



Promised Land: Rahab and the Spies

Lesson Aim: To see salvation comes to all who believe
and God uses us in His salvation plan.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Sends

THE WORD

Bible Story: Joshua 2:2-15, 17, 21, 23-24

What He has done: God sent salvation through Rahab.

Key Verse: Joshua 2:11

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Matthew 1:1, 5a

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Unit 9: The God Who Sends			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
43	God Sends Manna and Quail, Exodus 16:2-5, 8-14, 29-32, 35; Deuteronomy 8:1-3	God sent manna and quail so His people would survive in the wilderness.	To keep a thankful, hopeful attitude knowing God sends us what we need.
44	The New Stone Tablets, Exodus 33:17-34:10, 27-29, 33-35	God sent the Ten Commandments so the Israelites could be His people.	To discover how we reflect God's glory by obeying and seeking Him.
45	The Wilderness: Water from the Rock, Numbers 20:6-12; Deuteronomy 3:23-4:2; 34:1-7, 10-12	God sent water from a rock to quench the Israelites' thirst.	To see we must endure the consequences when we do not honor God with our words and actions.
46	Promised Land: Rahab and the Spies, Joshua 2:2-15, 17, 21, 23-24	God sent salvation through Rahab.	To see salvation comes to all who believe and God uses us in His salvation plan.
47	Joshua and Jericho, Joshua 5:13-15; 6:1-5, 8, 10, 14-16, 20, 23	God sent Joshua and His people to conquer Jericho.	To identify which battles are the Lord's and to trust His plans for those battles.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 27. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the brave leaders You give us. Embolden the children to answer Your call on their lives to be courageous leaders. Amen."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Spies in the Flax	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song: "For God So Loved the World" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" "I Will Always Obey Your Law" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
		Worship Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:51a	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 46 High Seas Adventures script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Joshua 2:2-15, 17, 21, 23-24	Map—Jericho, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discussion	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters, Treasure Treat (scarlet cord), scissors
		Christ Connection: Matthew 1:1, 5a	
		Golden Bowl	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Scarlet cord (Use uncut red yarn, cord, or rope long enough for each child to hold a section), W ³ s, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "For God So Loved the World," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Red Treat	Cherry-flavored rope candy or other red snack items (apples, cupcakes with red icing), red drinks
	Up to 10	Game: Hide and Seek	None
	Up to 10	Craft: Scarlet Ribbon Bookmarks	Wide red ribbon (or red sturdy paper), fine tip markers, paint and brushes (or markers), Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 10	Discussion: The Original Spies	Bibles
	Up to 10	Discussion: Commandments 8-10	Bible or a list of the Ten Commandments
	Up to 5	Bible Memory Verse Activity: The Wave	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Manna Scrambler	Large container for the manna jar, paper, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "For God So Loved the World," CD player, Bible or Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Timeline

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: When have you been very brave?

GAME: SPIES IN THE FLAX

Purpose: This version of tag introduces the story of Rahab hiding the spies in the flax.

Supplies: None

Today, we will learn how God used a woman named Rahab to help two Israelite spies. She hid the spies under some flax so the king's men could not find them. Flax is a type of plant that was dried and used to make clothing. Let's play a game where you save the spies from the king's men.

Directions:

1. Assign one child as the king's man and two children as the spies. The remaining children divide into pairs as the flax.
2. The flax pairs spread out around the room. Each pair should face each other and place their hands on each other's shoulders.
3. The king's man starts at one end of the room and the spies start at the other end.
4. On your signal, the king's man chases and tries to tag one of the two spies. To escape, the spies can "hide in the flax" by ducking between a flax pair and placing his or her hands on one of the flax pair's shoulders. The flax he or she replaces is now one of the spies. The spies can switch places with a flax as often as they like, but they cannot switch places with the flax who took their place.
5. If the king's man tags a spy, then he or she becomes a spy and the spy who was tagged becomes the new king's man.
6. Play for as long as you like.

Optional: To make this game more active, have children pretend it is a windy day and allow the flax move around the play area.

Limited space or children? Choose a small (preferably soft) item to represent the king's man and a small (preferably soft) item to represent the spies. Have the children stand or sit in a circle. Give the "spies" to a child in the circle and give the "king's man" to a child on the other side of the circle. On your signal, children pass both items around the circle as the king's man tries to catch the spies. When a child ends up with both the spies and the king's man, the spies have been caught and the game is over. Play as often as you like.



The God who sends

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting the offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

Worship in the Tabernacle

During each lesson of Unit 9, we will incorporate an element of the tabernacle during worship. This week, we will introduce the curtain at the entrance of the Most Holy Place.



