

RAHAB HELPS THE SPIES

Joshua 1, 2

Lesson Memory Verse: I Peter 5:7 "Casting all your care on Him; for He cares for you."

Lesson Aim: To help children put their trust in God so they can know the security of His care for them.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes.)

KEY (for Attention): I am reminded of a story about a young sister and brother who lived on a farm. The sister was seven years old, the brother was five. It was always great fun for them to help their daddy with the barn chores. One day, while playing a game of hide and seek, they wandered into the barnyard with their game. They did not know that their father had let the big Holstein bull out into the barnyard. The bull came running toward them pawing at the soft dirt. Just then, the father saw what was happening. He called for the children to jump into an old feed box. They made it to safety in the nick of time, yet the bull kept hitting the box with his head until the children's father chased him back into the barn.

God will take care of us like the father took care of his children in this story. God had promised to take all our cares and worries, if we will give them to Him.

HE (for Authority): Today's memory verse tells us to cast our care on God. Care could be described as anything that troubles us. Therefore, God wants us to cast all our worries and troubles on Him. Why does He want us to do this? Because He wants to take care of us; He loves us. How did God show His love and care for us? He did it by sending His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins and remove them so we would not be sent to Hell. How can He remove our sins? We must ask Jesus to take away our sins and believe that He has done it. There is a woman in today's lesson who found out that God loved and cared for her, and she accepted God's salvation. Our lesson today also shows how God cared for His children (Israel).

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scriptures for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. (More is said about this and how to present your lesson in the Introductory Notes.) In this lesson we shall see how God took care of Joshua, a woman and some Israelite spies. This lesson will remind us that God will take care of us, too, if we have received Jesus as our Savior.

I. Being Ready for the Battle (Joshua 1)

A. God made Joshua the leader (1:1-9)

God reminded Joshua that He had chosen him to lead His people (1:1, 2). God also reminded Joshua of the great land He had given to His people, Israel. But they would have to work very hard to get all of this land. Joshua needed to lead them to fight for the land. We learn that Joshua's old job was being Moses' minister or servant (1:1). God had been training Joshua for forty years to do this job. Now Joshua was to be both the spiritual and military leader of God's people, Israel.

WE: We go to Sunday school to learn lessons from the Bible and memorize Bible verses. Learning can be hard work, but God wants to prepare us for a special job that He wants us to do for Him.

This was true of Joshua also. God had a big job for him to do and it would be hard to do it. The land God gave to him would be difficult to conquer, but he would win the battles, if he obeyed God. God promised to go with Joshua wherever he went, but he would have to trust God to give him the wisdom and power to win the battles.

WE: We, too, need to trust God to take care of us when He gives us a big job. We cannot do it in our strength. We must do it in God's strength. We, too, can be helped by God in our work for Him, even as Joshua was (1:7-9). God wants us to win and He will help us win, if we ask Him.

B. People follow Joshua, their leader (1:10-18)

Joshua did what God told him to do. He commanded the people to prepare for war and trusted God. The people showed that they loved Joshua as their new leader and they would do all that he commanded them to do (1:16-18). God helped Joshua by working in the people's hearts. They realized that God had picked Joshua to help them capture their land. The people of God (Israel) promised to be loyal to Joshua. Joshua trusted God and God blessed Joshua with good people.

WE: We need to trust God to help us like Joshua did. We must learn not to worry, but give God all the things that make us worry. He wants you to do it so He can help you as He did for Joshua.

II. Being Sure of the Battle (Joshua 2)**A. Sending the Spies (2:1)**

Joshua sent two men to spy on the city of Jericho, which was on the other side of the Jordan River. Joshua believed God would help him and the spies as He had promised. (Discuss possible routes spies took to Jericho, distance in miles, etc. It was fourteen miles in a direct route from Shittim, Israel's camp, to Jericho.) Joshua put his trust in God's care as he prepared himself to do God's work.

WE: We need to trust God to care for our lives. Can you tell us about sometime when you did a bold, daring thing for God, because you trusted Him to take care of you? The spies did a bold, daring thing for God, didn't they?

