

THRIVE BIBLE STUDY – July 13th

DAY 1: MONDAY – God Choosing the Unlikely - Joshua 2:1-7, 1 Corinthians 1:26-29, Isaiah 55:8-9, Psalms 34:18

I often wondered if God could ever use someone like me. My past felt like a heavy chain, a constant reminder of my failures. Every mistake seemed to echo the same lie: You're unworthy. You're disqualified. You're beyond redemption. I couldn't imagine how a life like mine could ever have a place in God's plan. Then one day, I came across the story of Rahab in Scripture. Her life may have been different from mine, but her story showed me a truth I desperately needed to hear: God's grace is not limited by our past. God's plan for Rahab's life far exceeded her reputation or her past. Why would Rahab take such a bold risk in hiding the spies and protecting them? Rahab had heard the stories of the God of Israel: His power, His miracles, and His victories. These accounts stirred something in her heart, awakening a faith in the one true God she had never known. When the moment came, Rahab made a life-changing decision: she chose to align herself with the God of Israel and His people rather than the gods of her city. In doing so, she demonstrated a faith that went beyond words and into action. This faith not only set her apart but also positioned her for God to work through her in a remarkable way. Rahab's story reminds us of a profound truth: God doesn't see us the way the world does. He doesn't define us by our mistakes or label us by our failures. Instead, He looks at us through the lens of His grace, seeing our potential and calling us into His purpose.

Rahab's life is proof that God delights in using the unlikely to accomplish His plans. He didn't choose Rahab because she was perfect. He chose her because she was willing. Her faith marked the beginning of her transformation, not just in her own life but in her role in God's greater story. Through her faith and obedience, Rahab became part of the lineage of Jesus Christ, a testament to the redemptive power of God's grace. No matter what labels you carry, no matter how heavy your baggage feels, Rahab's story offers hope. God's grace is bigger than your past, and His purpose is greater than your failures. Like Rahab, your faith can mark the beginning of a new chapter. It's not about being perfect; it's about trusting the God who takes broken lives and turns them into something beautiful for His glory. **What labels or past mistakes have made you feel disqualified? How might God be calling you to see yourself differently?**

DAY 2: TUESDAY – Bold Faith in Action - Joshua 2:8-14, Hebrews 11:6, 2 Corinthians 5:7, James 2:14-26

Have you ever faced a moment when stepping out in faith felt impossible because the risks seemed too great? That is exactly where Rahab found herself, a pivotal moment where fear and faith collided. She was forced to choose between the safety of the familiar and the uncertainty of trusting in a God she had only heard about. In Joshua 2, Rahab made a stunning declaration to the spies she had hidden: "I know that the Lord has given you this land." Her words were not casual; they reflected a deep belief in the power and sovereignty of a God she had only heard about. Rahab's faith wasn't born from years of knowing or following God but from stories of His works. Her decision to hide the spies was not just an act of bravery; it was a step of faith in a God she trusted, even at great personal risk. By hiding the spies and asking for her family's safety, Rahab risked her life and her future. She could have been executed for treason if she had been discovered. But instead of letting fear paralyze her, Rahab chose to trust God. Her courage was not the absence of fear but the decision to trust God in the face of uncertainty.

Rahab's story reminds us that faith is more than just believing in God. Faith is acting on God's truth, even when the path ahead is unclear. It's easy to say we trust God when the stakes are low, but true faith is revealed when we take action in situations where the risks are high, and the outcomes are unknown. Rahab didn't know how her story would end, but she believed in a God who could do the impossible. Her example challenges us to examine our own faith. Are we willing to trust God when the circumstances seem overwhelming? Are we willing to step out, even when we don't have all the answers? Faith doesn't mean the absence of fear; it means trusting God more than we trust our fears. Rahab's story reminds us that bold faith leads to transformation, redemption, and outcomes far greater than we could ever imagine. Rahab's story assures us that God's plans are always greater than our fears, and His promises are always worth trusting. **What step of faith is God asking you to take today? How can you trust Him with the outcome?**

DAY 3: The Scarlet Cord of Redemption - Joshua 2:15-21, John 3:16, Ephesians 1:7, Romans 8:1