Today, we worship God for who He is and what He has done by saving the Israelite spies through Rahab. God sent a way for us to be saved, too. Sing Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song: "For God So Loved the World" as the offering is collected.

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God sending Jesus the Savior.



Moses and the Israelites worshiped God in the tabernacle. The tabernacle was a large tent which the Israelites took everywhere as a place to meet with God. In the tabernacle, a curtain made of fine linen and decorated with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn closed the entrance to the Most Holy Place. Only the high priest was allowed into the Most Holy Place. Nearly 1500 years later, in the moment Jesus died, this curtain was torn from top to bottom. Choose a volunteer to read Matthew 27:51a.

The curtain reminds us that now not only the high priest, but anyone who believes can go straight to God to ask forgiveness.



Perform High Seas Adventures script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 9, Lesson 46.



Rahab helps the spies

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned Moses and Aaron disobeyed God by striking a rock and using angry words. What types of words and actions should we use? (Ones that honor God.) After wandering the desert for 40 years, God's people were ready to enter Canaan, the land He had promised them.

After Moses died, Joshua became the new leader of God's people. If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Joshua (Circa 1450 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **Joshua planned to capture the city of Jericho, so he sent two spies ahead to check it out.** If a map is available, point to Jericho. **The spies stayed at a house in Jericho that belonged to a woman named Rahab. Today, we will discover how God used Rahab to help Joshua's two spies escape from the king of Jericho and his men.**



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Joshua 2:2-15, 17, 21, 23-24. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Joshua 2:11.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

READERS' THEATRE: **Let's imagine what it was like that day in Jericho.** Distribute the Readers' Theatre scripts (available at Resourcewell.org) to the children, assign roles, and hand out props. Read and act it out.

Optional: The Readers' Theatre replaces the reading of the above Bible passages. The script directly quotes various passages from Joshua 2. If you choose to omit the Readers' Theatre, read the Bible Story Scripture: Joshua 2:2-15, 17, 21, 23-24.



God saves all who believe

THE WAY

Additional Supplies: Treasure Treat—Scarlet cord (Use uncut red yarn, cord, or rope long enough for each child to hold a section), scissors

Who sent the spies to Jericho? (Joshua.) **Why were they in danger?** (The king knew they were spying on his land and he was looking for them.) **Who helped the spies hide from the king and his men?** (Rahab.) **What had Rahab heard about the God of the Israelites?** (Children respond.) **Rahab had heard how God parted the Red Sea. That miracle showed her the Israelites' God was more powerful than the false gods of Jericho or her king.**

Why do you think Rahab bravely risked her life to help the spies? (Children respond.) **Where did she hide the spies?** (Under the flax.) **Flax is a type of plant that was dried and used to make clothing. How did she help the spies escape?** (She helped them climb down the city wall on a rope.)

The spies knew Joshua would soon send the Israelites to capture Jericho. What did Rahab ask the spies to do for her and her family? (Save them when the Israelites captured Jericho.) **What did the spies tell Rahab to do so she and her family would be saved?** (Place the scarlet cord in her window and take all of her family into her home.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

God used Rahab in His plan to save the spies. Over 1400 years later, God used a relative of Rahab's to save the world.



FIND IT FIRST Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Matthew 1:1, 5a. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read Matthew 1:1, 5a.

Have the children stand in a circle. Stretch the scarlet cord so each child is holding a section. **Rahab believed in God and He gave her a special honor. She married one of God's people and many generations later, Jesus was born into her family. What does it tell you about God that He would use Rahab as one of the people through whom He would send His Son?** (Children respond.) **God used Rahab in His salvation plan. How might He use you?** (Children respond.)

God sent Jesus to save anyone who believes in Him. Does this include your enemies? (Yes.) **Does this include people who have grown up believing in false gods as Rahab did?** (Yes.) **Rahab believed because she heard about God's power. How can you tell others about Jesus?** (Children respond.) **What can you tell them?** (Children respond.)

Let's each cut a piece of our scarlet cord and take it home to remember how Rahab believed in God. She helped the spies and God saved her and her family. Remember, we must tell others about Jesus so they can believe, too. Cut a section of scarlet cord for each child to take home for their Treasure Treat. If you are using yarn or thin cord, you may wish to help them tie it loosely on their wrist as a bracelet, just like Rahab tied the scarlet cord in her window.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I will lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, _____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: See THE WAY section for instructions on distributing today's Treasure Treat. **Today, your Treasure Treat is the scarlet cord. This special scarlet cord helped the spies save Rahab's family from death and is a reminder of the way Jesus saves us!**

W³: Take home today's W³ Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W³ Journal Entry #46. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, let's make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of the spies climbing down a rope from Rahab's window. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song, "For God So Loved the World," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: RED TREAT

Purpose: To review how God saved the spies and Rahab and to share stories about rescues.

