

D Group Lesson

Series: Dark Horse #2

Rahab: From Shame to the Hall of Faith

Thesis

God delights in saving and using unlikely people who place their faith in Him. No past is too broken, and no person is beyond His grace.

Primary Text: Joshua 2

HOOK (Connect the Heart)

Icebreaker

Have you ever underestimated someone—or been underestimated yourself? What happened?

Transition:

People often judge others by their past, appearance, education, or reputation. God doesn't. Throughout Scripture, God repeatedly chooses "dark horses"—unlikely people—to accomplish His purposes. Rahab is a great example.

LOOK (Study the Word)

Read Joshua 2:1–24

What Happened?

As Israel prepared to enter the Promised Land, Joshua secretly sent two spies into Jericho.

Their lives were quickly endangered, but an unlikely woman named Rahab hid them from the king's soldiers. Rahab was a Gentile, a citizen of Jericho, and a prostitute. By every human standard, she seemed like the least likely person to become part of God's story.

Yet because she believed in the God of Israel, she risked everything to protect the spies. In return, God spared Rahab, her family, and eventually welcomed her into His covenant people. Remarkably, Rahab became an ancestor of King David—and ultimately of Jesus Christ.

Four Reasons Rahab Was an Unlikely Hero

1. Rahab Was an Outsider

Rahab was not an Israelite.

She belonged to the very nation Israel was preparing to conquer.

Yet God's grace was never limited by nationality. Even in the Old Testament, God welcomed those who trusted Him.

Discussion Questions

- Why do we sometimes assume certain people are beyond God's reach?
 - Have you ever felt like an outsider spiritually?
 - What does Rahab teach us about God's heart for all people?
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2. Rahab Had a Broken Past

Rahab was known as a prostitute.

Her identity was shaped by shame and sin.

Yet Scripture consistently refers to her not to celebrate her past, but to magnify God's grace.

God saw more than who she had been.

He saw who she could become through faith.

Discussion Questions

- Why is it difficult to believe God can fully redeem someone's past?
 - How does our culture define people differently from how God does?
 - How has God's grace changed your own story?
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3. Rahab Believed God's Word

Read Joshua 2:8–11.

Rahab had heard what God had done.

She believed His power.

She believed His authority.

She believed His promises.

While many Israelites struggled with faith years earlier, Rahab trusted God based on what she had heard.

Faith begins by believing who God is.

Discussion Questions

- What convinced Rahab that the God of Israel was the true God?
 - Why is faith more than simply believing facts about God?
 - What promise of God encourages you today?
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4. Rahab Acted on Her Faith

Faith always produces action.

Rahab didn't simply believe God existed.

She risked her own life by protecting the spies.

She tied the scarlet cord in her window as an act of obedience and trust.

Her faith became visible through her actions.

Discussion Questions

- What are practical ways faith becomes visible?
 - Is there an area where God is asking you to trust Him through obedience?
 - Why are faith and obedience inseparable?
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TOOK (Apply the Truth)

Three Personal Applications

1. Accept That God Is Real

Faith begins by recognizing God for who He is.

Rahab declared:

"The Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below." (Joshua 2:11)

Following Jesus begins with surrendering to His authority.

2. Believe God's Grace Is Bigger Than Your Past

Rahab moved from shame to honor.

She became part of God's family.

She became part of the genealogy of Jesus.

Your failures do not have the final word.

God's grace does.

3. Live Out Your Faith

Rahab's faith changed her decisions.

Real faith affects:

- Our priorities
- Our relationships
- Our courage
- Our obedience

Faith is more than believing—it is trusting God enough to follow Him.

Weekly Challenge

This week:

- Read Joshua 2 and Hebrews 11:31.
- Thank God for one area where He has shown grace in your life.
- Identify one act of obedience God is calling you to take this week.
- Pray for one person you may have unintentionally "counted out" spiritually, asking God to work powerfully in their life.

Gospel Connection

Rahab's scarlet cord points us to an even greater rescue.

The scarlet cord marked her home so judgment would pass over her.

The blood of Jesus covers all who trust in Him, rescuing us from the judgment our sin deserves.

Rahab was welcomed into God's family by faith.

Today, anyone who trusts in Jesus is welcomed into God's family by grace through faith.

No one is too sinful.

No one is too far gone.

No one is beyond the reach of God's saving grace.

Memory Verse

Hebrews 11:31 (NIV)

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

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You that You see beyond our past and invite us into Your family through faith.

Thank You for showing us through Rahab that Your grace is greater than our failures and that You delight in using unlikely people for Your purposes. Help us trust You completely, obey You courageously, and never count ourselves—or anyone else—outside the reach of Your love.

Thank You for the salvation we have through Jesus Christ. In His name we pray, Amen.