



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 3rd December 2023



The Hands that Rocked the Cradle -Rahab Judges 2:1-24

Warm Up

Have you ever been in a strange town or unusual place and found a welcome from an unexpected source? How often do you welcome strangers in to your life?

Background and context

The people of Israel are about to conquer the land of Canaan. They have already defeated two kings on the east of the Jordan. Word about them has spread to the people of Jericho. They are fearful. Joshua sends out two spies who end up finding protection with a local prostitute, Rahab. She makes it clear that she recognises their God is powerful and will overcome Jericho and the whole land. She strikes a deal with them for mutual protection which guarantees her future.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

READ Joshua Ch 2:1-24. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.

1. The key part of the story is Rahab's speech (9-14). What convinces her that the Lord is more powerful than her god and has already given the land to the Israelites?
2. What convinced you, that God was worth submitting to?
3. Rahab's profession and background may not be socially acceptable, so why does God use her as a key person in the backstory of Jesus?
4. What evidence is there elsewhere in scripture that God prefers to use the vulnerable, weak and outcasts to fulfil His purposes?
5. What would you say is the key lesson to be learned from Rahab's story? Why is it so?
6. How should the Church today react to the story of Rahab? What lessons need to be learned from the Church's past attitudes to the poor and outcasts?
7. How did Rahab receive a new identity? On what was it based? Her background?
8. How is the story of Rahab a picture of the Gospel?

Growing in discipleship: Practical application

9. How can the church at VBC demonstrate inclusiveness without losing faith in scripture or losing our own identity in Christ?
10. How can we overcome our own prejudices of class, status, etc... that we all have deeply ingrained in our psyche?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.