The scarlet cord hanging from Rahab's window was more than just a marker for the Israelites. The hanging cord was a visible declaration of her faith and a symbol of redemption. By placing it in her window, Rahab put her trust in God's promise to save her and her family from destruction, even as Jericho faced judgment. This scarlet cord draws a beautiful

parallel to the blood of Jesus, shed for the redemption of all who believe. Just as the Israelites were spared during the first Passover by marking their homes with the blood of the lamb (Exodus 12:13), Rahab's home was marked by the scarlet cord. And just as Rahab's family found refuge under the symbol of her faith, we find refuge in the sacrifice of Christ. Ephesians 1:7 reminds us, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace." Rahab's story is a testament to God's grace. Despite her past, she was not only saved but also welcomed into the people of Israel and became part of the lineage of Jesus (Matthew 1:5). This shows us that redemption is not limited to the "qualified" or the "deserving." Romans 3:23–24 assures us, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

If you've ever felt like your sins are too great or your past is too messy for God to redeem, Rahab's story is a reminder that His grace is greater. God doesn't just forgive. God restores, transforms, and uses us for His purposes. As 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" The scarlet cord invites us to see redemption as a work of God's grace, not our own efforts. Just as Rahab trusted in God's promises, we too must trust that Jesus' sacrifice is enough to cover our sins, mark us as His, and draw us into His story of salvation. **What areas of your life need to be redeemed by God's grace? How can you trust Him in those areas?**

DAY 4: Live Your Faith Out Loud - Joshua 6:22-25, Matthew 1:5-6, Ephesians 2:12-13, Eph 2:19-22, Galatians 3:26-29

Rahab's story didn't end with her rescue from Jericho. Her salvation was just the beginning of a far greater transformation. She wasn't merely saved from destruction; she was brought into the family of God. Rahab married Salmon, a respected leader in Israel, and their union produced Boaz, the great-grandfather of King David. Generations later, Rahab's name appears in the genealogy of Jesus Christ, recorded in Matthew 1—a testimony to God's incredible grace and redemptive power. Pause and consider that: Rahab, once labeled as a sinner and an outsider, became an integral part of God's plan to bring the Savior of the world into history. Her life reminds us that God's grace doesn't stop at forgiveness—it restores, transforms, and gives us a purpose far beyond what we could imagine. Rahab's story is a living example of how God rewrites our stories for His glory. Ephesians 2 captures this transformation perfectly. Like Rahab, we were once separated from God, distant and hopeless, but through Christ, we are brought near and made members of His household. We are no longer defined by our past mistakes or failures but by our identity as children of God.

If you've ever felt like an outsider, unworthy of belonging in God's family, Rahab's story is proof that no one is beyond the reach of His grace. When we place our faith in Him, He doesn't just forgive our sins. He adopts us, gives us a new identity, and invites us to take part in His eternal purposes. As 2 Corinthians 5:17 proclaims, "If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" Rahab's transformation shows us that God doesn't simply rescue us; He restores us to Himself and gives our lives meaning and value. Her life challenges us to believe that no matter our past, God's grace is sufficient to make us new, to call us His own, and to use us for His Kingdom. **How does knowing you are part of God's family change the way you see yourself and your future?**

DAY 5: a Legacy of Faith - Hebrews 11:31, James 2:25-26, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Psalms 145:4

Rahab's faith didn't just transform her own life. Her faith created a ripple effect that shaped generations. She is one of only two women mentioned in Hebrews 11, often called the "Hall of Faith," where she is celebrated for her bold trust in God. James also commends Rahab, using her as an example of how true faith is demonstrated through action (James 2:25). Yet Rahab's legacy goes far beyond these recognitions. Her faith and obedience not only changed the course of her own life but also influenced the trajectory of history. Through her family line came King David, one of the most pivotal figures in Israel's history, and, ultimately, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world (Matthew 1:5–6). Her decision to trust God in a moment of uncertainty didn't just save her life. Her decision became part of God's plan for redemption, affecting countless lives for eternity. This is the power of a life surrendered to God. When we place our faith in Him and walk in obedience, our actions can have an eternal impact, far beyond what we can see. Rahab's story reminds us that leaving a legacy of faith doesn't require perfection—it requires trust. Her life challenges us to consider the legacy we are building. Her past didn't disqualify her; in fact, it became part of her testimony to God's redeeming grace. Like Rahab, your obedience today can impact generations to come. It starts with one act of trust and is a step of faith that says, "God, I believe You can use me." **What kind of legacy do you want to leave for the next generation? How can you begin building that legacy today?**