**FIRST STEPS TOGETHER:** FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

Session 2 of 4

# Rahab

### MEETING AIM

To think about how Rahab chose to trust God and live differently to those around her.

### 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 particular situation.

Rahab, a Canaanite prostitute, is perhaps an unlikely hero but she demonstrates incredible faith and courage. When she chooses to hide the spies, she does so because she believes what she has heard about God and is making a choice to live differently to her people. Through her story we see the grace of God demonstrated as she is forgiven for the bad choices in her life and becomes part of the line of Christ. The focus on this chapter is how she chooses to trust God and he invites her into his plan.

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### STARTING OUT – 5 mins

Welcome each child by name and encourage them to share stories from their week. Celebrate any birthdays, or special events. Ask the children: “Have you ever helped someone? What happened?” Thank God that he’s with you and ask him to help you learn more about him today.

### PLAY – 10 mins

**You will need:** items to hide in your room (optional)

Invite the children to spy out information for you. For example, ask them to find something unusual in your room, count how many lights are in the hallway or discover what colour the chairs are in the church

You could also hide some items inside your room (and outside if you can go further afield) for the children to find.

### BIBLE STORY – 10 mins

**You will need:** reeds, straw or similar (or use a large brown piece of material); a rope; red rope or fabric

Explain that today’s story is about someone who helped the Israelites. Someone who was brave and chose to help even though others might not. Tell the children this story:

Rahab lived in the land of Jericho, she wasn’t part of God’s people and she had made bad choices. But God had a plan for her.

When Joshua and all the Israelite people arrived at their new home it was already full of people. Joshua secretly sent two spies to have a look at the land

The two spies came to Rahab’s house to stay the night. *Invite some children to be spies and come to you.*

Now, the King of Jericho had heard that there were spies in the city. He sent soldiers to find them! So Rahab hid the spies. *Invite the children to help you ‘hide your spies’ with the reeds straw or material. Ask two children to be soldiers.*

Rahab told the soldiers that the spies had been there. Then they had left and she didn’t know where they had gone. She said: “Go after them quickly and you may catch up with them!” So, the men rushed out to try to catch the spies. *The ‘soldiers’ do so.*

They didn’t find them! Rahab had been hiding the spies on her roof. She had hidden them under stalks of flax, which is a bit like long grass.

Rahab said to the spies: “I know God has given you this land. We’ve heard about the awesome things God has done. He dried up the water in the Red Sea! We know how powerful your God is. Because I have helped look after you, please say that you’ll look after me and my family and keep us safe.” The spies agreed.

Rahab let them down out of her window by a rope and told them to run to the hills where they could hide. *Encourage the children to take turns pretending to climb down the rope.*

They told Rahab to tie a red rope to her window so that the Israelites would know to protect her when they came to the city. *Tie your red rope or fabric to a chair.*

The spies went on their way and for three days they hid from the soldiers. Finally they returned to Joshua and told him all about what they’d seen. Rahab was remembered for how she had welcomed the spies and chosen to trust God.

Rahab chose to live differently and courageously from those around her and God invited her into his big rescue plan for his people. God loves people no matter what choices they’ve made in their lives, and he loves to draw them close to him.

### CHATTING TOGETHER – 5 mins

Ask the children these questions, ensuring everyone has the chance to contribute:

* What was your favourite part of the story?
* How do you think the spies felt?
* Why do you think Rahab helped the spies?
* How do you think the people in the city might have felt if they knew Rahab had helped the spies?

### CREATIVE TIME – 10 mins

**You will need:** red ribbon or wool; beads and sequins

The spies told Rahab to hang a piece of red rope from her window so that the Israelites would remember how she had helped them and protect her and her family. Rahab hung the red cord to say: “Yes, I want to be part of God’s plan!”

Show the children how to thread beads and sequins onto a piece of wool or ribbon to make a red bracelet. Alternatively, you could plait strands together. As you work, chat about the story and what it means to be part of God’s plan. Share a story for your own life so that the children can see a faith in action.

### PRAYER – 5 mins

**You will need:** bracelets from ‘Creative time’

Invite the children to pray for one another while wearing their bracelets. Stand in a circle and either hold hands or put your hand on the shoulder of the person next to you:

“God, thank you that you love all of us and you invite us to be a small part of your big plans. Thank you that we are part of *insert your group name, or name each child*. Help us trust you, be brave and courageous, and follow you even if people around us choose not to.”

**ANNIE WILLMOT**

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