



The hand of the Lord is mighty. Joshua 4:24

Bible Study:



Read Joshua 2-4. Note the themes we see about God in this story:

Greatness - He is referred to as “God of the heavens above and the earth below” (Josh 2:11) and twice as “Lord of *all the earth*” (Josh 3:11 and 13)

Mercy – God provides a way for Rahab and her family to be spared from the coming wrath

Faithfulness – though their journey was a long one (due to lack of faith), God is faithful in delivering Israel into the Promised Land. The 12 Rocks placed from the middle of the River, stood as a lasting testimony to God’s unwavering faithfulness.

The gospel in the story:



The story begins with the account of complete foreigner, Rahab proclaiming the greatness of God, and putting her faith in Him. Rahab was literally a foreigner, being a citizen of Jericho, but also a spiritual foreigner because she was a citizen of the wicked town of Jericho that worshiped false gods, and also due to her lifestyle (a prostitute). Yet by God’s grace, He chose to reveal Himself to Rahab in a way that drew her to Him, offering her a new identity as a child of God. Without Christ, we are all like Rahab living as citizens of a people opposed to God. But those who repent and put their faith in Jesus forgiven and spared from the wrath of judgement.

Application

Head: What did we learn?

Q: Why do the Israelites need to cross the Jordan River? A: To enter the Promised Land.

Q: What does Joshua tell the spies to do? A: Go view the land, especially Jericho.

Q: What happens at Jericho? A: The spies are helped by a woman named Rahab.

Q: What does Rahab ask of the spies? A: To spare her and her family.

Q: How does the Israelite nation cross the Jordan?

A: God causes it to dry up when the priests, carrying the Ark of the Covenant, step into the water.

Q: Why are twelve stones carried from the middle of the Jordan? A: To build a memorial to the great miracle God did to allow Israel to cross the river.

Heart : Memory verse

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Hands: How does this affect the way I live?

Rahab’s proclamation that God is the God of heaven and earth is proven true as God stops the flow of a river at flood stage! His hand is indeed mighty!

Home: How does this affect my household?

Rahab's household underwent a radical transformation being spared from destruction, and instead receiving God's protection. The red cord hung in the window was a sign of obedience and a visible indicator of allegiance to God. Christian households structured according to God’s ways put allegiance to God on display for others to see.

Heaven: How does this help us share our faith?

Christians are a people who were pulled out of citizenship against God, and given new identities in Christ. With that as a constant reminder of how far Jesus has redeemed us, we share the good news with our friends and neighbors as we serve and love them.