Snack Suggestion: Cherry-flavored rope candy or other red snack items (apples, cupcakes with red icing), red drinks

In our Bible Story, we learned how God used Rahab to save two Israelite spies. Then, God helped them save Rahab and her family. Rahab used a scarlet (or red) cord to escape. Let's eat a red snack and share some stories about a rescue we have seen or heard about.

Directions:

1. Give each child the red snack and drink.
2. Ask a child to pray and thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **Have you ever been rescued? Can you share a story about a rescue you have seen or heard about?**

GAME: HIDE AND SEEK

Purpose: To help the children understand how the spies may have felt while they were hiding.

Supplies: None

In our Bible Story, Rahab helped the spies hide. In this game, the spies will hide from the king. While you're hiding, imagine how the spies felt while they were hiding from the king and his men.

Directions:

1. Select an area in which to play the game. Designate a specific area with clear boundaries.
2. Choose one child to be the king.
3. The king closes his or her eyes and counts to twenty.
4. The other players (spies) hide while the king is counting.
5. The king calls out, "Ready or not, here I come."
6. The king looks for the spies. The last person found is the king for the next round.

Limited Space? Choose two items (two spies) to hide somewhere in the room. Choose a child to be Rahab. Rahab hides the two items together somewhere in the play area. On your signal, the other children race to find them. The child who finds the items (spies) becomes Rahab. Play as often as you like or until every child has a turn as Rahab. If the same child finds the spies twice, have him or her choose another child who has not had a turn to be Rahab.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: SCARLET RIBBON BOOKMARKS

Purpose: Children will create scarlet ribbon bookmarks for their Bibles to help them remember God saves all who believe.

Supplies: Wide red ribbon (or red sturdy paper), fine tip markers, paint and brushes (or markers), Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: For each child, cut a 10-inch ribbon. Cut a "V" shaped notch on one end of each ribbon.

God sent Rahab to save the spies. We also know Jesus came to save us. Our Treasure Treat is a scarlet cord which will remind us that Jesus saves all who believe and trust in Him. Let's make a scarlet bookmark. Put the bookmark in your Bible or a favorite book so every time you open it, you are reminded that Jesus came to save you.

Directions:

1. Give each child a ribbon.
2. With a fine tip marker, help children copy the words of John 3:16 onto their ribbons.
3. Children use the paint or markers to decorate their bookmarks.

DISCUSSION: THE ORIGINAL SPIES

Purpose: To help children see how Joshua and Caleb entered Canaan as spies many years earlier.

Supplies: Bibles

Did you know Joshua was also a spy in Canaan? (Children respond.) **A short time after God's people left Egypt, they arrived at Canaan, the land God had promised them. Moses sent Joshua, Caleb, and ten other men into Canaan to check it out. The other ten men told everyone how big and frightening the Canaanites were, but Joshua and Caleb believed God would help them fight their enemies and win the land. God's people did not listen to Joshua and Caleb. They were afraid; they cried and complained to Moses. Let's read what happened.** Read Numbers 14:20-23, 30.

God's people did not believe God was stronger than the Canaanites. What was their punishment for not trusting God? (They had to wander in the desert for 40 years.) **Who were the only adults that God was going to allow to enter Canaan after 40 years?** (Joshua and Caleb.) **Why?** (They trusted God could defeat the Canaanites.) **After 40 years in the desert, God made Joshua the leader of His people and Joshua led them into the land God had promised.**

GOT TIME? *continued...*

DISCUSSION: COMMANDMENTS 8-10

Purpose: To help the children gain a deeper understanding of God's commandments.

Supplies: Bible or a list of the Ten Commandments

Read Exodus 20:15-17a. Use the following descriptions to discuss the meaning of commandments 8-10.

- 8 You shall not steal.** What are children tempted to steal? (Candy, toys, money, etc.) If you've ever stolen something, give it back today.
- 9 You shall not give false testimony.** Giving false testimony is lying. Gossip can lead to lying. How can someone stop the habit of gossiping? (Whenever you talk about someone who is not in the room, pretend they are right there next to you. Don't say anything you would not say in front of that person.)
- 10 You shall not covet.** Coveting is when we want something that belongs to someone else. What do some children covet? (Games, toys, bicycle, bedrooms, homes, etc.) How can someone stop coveting? (Thank God for every gift you or others receive. Pray for God to bless the person who owns the coveted item.)

