

Hebrews 11:30-31 --> Joshua, Rahab, and Jericho

Leader Guide: Hebrews 11:30–31 — Faith that Trusts the God Who Saves

"By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies." — *Hebrews 11:30–31*

Background Overview

- **Context:** After Moses' death, Joshua leads Israel into the Promised Land (Joshua 1–6). Their first great test is the **fortified city of Jericho**—humanly impossible to conquer.
- **Jericho's Fall (Joshua 6):** The Israelites marched around the city once a day for six days, and seven times on the seventh day, following God's command. When the priests blew the trumpets, the walls collapsed—not by military strength but by *faith in God's word*.
- **Rahab's Faith (Joshua 2; 6:22–25):** Rahab, a Canaanite prostitute, believed in the God of Israel before seeing His victory. Her faith moved her to hide the spies, trust God's promise, and mark her home with a scarlet cord—a sign of salvation.
- **Christ Connection:**
 - **Joshua** (Hebrew: *Yehoshua*, "Yahweh saves") prefigures **Jesus** (*Yeshua*), the true and greater Deliverer who brings His people into their eternal inheritance.
 - **Rahab** shows that God's grace reaches the undeserving and that salvation comes through faith in the Redeemer's blood, symbolized by the scarlet cord.
 - **Jericho's fall** pictures Christ's triumph over the powers of this world—not by might, but by God's sovereign word and faith in His promise.

Discussion Questions & Leader Notes

1. What does the fall of Jericho teach us about the nature of true faith? (Heb. 11:30; Joshua 6)

Leader Notes / Potential Answer:

- Faith obeys even when God's commands seem illogical or impossible.
- Israel's victory was not by strength or strategy but by obedience to God's word.
- **Christ Connection:** Salvation is not achieved through human power but through trust in God's plan fulfilled in Christ.
- **Application:** Faith acts on God's promises even when His ways seem foolish to the world (1 Cor. 1:18–25).

2. How did Joshua's leadership demonstrate faith in God's promises? (Joshua 1:6–9; 6:2–5)

Leader Notes / Potential Answer:

- Joshua trusted God's word before seeing the outcome ("See, I have given Jericho into your hand," Joshua 6:2).
- He led the people in obedience, showing courage rooted in God's faithfulness.
- **Christ Connection:** Joshua points to Jesus, who perfectly trusted and obeyed the Father's will to bring salvation.
- **Application:** Faith-filled leadership means guiding others to trust and obey God's word, not our own strength.

3. Why was Rahab's faith so remarkable in the context of her culture and past? (Heb. 11:31; Joshua 2:9–11)

Leader Notes / Potential Answer:

- Rahab was a Canaanite and a prostitute—by all accounts an unlikely candidate for faith.
- Yet she heard of God's power and believed in His supremacy before seeing the victory.
- **Christ Connection:** Rahab's story reveals God's grace to the outsider and foreshadows the gospel invitation to all who believe (Matt. 1:5; Eph. 2:8–9).
- **Application:** No one is beyond God's mercy. Faith in Christ brings redemption regardless of past sin or social status.

4. What is the significance of the scarlet cord in Rahab's window? (Joshua 2:17–21; 6:22–25)

Leader Notes / Potential Answer:

- The scarlet cord was a visible sign of her faith and the promise of salvation.
- It parallels the blood of the Passover lamb that marked Israel's homes in Egypt (Exod. 12:13).
- **Christ Connection:** The scarlet cord points to the blood of Jesus, which secures our deliverance from judgment (1 Pet. 1:18–19).
- **Application:** Faith in the blood of Christ is our only refuge from destruction.

5. How does Rahab's faith contrast with the disobedience of Jericho's people? (Heb. 11:31; Joshua 6:1, 20–21)

Leader Notes / Potential Answer:

- The rest of Jericho heard the same reports of God's power but hardened their hearts.
- Rahab responded in fear and faith, while others resisted.
- **Christ Connection:** The gospel divides humanity between those who trust in Christ and those who reject Him (John 3:36).
- **Application:** Faith responds to God's warnings and grace with repentance and trust.

6. What does it mean that "by faith the walls fell" — what is the relationship between obedience and God's power? (Heb. 11:30)

Leader Notes / Potential Answer:

- God's people acted in faith, but it was *God* who brought the victory.
- Faith obeys God's word even when the outcome depends entirely on His action.
- **Christ Connection:** Just as Israel's faith was vindicated by God's power, our faith is vindicated by Christ's resurrection — the ultimate victory over sin and death.
- **Application:** True faith moves forward in obedience, trusting that God's power will accomplish His purposes.

7. How do Joshua and Rahab together illustrate both the holiness and mercy of God?

Leader Notes / Potential Answer:

- Joshua's conquest shows God's righteous judgment against sin.
- Rahab's salvation shows His mercy toward repentant sinners.
- **Christ Connection:** At the cross, God's justice and mercy meet perfectly — judgment for sin and grace for the sinner (Rom. 3:26).
- **Application:** Faith leads us to revere God's holiness and rejoice in His mercy through Christ.

8. How can this story strengthen our faith when God's ways seem impossible or when we feel unworthy?

Leader Notes / Potential Answer:

- Like Israel, we often face "walls" that seem insurmountable.
- Like Rahab, we may feel unworthy of God's favor.
- Yet faith rests not on our ability but on God's faithfulness and Christ's finished work.
- **Application:** God delights to use weak, undeserving people who trust in His power and promises.

Key Christ-Centered Takeaways

6645. Faith obeys God's word even when it defies human wisdom.

- The Israelites' marching and Rahab's cord both show faith in God's promises rather than human strength.

6646. Faith saves the undeserving through grace.

- Rahab's inclusion in Christ's lineage (Matt. 1:5) displays the reach of the gospel to sinners.

6647. Faith looks to Christ, our true Joshua.

- As Joshua led Israel into the Promised Land, Jesus leads us into eternal rest and victory over sin.

6648. Faith sees victory through the cross.

- The crumbling walls of Jericho mirror the breaking down of sin's stronghold through Christ's triumph on Calvary.