



Pointers and questions on
JOSHUA 1-12

Session 2

2:1-24

Rahab and the two spies

Summary

- 2:1-7** The two Israelite spies reconnoitre the city of Jericho and lodge with Rahab. She hides them from local officials.
- 2:8-21** Rahab reveals her faith in Israel's God and the destiny of the Israelite people. She strikes a deal with the spies that, in return for sheltering them, they will spare her and her family.
- 2:22-24** The spies return to Joshua with a confident report.

Questions to get you thinking

1. Rahab is described as a prostitute. The NIV footnote says, Or possibly an innkeeper. What was it that took the two men to her house in particular, do you think?
2. It is clear from v2-3 that the intelligence services in Jericho knew about the spies and their movements. Does that give any clues as to how the powers of darkness regard us, God's people, as we plan to take over the devil's territory?
3. Rahab lies to the authorities in v4-7. Was her lying justified? Can lying by Christians today ever be justified? If so, in what kind of circumstances?
4. Look at v8-11. What does this tell us about the way the powers of evil regard God's people today? Does this mean that we can be blasé and careless about the devil and his hosts?
5. Rahab's proposed deal was more than simple self-preservation. What does v12 tell us about her insight into who the LORD is, compared with the pagan gods of her nation?
6. The word kindness in v12 does not convey the strength of the word in Hebrew, which is *hesed*. Say what you know about this word, if anything. If you don't, ask your group leader to inform you.
7. What, if anything, do you think is the significance of the scarlet cord (v17, 21)?
8. How does the report of the two spies in v24 compare with that of the twelve spies sent by Moses years earlier to spy out the Promised Land? See Numbers 13:31-33.
9. What is the main Jericho that you need to overcome in your journey of faith? As you look it over and recall God's promises, what kind of report do you give to your own heart about your prospects of success?
10. What does the New Testament have to say about Rahab? See Hebrews 11:31; what would you say is the key word in this verse? See also James 2:25-26; what does this verse tell us about true faith?
11. Look also at Matthew 1:5. Here is Rahab again! She clearly became part of God's people, for this is the genealogy of Jesus, the Messiah. What does her inclusion here tell us about the love, forgiveness and grace of God?
12. In what way does her inclusion here give you encouragement?

