

3

Rahab: A Faith Not Held Back by Fear

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO LET OUR BELIEFS DRIVE OUR ACTIONS?

The POINT > Faith acts when others are paralyzed by fear.

> JOSHUA 2:1-4a,8-14; 6:22-25

¹And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there. ²And it was told to the king of Jericho, "Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land." ³Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land." ⁴But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them.

⁸Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof

⁹and said to the men, "I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. ¹⁰For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. ¹¹And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and

on the earth beneath. ¹²Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a sure sign ¹³that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death." ¹⁴And the men said to her, "Our life for yours even to death! If you do not tell this business of ours, then when the LORD gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you."

²²But to the two men who had spied out the land, Joshua said, "Go into the prostitute's house and bring out from there the woman and all who belong to her, as you swore to her." ²³So the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab and her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. And they brought all her relatives and put them outside the camp of Israel. ²⁴And they burned the city with fire, and everything in it. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. ²⁵But Rahab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

We celebrate Independence Day on July 4 because this is when the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence in 1776. However, the document wasn't signed and officially finalized until months later.¹



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

Because of Jesus, people can live with joy regardless of circumstances, as joy is rooted in an eternal perspective and not in earthly circumstances.

Every July 4th, Americans celebrate Independence Day. On that day in 1776, the original thirteen colonies finalized the Declaration of Independence, declaring their independence from Great Britain. This step was a declaration of war. If the United States lost this war to the most powerful nation on earth, the signers of this historic document would lose everything, including their lives.

Each signature on the Declaration of Independence represented a man with faith in the cause. Their commitment to America's liberty was no longer an intellectual reality. They had crossed the line into action. Would they be heroes or traitors? After a long struggle, the founders and many of their fellow Americans became heroes. Their legacy is based on their actions for the cause of freedom.

Rahab faced a similar dilemma. Would she remain loyal to Jericho and its leaders, or would she act on her new-found faith in God and His people? This story teaches us that genuine faith in God requires immediate action because there is no time for fear.

JOSHUA 2:1-4a

1 Why do you think Rahab was so bold and decisive in choosing to hide the spies?

2 How can you demonstrate similar boldness in living out your faith?

JOSHUA 2:8-14

3 When have you made a decision or commitment without understanding all the implications?

4 Why do you think Rahab shared the information before receiving a guarantee?

5 How does your testimony compare with Rahab's (see the five points)?

JOSHUA 6:22-25

6 Why was it important for Joshua to protect Rahab?

7 How does your “before and after” show the power of God in your life?

8 How does your faith serve as an example to the people around you?

Rahab put herself in a vulnerable position. However, because she trusted in God, this was the only real choice.
#BSFLRisk-Takers



LIVE IT OUT



GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY
& WORLD

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

Because of Jesus, people can live with joy regardless of circumstances, as joy is rooted in an eternal perspective and not in earthly circumstances.

Because we live in a broken world, we will experience all kinds of difficulties. We might be tempted, at times, to despair or grow angry, sad, or fearful. We need to remember that our circumstances don't have power over our thoughts or emotions. Because of Jesus, we can live with joy and hope, no matter what we face.

>CHRIST

Before choosing to trust God and committing to follow Him, Rahab's life was characterized by immoral and sinful behavior. But this all changed as a result of her faith.

9 How has your life changed since coming to faith?

10 Write a brief prayer of gratitude thanking God for changing you by His power.



> COMMUNITY

Rahab's faith not only put her in the position to experience God's blessings, but it also brought protection and deliverance to her family. When we obey God, He works through us to bless others.

11 How have you experienced blessings due to someone else's obedience to God?

12 This week, how will you allow God to use you as an instrument through which others are blessed?

> CULTURE

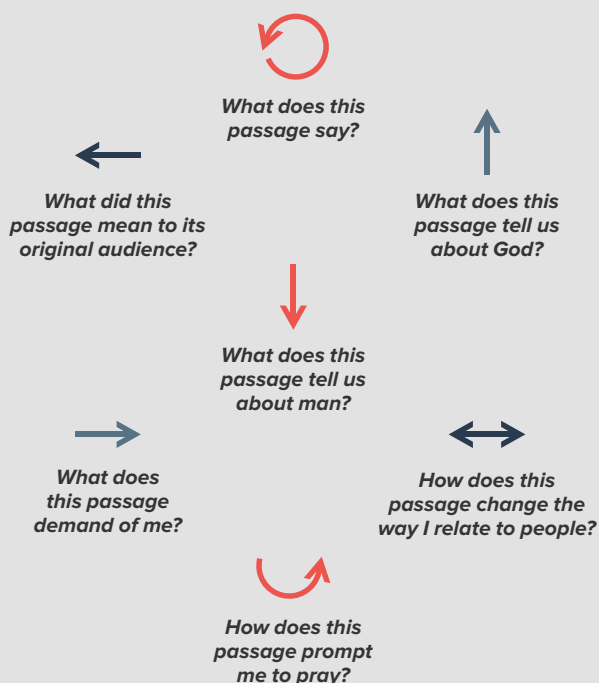
Protecting the Israelite spies was a great risk for Rahab. If she was found out, she likely would have been killed. When we live for God and share our faith, it involves a certain level of risk as well. Though our lives may not be on the line, we do face other risks such as rejection or being left out of certain peer groups. Still, we are called continually to live for Jesus and share the gospel.

