

# Study Guide



## Joshua 2:1-24 – January 22, 2017 Evidence of Faithfulness

### Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

### Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

### Word (45 Minutes)

As we walk through Joshua we are going to see how Joshua relates to our everyday battle of faithfulness. **Our aim and our prayer for this study is to gain the wisdom we need for the battle of faithfulness.** During our time in Joshua we will be adapting our study guide from [Crossway's book, Knowing the Bible: Joshua, A 12-Week Study](#) by Trent Hunter. We recommend you purchase this book and use it in your Community Groups and for personal study as we go through Joshua. We have copies of the book available in our bookstore.

For this weeks study on Joshua please check out the following pages...

## Walk Prayer & Missions

March 25- April 4—South Sudan  
For further information visit  
[norrisferrychurch.org](http://norrisferrychurch.org) or contact Jared  
Clary ([clary@norrisferrychurch.org](mailto:clary@norrisferrychurch.org))

## Calendar

January— Core Class @ 9am  
February 12th— Member's Meeting  
March 5th-April 9th— [Connection Group](#)  
March 17th-19th— [DNOW](#)  
May 26th-31st— [Student Life Camp](#)

## Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Christ?

## Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[O Come to the Altar](#)":

Are you hurting and broken within  
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin  
Jesus is calling  
Have you come to the end of yourself  
Do you thirst for a drink from the well  
Jesus is calling

O come to the altar  
The Father's arms are open wide  
Forgiveness was bought with  
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes  
Come today there's no reason to wait  
Jesus is calling  
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy  
From the ashes a new life is born  
Jesus is calling

O come to the altar  
The Father's arms are open wide  
Forgiveness was bought with  
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Oh what a Savior  
Isn't he wonderful  
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen  
Bow down before him  
For he is Lord of all  
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen

O come to the altar  
The Father's arms are open wide  
Forgiveness was bought with  
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown  
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

## Word (45 Minutes)

### Joshua 2:1-24

We find ourselves intrigued in this story about the spies who have come into Jericho, but wedged between the spies being trapped (v. 1-7) and how God brings his spies home (v. 15-24), we find the main point of the story. In verses 8-14, we see how the Lord brought this unlikely woman to himself. It is on this surprising faith we must focus.

Rahab a Canaanite, a sinner, and the object of God's coming judgment, knew her only hope was in God's mercy. Please read Rahab's confession in Joshua 2:8-14. Dale Ralph Davis shows us there are three important statements of faith to Rahab's confession:

First, **the Might of Yahweh** (v. 10). This statement was the basis for her faith. She had heard about the mighty acts of God and feared God. Faith is not just a warm, cosy feeling about God. Faith grows out of hearing what God has done for his people. Rahab had heard about the one true God and believed.

Second, **the Majesty of Yahweh** (v. 11). Rahab confesses the majesty of God when she says, "Yahweh your God is God in heaven above and upon earth below." This is the conviction of faith. To know the Lord is the one true God. Turning from false gods to the only true God is evidence of true salvation (Jer. 10:5-10; 1 Thess. 1:9). Here is a pagan, Canaanite harlot with a confession to the one true God.

Third, **the Mercy of Yahweh** (12-13). In these verses we see the evidence of faith. "Genuine faith never rests content with being convinced of the reality of God but presses on to take refuge in God" (Davis 27). Rahab knew death would come to her by the judgment of God but she still asked for mercy. God granted it and proved, "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Rom. 10:13). Rahab was a Gentile, but by faith she became a child of Abraham and a part of the genealogy of Christ (Josh. 6:22-25; Matt. 1:5). Rahab was able to enjoy God's fulfillment of his promise to Abraham to extend his blessing to the nations.

This is the beauty of God's grace and faithfulness. Rahab a pagan is welcomed into the church. Her faith grew as she heard about the might of the Lord, faith convicted her to turn from false gods to the one true God, and God's faithfulness saved her from his wrath and guided her to take refuge in Him. It is her faith that then drove her actions. Rahab hung the scarlet cord because she trusted God with her life for salvation from the wrath to come. Salvation comes to sinners by faith, and we see that faith always produces good works (James 2:21-26).

This chapter in Joshua is a clear call to have confidence in the mercy and grace of God, in the gospel of his saving acts. This means we, like Rahab, should give weight to the word of the Lord over against all other human factors. The Lord is rescuing Rahabs and their families, pulling down Satan's strongholds, calling whoever will come to take shelter under the provision of the sacrificial death of his Son upon the cross.

## Discussion

1. Read Joshua 2:1-14. This is a very surprising account of the spies' journey into Jericho and the Promised Land. What things about this account in verses 1-14 seem totally surprising to you?
2. It seems strange for Israel's spies to enter the house of a prostitute. Does the context suggest any wrongdoing? Why might it have been strategic to enter a prostitute's house?
3. How do the actions and words of the king of Jericho to question Rahab about the men from Israel demonstrate their heightened state of alert and their sense of fear?
4. Read Rahab's conversation with the spies in verses 8-11. List everything you learn that she believes about God in these verses.
5. Does Rahab believe that God is going to give the land to the people of Israel? What is the attitude of the people in Jericho regarding Israel?
6. What things has Rahab heard about God and about Israel that influenced her to believe in the God of Israel?
7. Rahab refers (verse 10) to kings of the Amorites, Sihon and Og, whom Israel had destroyed, as being one of the causes of their fears about Israel. Read Deuteronomy 2:26-37 and Deuteronomy 3:1-8 for an account of what happened to these kings. Why would these stories strike fear into the people of Jericho?

8. How would you respond to someone who said, "I find it hard to believe that this Gentile prostitute really believes what she says about the God of Israel. Where's the proof?"
  
9. Read verses 15-24. Look especially at verses 18-19. How do these instructions to Rahab to save her household parallel the instructions to households of Israel during the first Passover in Egypt (Exodus 12:21-23)?
  
10. Will the faith of Rahab save her whole household? Was there any individual responsibility for members of her household to assure their safety?
  
11. In what way does the scarlet cord that Rahab used in her window foreshadow the salvation that comes through the blood of Jesus on the cross?
  
12. Look at verses 23-24. In what way did the spies' experiences in Jericho with Rahab confirm and strengthen their faith that God had given them the land?

## Application

1. How do you think Rahab's request for mercy for her whole family relates to the salvation of Christian families? Is there a sense in which whole families are saved by the faith of the parents (Acts 16:31-33)? Is it also true that each individual of a family must come to a personal faith in order to be saved? In what way does the faith of a parent bring salvation to the whole family?
2. What truths about God catch your attention from this passage?
3. Rahab believed in Yahweh (the God of Israel). All her fellow countrymen were struck with fear because of what they heard about God, but they did not believe. Why not?
4. Hebrews 11:31 says, "By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies." James 2:25 says, "And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?" How do these verses about Rahab speak to the relationship between faith and good works in the Christian life (James 2:18)?

Note: Many of these questions are substantially based upon questions in the Book entitled "Joshua" by Trent Hunter (available in the NFCC bookstore, at Lifeway Bookstore, or online).

## Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in Joshua to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you lead your groups! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!