TEN COMMANDMENTS AND EXPLANATION

Use this list of the Ten Commandments with explanation for the Treasure Treat or to review the Ten Commandments in class.

- 1 "You shall have no other gods before me."** *(Believe in the one true God.)*
- 2 "You shall not bow down to idols or worship them."** *(Make God the most important one in your life. Put God first before any favorite activity, belonging, friendship, and even before yourself.)*
- 3 "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God."** *(Always speak respectfully and truthfully when you use the names "God" or "Jesus." Do not use His name in swearing or cursing. Only use His name when you are talking to Him in prayer or about Him to others.)*
- 4 "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."** *(Always take a day each week to rest and worship God in a special way by attending church, worshiping God with other Christians, etc. In everything you do that day, keep your mind on God. Think about who He is and what He has done for you and your family.)*
- 5 "Honor your father and your mother."** *(Obey your parents. Talk to them and about them respectfully, no matter what.)*
- 6 "You shall not murder."** *(Do not kill anyone. Jesus teaches us to never hurt or hate anyone.)*
- 7 "You shall not commit adultery."** *(Stay pure and faithful to your husband or wife.)*
- 8 "You shall not steal."** *(Do not steal.)*
- 9 "You shall not give false testimony."** *(Do not lie.)*
- 10 "You shall not covet."** *(Do not want something that belongs to someone else.)*

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

GAME: THE WAVE

Purpose: To help children memorize the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

Directions:

1. Assign one phrase from John 3:16 to each child or group.
2. As the teacher or a helper directs, each child/group quickly stands, says the assigned phrase while raising both hands up to the sky and back down to their thighs, and sits down.
3. Repeat three times, moving faster each time.
4. Challenge children to recite John 3:16 in another language, such as the Spanish version below.

*"Porque tanto amó Dios al mundo, que dio a su Hijo unigénito,
para que todo el que cree en él no se pierda, sino que tenga vida eternal." Juan 3:16*

GAME: MANNA SCRAMBLER

Purpose: To help the children memorize the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song.

Supplies: Large container for the manna jar, paper, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "For God So Loved the World," CD player, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

Prepare: Tear paper into 26 flake-shaped pieces (about 4-inches x 8-inches) for manna flakes. On each flake, print one word of the Bible Memory Verse in large, bold print. Place the flakes in the manna jar.

Directions:

1. Display the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster or have a Bible open to John 3:16.
2. Children take turns selecting a manna flake from the manna jar until all the flakes are gone.
3. As the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song plays, have the children race to see how quickly they can lay the John 3:16 manna flakes in order on the floor. The goal is to finish before the song ends.
4. If time permits, redistribute the manna flakes and play again.

Variation: Divide the group into two teams. Have teams take turns laying the manna flakes in order. The team who does it in the shortest amount of time is the winner.

Large Group Variation: If you have 26 or more children, have each child hold onto their manna flake. On your signal, have the children work together to line up so the John 3:16 manna flakes are in order.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

God of Wonders Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Genesis through Joshua. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.) What did Jacob give his son Joseph? (A colorful robe.) What did Joseph's jealous brothers do to him? (They threw him in an empty well and sold him into slavery.) What good things happened for Egypt and for Joseph's family as a result of Joseph being sold and taken to Egypt? (His family and all of Egypt had enough to eat during the famine.)

Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.) What did Moses hear and see while he was tending his sheep? (God's voice coming from a burning bush.) What did God tell Moses to do? (Tell Pharaoh and the Israelites God would bring the Israelites out of Egypt.) What did God say His name was? ("I Am.") How many plagues did God send to make Pharaoh let God's people go? (Ten.) What did Moses tell the people just before God parted the Red Sea? ("God will fight for you. You only need to be still.") What did God send from heaven to feed the Israelites in the wilderness? (Manna and quail.) What was the covenant God sent to the Israelites? (The Ten Commandments.) What is your favorite story from their Israelites times in the wilderness? (Children respond.)

Joshua (Circa 1450 B.C.) Who replaced Moses as the leader of the Israelites? (Joshua.) How did Rahab help the two spies Joshua sent to Jericho? (She hid them and helped them escape.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Genesis through Joshua:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the two Unit 10 cards for God of Wonders Advent: Lessons 48-52.
4. To review the Bible Timeline, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Genesis through Joshua: Creation > Adam and Eve > Cain and Abel > Noah (Circa 2350 B.C.) > Tower of Babel > Abram (Circa 2100 B.C.) > Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.) > Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.) > Isaac and Rebekah > Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.) > Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.) > Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.) > Joshua (Circa 1450 B.C.)

Unit 10: John the Baptist (Circa 7-2 B.C.) > Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)