B. Spotting the Spies (2:2, 3)

The spies were led by God to go to Rahab, the right person in Jericho. She was probably an inn-keeper. Someone spotted these Israelite men as spies, when they entered Rahab's house, and went and told the king. It looked like God was not taking care of the spies as He had promised. Maybe the spies wondered if God had not kept His promise to take care of them when they heard the king's messengers ask for them. God often does things we do not understand, but He keeps His promises. These spies probably did not understand why they were discovered, but they would soon find out that God would keep His promise by protecting them in another way.

WE: We need to trust God, even when we do not understand His way of doing things.

C. Shielding the Spies (2:4-7)

Rahab shielded the two spies from the king's messengers by putting flax stalks around and over the spies, but it seems the messengers never searched her house for the spies. Why? Because Rahab told the king's messengers that the two spies had been there, but had already left, and she told them to hurry after them and catch them. This was lie, and it is not right to lie, but we must remember Rahab was not yet saved. She was doing what she had been taught to do, and she was trying in her way to save the lives of the two spies, although God could have protected the spies by hiding them under the flax stalks, or possibly some other way. He did not rebuke her for lying anywhere in Scripture, probably because she did not do it to cover up some sin of hers, but she did it to protect the lives of the spies. God allowed this way to be used to protect the lives of these two spies, even though He would not want His own children to lie in order to receive His help.

WE: We should not expect unsaved people to live like believers, so we should not think badly of Rahab. We should not lie, however, if we trust in God as our Savior from sin. We do not need to lie to receive God's help and protection.

D. Seeking of Rahab (2:8-13)

Rahab was seeking the Lord. She believed He was the true God and Israel was His people. She wanted them to be merciful to her and her family when they would conquer her city. She wanted to trust Him and

put all of her fears on the Lord. She wanted Him to save both her and her family. She wanted to turn away from her past sinful life and be saved from it.

WE: There needs to be a time when we want God to save us from our sins, like Rahab. She talked to the spies about her desire to be saved. If any of you want to talk to me about being saved, I will be happy to do it today after class, or anytime that you are ready to receive Jesus as your Savior.

E. Settling a Promise (2:14-21)

After her talk with the spies they promised to spare her life and the lives of her family, if they hung the scarlet cord out the window and stayed in that house. Rahab's faith was real. It should be noticed that she put all of her trust in the Lord. This is seen by her talk and by her actions. In her talk, she would not let the spies go until she was promised salvation.

WE: We need to be serious about being saved. Rahab was saved from being killed by the Israelites, but we need to be saved from being sent to Hell. When Rahab and her family were saved, they were added to the people of God. When we are saved we are added to the family of God. We become His children. That is a wonderful privilege. Have you ever listened carefully to His promise and asked Him to save you from Hell and bring you into His family? If you are you ready to give your sins to Jesus and ask Him to save you, I will help you after class. This is an important part in casting all your care upon Him.

F. Saving the Spies (2:16, 22-24)

Rahab told the spies exactly what they must do to save their lives (2:16). The spies followed her advice and returned to the camp of Israel safely. God used Rahab to help protect the spies, but it was really He that saved their lives from the men of Jericho.

WE: We may be helped by people, but behind it all is God. The Lord is the only One who can save us. Are you looking to Him to be saved from hell? Are you looking to Him to be saved from other problems in your life? God wants you to trust in Him.

BE (for Action): Christians know our memory verse is true, but they still worry and live in fear. They don't give their worries and fears to the Lord. Instead they are nervous about God's promise to take care of them, and that is the reason they are worried and have fear. In today's Bible story, Joshua, the spies, and Rahab practiced the truth of 1 Peter 5:7. They believed God would take care of them and give them victory. They were bold and did not worry because they put their full trust in God's care for them and got busy doing what He commanded them to do.

Do you have a fear of people? The fear of people will make you their slave. You will do whatever they tell you because you are afraid of them. Trust God and He will set you free and you will be safe (Prov 29:25). Do you fear what a bully might do to you sometime during the week? If you live for God, you can be bold as a lion (Prov 28:1). Give your fears to God and He will take care of you. That is what our memory verse tells us. I hope you have learned from this lesson to trust God. If you are afraid of anything, pray right now and tell God what is making you afraid. Then leave your fears with Him. If you are worried about dying and going to Hell, tell God about this and accept Jesus as your Savior. He will save you right now, and you will never have to worry or be afraid about going to Hell. Believe what God says in John 1:12; 3:16; Rom 10:13 and do not let Satan make you afraid.