



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

"Rahab" | The Story of Us series

**Preached by Pastor Eddie Hoagland
16 March 2025**

"In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?"

J A M E S 2 : 2 5 N I V

Summary

Have someone from your group read the following summary aloud.

The sermon centered on the story of Rahab from Joshua 2, illustrating how God often uses unexpected people to fulfill his purposes. Pastor Eddie delved into Rahab's unique position as a Canaanite prostitute, someone who was not only an outsider but also someone society would typically overlook. Despite her background, Rahab displayed remarkable faith in the God of Israel. She took a courageous stand, protecting the Israelite spies and acknowledging the god who was about to bring victory to the Israelites.

Pastor Eddie highlighted how Rahab's actions were pivotal in the conquest of Jericho, showing that God can work through anyone—no matter their past or where they come from—to accomplish his plans. The message emphasized that God sees the full picture of our lives, including all our mistakes and triumphs, and still chooses to reveal himself to us. It reminds us that God has a purpose for every individual, no matter their background or circumstances.

Even when we feel unqualified or unworthy, God's grace is sufficient, and he can use us in powerful ways if we trust him and step out in faith. The sermon challenged us to look beyond our limitations and trust that God is always working in ways we might not expect.

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own.

"Lord, as we gather to dive into your Word, open our hearts to the depth of your love and the fullness of your acceptance. Help us see ourselves and each other through your eyes, with the same grace and compassion you offer.

"Give us the courage to step boldly into the plans you have for us, trusting that you are with us every step of the way. Guide our conversation today, revealing to each of us exactly what you want us to learn, and may our time together draw us closer to you. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Getting Going

Share about a time when someone surprised you by doing something completely unexpected. What did that experience teach you?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of the following questions as time and interest permit.

1. Why do you think God chose to include Rahab's story in the Bible?
2. How does Rahab's declaration of faith in Joshua 2:11 demonstrate her understanding of who God is? Here's what that verse says: "When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you. For the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below." (NIV)
3. What does it mean that "because God knows your story, there's no need to hide"?
4. What prevents people from activating their faith? What has activating your faith involved most recently?
5. How does Rahab's story challenge our assumptions about whom God can use for his good purposes?
6. How can we help others discover their purpose in God's story?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life.

This week, take time to reflect on how God has revealed himself to you, and write down two specific ways you can activate your faith through action.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before you dismiss.

Which of these points will you carry with you this week?

- › God knows your complete story and accepts you as you are.
- › When God reveals himself, we must respond with faith.
- › Real faith leads to real action.
- › God has a specific purpose for each person.
- › Your past doesn't disqualify you from God's purpose.

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close your time in prayer.

"Heavenly Father, thank you for inviting us into your story, no matter what our past or present looks like. It's incredible to know that you see us fully—our strengths, our flaws, our mistakes, and our victories—and you still love us perfectly. Help us to walk confidently, knowing that nothing in our lives surprises you and that your love for us is unwavering.

"Give us the courage to take steps of faith, to not just believe, but to act on that belief. Help us to live with purpose, fully trusting that you have a plan for us, even when we don't fully understand it. Just like Rahab, who took a bold step of faith despite her circumstances, we want to declare our trust in you and step out with confidence to do the work you've called us to.

"We know that our actions can make a difference, no matter how small they seem. So, Lord, guide us, strengthen us, and empower us to walk in faith, trusting you to lead us into the purposes you've set before us. Amen."

Key Passage | Hebrews 11:24-31, NIV

These verses were highlighted during this week's sermon and appear here for your reference.

"By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

"By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

"By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.

"By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient."

Passages for Further Study

- Joshua 2:11
- Matthew 1:5

###