13 How will you take a risk in living out God's call on your life this week?

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One

1 JOHN 4:15

The word *confess* literally means “with speak.” This means to agree with God or to speak in a way that aligns with what He has said. John wrote this letter because false teachers were teaching ideas about Jesus that simply weren’t true. In order to be in right relationship with God, it’s absolutely essential that we believe—and confess—the truth about Jesus. Confession, in a literal sense, comes from our mouth. However, for it to be real and true, it must flow from our hearts and be tied to our actions. Few people speak the truth about Jesus. Even fewer live so that Jesus is reflected in all their ways. God’s remaining in us and with us, and our remaining with God, is tied to what we confess. With our lips and with our lives, let’s confess the truth about Jesus.

- **Does your confession align with the truth about Jesus? How do you know?**
- **How does your life show that your confession is an expression of all three levels: lips, heart, and actions?**

Day Two

1 JOHN 4:16



In 1 John 3:13, John told the Christians he was addressing to not be surprised if the world hated them. They were likely already experiencing some persecution, and John knew that it would become more and more intense as time went on. Because the world doesn't know God and because the gospel is offensive, worldly people are naturally antagonistic toward Jesus and His followers. When life is tough, we might sometimes be tempted to wonder if God really loves us. The answer to this question is not found in our circumstances but in Jesus's sacrifice and all the blessings made available to us through Christ. Because of the cross, we can know beyond any doubt that God loves us. And for those who truly believe this, we will remain committed to Jesus and His purposes no matter what we might face.

- **How have you come to know and believe God's love for you?**
- **How is an understanding of God's love tied to remaining in God?**

Day Three

1 JOHN 4:17

"In this" refers to Christians' knowledge and belief (v. 16) in the love of God for His people. When we truly grasp the depth and beauty of God's love, it changes us. And the effect is that God's love is made complete in us. This doesn't mean that we'll be perfect by any means. However, it does mean that our lives will be characterized overwhelmingly by love for God and others. In Matthew 22:37-40, Jesus said that the greatest commands are to love God above all and to love others as ourselves. In fact, He said that all the commands and principles of the Old Testament law are fulfilled in these two commands. Jesus, God's Son, was loved and accepted by the Father, and if we trust and follow Jesus, we are loved and accepted by God too. We know that we no longer belong to the kingdom of darkness but to the kingdom of light because we love like Jesus. And when we do, we can be confident in the day of judgment.

- **How is love made complete in us?**
- **What is the connection between love and confidence in the day of judgment?**

Day Four

1 JOHN 4:18

Fear is a natural response to an immediate perceived threat or danger. In this verse, John was referring to a specific kind of fear—fear of God’s judgment. Scripture is very clear that Jesus will return one day soon to judge the world (John 5:22; 2 Tim. 4:1; Acts 17:31; Matt. 16:27), and all people will be required to give an account for the ways they’ve lived, including every careless word (Matt. 12:36) and even their thoughts and motives (1 Cor. 4:5). For people who have lived selfishly and pridefully and who have failed to love generously and sacrificially, they have every reason to be afraid about the day of judgment. However, for those who have lived and loved like Jesus as an expression of their faith in Him, there is no reason to fear. Love for God and others drives out fear of judgment. Further, this kind of love drives out even more immediate fears because no matter what might happen, we know we are eternally safe in Jesus.

- **What kind of fear is John talking about here?**
- **When our lives are characterized by love, why do we have no reason to fear?**

Day Five

1 JOHN 4:19



When we experience the love of Jesus, it motivates us to love others in the same way. This idea is certainly present in this verse, and it’s a big idea! However, this is not all John was saying. More centrally, John was making the claim that we have the capacity to love only because of God’s love for us. We were created in God’s image to live in relationship with Him and with others, and part of this image involves the ability to love. This means that all parents are capable of loving their children well and all spouses can love their significant others. However, for people who have truly experienced the love of Christ, our hearts are transformed and awakened to love in a unique way. The love we express toward God and others sets us apart from the world, and we live this out only as we have known the love of God. Let’s put ourselves continually in the place to know God’s love, and let’s reflect this love to the people we encounter.

- **How have you experienced the love of Jesus in real ways?**
- **How is the love of Christ flowing through you to the people in your life?**