

Underdogs

“Rahab: Courageous Faith”

Joshua 2

Small Group Plan

Someone has said that nature forms us, sin deforms us, prisons try to reform us, education tries to inform us, but only God can transform us. This is the case in Joshua 2, where an entire chapter devoted to the story of just one person, an underdog transformed by God - Rahab.

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- Who have you known who moved from weakness to strength, from failure to success? Briefly describe their shift.
- Why does God pick such people to build his movement upon?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

GOD CONFRONTS RAHAB WITH PROVIDENCE

Joshua 2:1-7

¹ Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. “Go, look over the land,” he said, “especially Jericho.” So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there. ² The king of Jericho was told, “Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land.” ³ So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: “Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.” ⁴ But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from.” ⁵ At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don’t know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them.” ⁶ (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) ⁷ So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

- Do you think the Jericho spies accidentally ended up in Rahab’s house, or do you think God arranged the meeting? Explain your answer.
- What did God see inside of Rahab? What was beneath her immorality and sin?

GOD CONVINCES RAHAB WITH EVIDENCE

Joshua 2:8-11

⁸ Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof ⁹ and said to them, “I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. ¹⁰ We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea[a] for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. ¹¹ When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

- How did Rahab know her city was about to be attacked?
- What had she heard about the power of God?
- What had she heard about the mercy of God?
- How would you describe the faith that is growing inside of her?

GOD CONVERTS RAHAB WITH FAITH

Joshua 2:12-20

¹² “Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign ¹³ that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.” ¹⁴ “Our lives for your lives!” the men assured her. “If you don’t tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the Lord gives us the land.” ¹⁵ So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall. ¹⁶ She said to them, “Go to the hills so the pursuers will not find you. Hide yourselves there three days until they return, and then go on your way.” ¹⁷ Now the men had said to her, “This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us ¹⁸ unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house. ¹⁹ If any of them go outside your house into the street, their blood will be on their own heads; we will not be responsible. As for those who are in the house with you, their blood will be on our head if a hand is laid on them. ²⁰ But if you tell what we are doing, we will be released from the oath you made us swear.”

- What makes Rahab different from everyone else in the city?
- What moves her to help Joshua and his army?
- She is a prostitute and an outsider. But what else is she?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- This story is famous for God bringing the city walls down. But how does Rahab bring her own walls down?
- Why does God refuse to force our hand? Why must we bring our own walls down as we open our hearts to Him?
- How does humility open Rahab (and us) to truth?
- How does courage open Rahab (and us) to tough decisions?
- How does faith drive Rahab (and us) to obey?
- How does humility open Rahab (and us) to truth?
- Close in prayer thanking God for not only seeing the failure and the weakness, but also the promise in all of us.