



READERS' THEATRE JOSHUA AND RAHAB

Joshua 2 (NIRV)

This Readers' Theatre Script is a compilation of scripture quotes from Joshua 2. The quotes are taken directly from the New International Reader's Version.

Teacher assigns roles and places everyone for the scene. Non-readers and younger students often prefer to dress up and act out each sentence as the teacher and assistant read. Older or more proficient readers may want to read the parts.

1. NARRATORS 1 & 2: Teachers, assistants, or volunteers
2. RAHAB
3. SPY #1
4. SPY #2
5. KING
6. JOSHUA
7. KING'S MAN
6. KING'S MEN: Half of the remaining children
7. ISRAELITES (GOD'S PEOPLE): The remaining children

Props

- Big hats (for spies to pull down over their faces)
- Red cord or rope
- Blankets (for "flax")
- Paper or costume crown for the king
- Paper scroll for king to write message to Rahab
- Optional: Use old sheets, towels, and bathrobes for costumes

Scene

Opens with Rahab standing in her home (center stage). The blankets and cord are nearby. The king is seated in a chair on stage right with the king's men around him. He is wearing the crown and holding the scroll. Joshua and Israelites are standing stage left with the two spies.

[NARRATOR 1] Joshua, the son of Nun, sent two spies in secret. He said to them,

[JOSHUA] Go, look the land over. Most of all, check out Jericho.

[NARRATOR 2] So they went to Jericho. They stayed at the house of Rahab.

[The spies pull their hats low on their faces and sneak into Rahab's house. They pretend to talk to Rahab.]

[KING'S MAN #1] *[To the King.]* Look! Some of the people of Israel have come here tonight. They've come to check out the land.

[NARRATOR 1] So the king sent a message to Rahab. It said

[KING] *[Pretending to write on the scroll.]* Bring out the men who came into your house. They've come to check out the whole land. *[Gives scroll to King's men who give the scroll to Rahab.]*

[NARRATOR 2] But the woman had hidden the two men.

[Spies hide under blankets.]

[RAHAB] *[To King's men.]* It's true that the men came here. But I didn't know where they had come from. They left at sunset, when it was time to close the city gate. I don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You might catch up with them.

[NARRATOR 1] But in fact she had taken them up on the roof. There she had hidden them under some flax she had piled up. The king's men left to hunt down the spies. Rahab went up on the roof before the spies settled down for the night.

[Spies come out from under blanket.]

[RAHAB] I know that the Lord has given this land to you. We are very much afraid of you. Everyone who lives in this country is weak with fear because of you. Now then, please take an oath. Promise me in the name of the Lord that you will be kind to my family. I've been kind to you. Promise me that you will spare the lives of my father and mother. Spare my brothers and sisters. Also spare everyone in their families. Promise that you won't put any of us to death.

[SPY # 1] We'll give up our lives to save yours. But don't tell anyone what we're doing. Then we'll be kind and faithful to you when the Lord gives us the land.

[NARRATOR 2] The house Rahab lived in was part of the city wall. So she let the spies down by a rope through the window.

[Spies pretend to climb down rope.]

[RAHAB] Go up into the hills. The men who are chasing you won't be able to find you. Hide yourselves there for three days until they return. Then you can go on your way.

[SPY #2] You made us take an oath and make a promise. But we won't keep it unless you do what we say. When we enter the land, you must tie this bright red rope in the window. Tie it in the window you let us down through.

[SPY #1] Bring your father and mother into your house. Also bring your brothers and everyone else in your family into your house.

[RAHAB] I agree. I'll do as you say.

[NARRATOR 1] So she sent them away, and they left. Then she tied the bright red rope in the window. When the spies left, they went up into the hills. They stayed there for three days. By that time the men who were chasing them had searched all along the road. They couldn't find them. So they returned.

[NARRATOR 2] Then the two spies started back. They went down out of the hills. They went across the Jordan River. They came to Joshua, the son of Nun. They told him everything that had happened to them.

[SPY #2] *[To Joshua and Israelites.]* The LORD has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us.

[Israelites cheer.]

THE END