



Discussion Questions for Sermon Based Home Fellowships

Week of March 2, 2008

Pastor Brian Long

Series: Finding Courage through the Challenges of Life

Title: A Prostitute Shows the Way to be Saved

Scripture: Joshua 2:1-24

Opening Sharing

What is your favorite spy movie or TV show? What kind of spy games did you play as a kid?

Discussion Questions

Why do you think the spies went to a prostitute's house?

In verses 9-11, Rahab makes a very strong statement of faith based on who God is and his promise to Israel. Since faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:14), share some promises that have bolstered your faith.

In verse 14, how would the impact of the spies' statement change if they had said "if the Lord gives us the land," rather than "when"? How do we tend to hide behind the "if"? What does this say about faith?

The last verse (24) is a summary statement of the faith of the spies. It is in direct contrast to Numbers 13:31. Why had the attitude of the people changed from 38 years previous?

What do you think was Rahab's relationship with God when the spies came to her home?

- She was not a believer
- She was a closet believer
- She feared God but didn't really know him
- She was having a "foxhole conversion" experience

What is the "scarlet cord" you hang on to during times of trial and stress? What has been your toughest time in life?

- Faith in Jesus Christ
- God's mercy in spite of my faults
- The assurance that God is good and knows and cares about me
- The support of family and friends
- Time spent in prayer and Bible reading
- Church and related activities

What does the Bible say about Rahab in Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25?

Discuss the implications of the genealogy of Jesus as recorded in Matthew 1:1-6.

Optional discussion question:

Rahab clearly lied to the government officials when she said the spies had left when in fact she had hidden them. Situation ethics philosophy has used this kind of circumstance to deny that moral absolutes exist and that there are times when lying (or other sinful behavior) is not wrong. Nothing in the text indicates that God condemns her for this act; in fact, it is part of her redemption. Does that mean he approved of her lying? What else could she have done?