

Escape From Jericho

Joshua 2; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 481–483, 491

Natasha sat under a table that was covered with blankets. She typed on an old typewriter hidden inside a wooden box. The blankets and the box helped soften the sound of the typewriter so it could not be heard outside.

Why was she doing that? She lived in a country where Christian books were forbidden. But books about Jesus were important to Natasha and other Christians. So Natasha risked her life to type copies of Christian books so others could learn more about Jesus.

One day the police pounded on Natasha's door. They arrested her and took her away.

A long time ago, the Jericho police wanted to arrest two men who were working for God. This is how it happened.

Forty years went by after the ten spies brought back their discouraging report. Joshua, the young spy who joined Caleb in bringing a good report about the Promised Land, was now Israel's leader. And he was still looking for ways to encourage people.



Just as Moses had done years before, Joshua sent out spies. This time two spies went into the Promised Land. "Go, look over the land," Joshua told them, "especially Jericho."

So the men slipped into that mighty city. That night they went to a house built on the city wall. Rahab, the woman who lived there, answered their knock. She knew that they were Israelites, yet she invited them inside.

Now, everyone in Jericho, including Rahab, knew about the Israelites. Everyone knew that

The Message

With our church family we listen and learn what is important.

Memory Verse

“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well”

(Matthew 6:33, NIV).

the Lord fought Israel's battles. And that scared the king of Jericho and his army. But instead of calling the soldiers, Rahab talked to the men. Then she hid the two Israelites on her roof under some stalks of flax.

When the king's soldiers came knocking, Rahab swung the door wide open. "Bring out the men who have come to spy on us," they demanded.

"The men left here a short time ago," she lied. "Go quickly and you will surely catch them." The soldiers dashed away looking for the spies. About that same time, the gates of Jericho clanked shut. The city settled down to sleep.

When all was quiet, Rahab crept up onto the roof. "I know that the Lord has given this land to your people," she told the spies. "We have heard how He dried up the Red Sea for you. Everyone is afraid; our courage has melted. You know I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sign that you will show kindness to my family."

"We will!" the men promised. "Our lives for your lives. You don't tell what we are doing, and you will be safe when the Lord gives us the land."

So Rahab took a red rope to let the spies down from her window. "After we have gone, tie this rope in your window," the spies told her. "When we take the city, we will save you and the family members inside the house with you. But the rope must be in the window."

Rahab watched as the men climbed down the rope and disappeared into the darkness. She carefully tied the cord to the window. Deep in her heart she knew that she had discovered

something very important. The God of Israel was the true God. And He would be her God from that day on.





S A B B A T H

DO If possible, go for a walk with your family and read your lesson story together. Imagine that the Jericho police are searching for you. Where would you hide? Pray for people who have to hide because they are Christians.

READ Read Matthew 6:33 together. Tell what you think this verse means.

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship, read Joshua 2:1-11 together. What do you think Rahab discovered that was really important?

DO Make a memory verse mobile. You will need red yarn and a coat hanger. Cut 20 shapes out of paper (like the blocks in the wall of Jericho). Write one memory verse word on each. Write the Bible reference on one. Put a picture of Jesus on another. Cut the yarn into 20 different lengths. Attach one piece to each cutout. Then attach the yarn to the coat hanger. Hang it where you can see it every day.

SING Sing "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" (Sing for Joy, No. 119). Pray that God will help you follow Him.

M O N D A Y

READ Read Joshua 2:12-24 with your family. What new thing did you learn from the Bible story? Write it here.

DRAW Draw a picture of Rahab and the spies.

DO Use your memory verse mobile to teach your memory verse to your family.

SING Sing "Give Your Heart to Jesus" (Sing for Joy, No. 118).

Jericho was a strong, walled city that guarded the mountain passes into Canaan.



T U E S D A Y

DO During worship, ask an adult to tell about their life before and after they chose to serve God. Ask: "How did God's church help you learn about Him? What is the most important thing in your life?" Read Jeremiah 29:13 together.

THINK How can you put God first in the morning? During the day? At bedtime? Pray that God will help you put Him first all the time.

SING Sing "Seek Ye First" (Sing for Joy, No. 67).

W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE With your family, talk about Rahab. How do we know that she believed that God was most important? Read Joshua 2:9 together.

DO When you earn money, how do you put God first? Mark your answers:

- ___ You give one tenth for tithe to God.
- ___ You give an offering.
- ___ You ask God to help you use money wisely.
- ___ You save the money.

DO Use ten coins that are alike. Take out the tithe. Decide what you will give for an offering.

DO Thank God for blessings He gives you.



T H U R S D A Y

READ For worship read Matthew 1:5 together. Whose grandmother was Rahab? Whose great-grandmother? Look at all the names of the family list in Matthew 1. Whose is the last name? How far back can you trace your family?

SING Sing your memory verse together.

DO Look through the books and toys in your room. Could a person tell that God was most important to you? What changes might you want to make?

F R I D A Y

MAKE During family worship, make the walls of Jericho, Rahab, and the spies out of materials you can find at home. Tell the story. Put some "straw" on the roof of Rahab's house and hide the spies. Then help them escape.

READ Ask your family: How will you put God first in your life each day? What choices will you make? Read Psalm 122:1 together.

SHARE Show your memory verse mobile and say the verse together.

SING Sing "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" (Sing for Joy, No. 90). Then thank God for His Sabbath day.

Escape From Jericho

PUZZLE

Directions: Find out what we should seek first. Put the letter matching the symbol on the line.



D E G H I K M N O R S T U