

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH

READ THIS!**INVITATION**

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE**WONDER TRUTH:** God Prepares the Way**SCRIPTURE:** [Joshua 2](#)**WORD OF WONDER:** [From 1 Chronicles 16:15](#)

When my infant son was in the hospital with seizures, fear overwhelmed me. On a day when I was especially low, I received a large cash gift from an acquaintance. "I thought you could fly your mom out," he suggested. I was floored by God's provision from an unexpected source.

When the Israelite spies went to stake out Jericho, God prepared the way through a young woman of ill repute who hid them. All Rahab asked for in return was her life and the lives of her family members. Not only would Israel overtake Jericho, but also Rahab would become part of the lineage of Christ.

Read [Joshua 2:8–14](#). Imagine being an Israelite—one of God's chosen people—and making a deal with a prostitute. I wonder if they ever doubted whether this was truly God's provision. And yet, Rahab would become part of the fulfillment of God's greatest promise—a Savior for the world.

- In what ways have you seen God keep His promises to you?
- Is there a particular area in your life where God has prepared the way?
- How have God's methods of provision been different from those you would have chosen?

Like the Israelites, we sometimes face big obstacles. These challenges may tempt us to lose heart. But as we trust in God and follow Him, we'll discover that God prepares the way for us.

Thank Jesus for His salvation and daily provision.

—Suzanne Gosselin

Children's Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

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READ THIS!

RAHAB AND THE SPIES

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The focus of this story is on the Israelite spies and the Canaanite Rahab. Rahab lived in Jericho and had a morally objectionable job, but she was willing to protect the spies and serve the God of Israel.

WHAT?

[Joshua 2](#) is about the adventure that two Israelite spies went on when scouting out the city of Jericho to check out its defenses. The spies discover just how God prepared the way for Israel's victory.

WHERE?

The story is set in the famous walled city of Jericho. After Jericho's destruction, it would not be rebuilt for over 500 years. Jericho is also where Jesus met the tax collector, Zacchaeus ([Luke 19:1–10](#)).

WHEN?

This story takes place shortly after the death of the prophet Moses. Joshua became the leader of the Israelites, and he told them to prepare to enter the promised land of Canaan. He sent spies to Jericho as part of that preparation.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Because Rahab showed trust in God by helping the Israelite spies, [Hebrews 11:31](#) lists her among the people of great faith. Her faith was ultimately rewarded when God made her one of the ancestors of Jesus Christ ([Matthew 1:5](#)).

Activity: Hide and Seek

WHAT YOU NEED: doll or stuffed animal (optional) *(if you choose to do this activity, you can use any Little People/Animals from the shelf!)

WHAT YOU SAY: **Welcome! Today we're going to hear how God prepared the way to save a woman and two spies! The two spies needed to hide, and the woman helped them. God kept the spies and the woman safe! Let's play a game where we hide and try to find each other.**

WHAT YOU DO: Encourage the kids to hide around the room (or pretend to hide by covering their eyes) while you count to 10. Then walk around "seeking" them, or pretending to find them, as they move their hands. Kids can also take turns doing the seeking.

Another way to play is to have them hide a doll or stuffed animal and take turns seeking it.

Activity: I Spy

WHAT YOU NEED: toy people figures (3, gathered from shelf), piece of red cord or yarn, plastic linking blocks (8–10, use blocks from shelf), bin, shredded paper

WHAT YOU DO: Ahead of time, hide the toy people figures, red cord or yarn, and blocks in the bin and cover them with shredded paper. Encourage the kids to look for the red cord, toy figures, and blocks. Help them use the blocks to build a wall and use the people figures to climb up and down the wall.

WHAT YOU SAY: **We're going to see how all these things you found have something to do with today's story. I wonder what red rope, three people, and blocks have to do with God's big story today! Let's get ready to see how God prepares the way. "Preparing the way" means God knows ahead of time what help will be needed and God plans His help. We'll learn more about it in today's story.**

Our Wonder Truth today is: GOD PREPARES THE WAY.

Encourage kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD—*Point up.*

PREPARES—*Hold both of your palms open in front of you.*

THE WAY—*Hold your palms open parallel and move them back and forth.*

God's Big Story

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, [Bible Story Picture](#)

WHAT YOU SAY/DO: God's big story today is about two spies and a woman named Rahab.

Encourage the kids to say, "Rahab." **Let's find out what Rahab did.**

Use the script provided below for the Bible Story. You can show the [Bible Story Picture](#) to give kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

You get to help me tell the story! I'll tell you what you can do as we go. Let's give it a try.

God promised to care for His people and bring them to a land He promised them. Let's cheer!

Allow kids to respond. **The land was called Canaan, and God's people had to defeat their enemies who lived there. Let's do a superhero pose!** Allow kids to respond.

Joshua sent two spies to go and see the city of Jericho. Let's use our spy glasses to see. Show kids how to make binoculars with your hands held up to your eyes. Allow kids to respond. **The city of Jericho had really high walls. Let's pretend to climb a tall wall!** Allow kids to respond. **The spies had to make sure the king didn't see them. They snuck into Rahab's house, and she hid them on the roof. Quick! Let's find a place to hide.** Allow kids to respond. **The king's men came looking, but Rahab sent the king's men away. They thought the spies had left the city, so they locked the city gates. Now the spies were stuck inside! Let's say, "Oh, no!"** Allow kids to respond.

But God prepared the way! Rahab's house had a window, and the spies escaped by going out the window and climbing down a rope. Let's pretend to climb down a rope! Allow kids to respond. **The spies escaped the city of Jericho and went back to Joshua. They told Joshua what they had seen. Their enemies heard that God had saved them, and they were terrified. God prepared the way for His people! Let's cheer!** Allow kids to respond.

Word of Wonder

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, Word of Wonder [Slide](#)

WORD OF WONDER

God keeps His promises forever.

—from 1 Chronicles 16:15

Display the Word of Wonder [Slide](#). **Our Word of Wonder for the Problems and Promises series is from 1 Chronicles 16:15: “God keeps His promises forever.”**

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **GOD**—*Point up.*
- **KEEPS**—*Spread your right hand out before you from left to right.*
- **HIS PROMISES**—*Place an index finger on your lips. Move your hand downward and open your palm.*
- **FOREVER.**—*Draw large circles in the air with your index finger.*
- **FROM 1 CHRONICLES 16:15**—*Open your hands in front of you, like opening a book.*

Prayer and Blessing

WHAT YOU SAY: Let's pray and talk with God. Let's thank Him for guiding us and helping us.

God, thank You for always being with us. Thank You for taking care of us and preparing the way for us. Thank You for Your love and for always keeping Your promises. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May God remind you how much He loves you. You are never alone. May you know God always prepares the way for you. He loves you so much! He keeps His promises forever.

BONUS Activity: Rope Climb

WHAT YOU NEED: jump rope, walking steps and paths

Set out a jump rope. **We can trust God, no matter what. He prepares the way for us, and He always keeps His promises! He is always with us. Let's play a game to remember how the spies climbed out of the window to escape, to remind us that God prepares the way.**

Let the kids take turns pretending to climb up a jump rope while you hold one end of it above your head. You can also set up a few step stools or low-to-the-ground chairs and help the toddler climb safely on them, or lay the rope on the ground and have them pretend it's a ladder they can climb.