exciting news such as birthdays, trips or events. You might like to use the following question to start conversation as a light-hearted way into today’s theme: “If you could be a spy or secret agent, what cool gadgets would you choose?”

### INTRO ACTIVITY – 10 mins

**You will need:** popcorn kernels; marker pen; small containers; a timer

Before the session, colour in three to five popcorn kernels with the marker pen. Place a pile of popcorn kernels into a small container. Show the group the kernels that you have made a different colour. Place these into your container and mix them up. Challenge children to take it in turns to see how many of the coloured kernels they can find in 20 seconds. If you have large numbers of children, you might like to do this in smaller groups so that more people get a turn. Make the link with the group that like the coloured cornels stand out and are different to the rest, today’s passage is about someone who stood out – living courageously and differently to those around her.

### BIBLE STORY – 10 mins

**You will need:** a Bible

Split the children into groups of five or six and explain that as you read through the story you are going to pause at points and ask them in their groups to create a specific ‘freeze frame’. A freeze frame is a frozen picture showing a situation. You might like to show them a quick example such as a freeze frame of a dinner party. Encourage them to think creatively about how they use their bodies to be people or objects. In the dinner example, people could link hands in an archway to be the house, while someone else uses their back as a table for others to pretend to eat off.

Read Joshua 2:1-24, pausing at appropriate points for the groups to make the following freeze frames. If you prefer, you could tell the story in your own words or read it from a storybook Bible. Encourage all the groups to make the freeze frames, and go around and look at them briefly each time, commenting on the great things you see.

* Spies being sent on a mission
* Spies hiding in Rahab’s house
* Rahab talking to the spies
* King’s men looking for the spies
* Spies escaping through the window

Wonder with the children about how Rahab might have come to believe in God even though she was living in a city where no one else did. Ask the children to think about how it might have felt to be the spies on their mission, or to be Rahab hiding them. This passage doesn’t make many explicit references to God or his actions, but ask the children where they see God in this story and what they think it could teach us about his character or his actions.

### CHATTING TOGETHER – 5 mins

Use the following questions as prompts for discussion. Encourage the children to think about what the passage might be saying to us and how it could be applied to our everyday lives. Try to encourage wondering, reminding them that there is not necessarily one right answer.

* How do you think Rahab felt hiding the spies?
* Why do you think the spies trusted Rahab?
* How might God ask us as Christians to live differently to those around us?

### CREATIVE TIME – 10 mins

**You will need:** paper; pencils; art materials

Encourage the children in small groups to think up a modern-day equivalent of Rahab’s story – a situation where God might ask a Christian to courageously stand out or do something different to those around them.

Once the children have come up with a contemporary story, encourage them to create small dramas or comic strips to show their scenarios to the rest of the group. When they have finished, invite the group to share what they have been doing, if they would like to.

### PRAYER – 5 mins

**You will need:** red embroidery thread; key rings (optional); worship music and the means to play it

Provide the children with some red embroidery thread and encourage them to plait it into a bracelet or decoration for a keyring. It might be helpful to tie the threads together and then tape one end of them down on a surface to secure them while they plait. As they do this, encourage them to chat to God about how they could live differently to those around them. You might like to play some gentle worship music in the background while they do this. The children can take their ‘rope’ home with them as a reminder of their prayer and today’s session.

**EMMA DOBSON**

is an experienced children’s worker from west London.