


GOD THE GOOD SHEPHERD

UNIT ONE: God's Heroes

Lesson 2:**Rahab Chose to Serve God****CONTENT:**

1. Joshua sent two men secretly into Jericho to spy out the place. The King got to know and sent his soldiers to capture them.
2. A woman called Rahab sheltered them and hid them from the king's soldiers. Then she let them out of a window to safety.
3. Although Rahab was not an Israelite, she had heard about their God and believed in him and his power. She chose to serve God rather than the king. She was rewarded for her brave action.
4. During the 2nd World War a brave woman called Corrie hid Jews who were in danger in her house. She did what God wanted and was ready to suffer for it. She and her family did get caught, but God was with her and showed her that he would take her and her family to heaven. [*The Hiding Place* by Corrie ten Boom]
5. God wants us to believe in his power at all times and serve him first. We must do what  God wants rather than what people want us to do. [CCC 144-147, 223, 269]

ASSIGNMENT: Read handout at home.

REFERENCES: Joshua Ch 2; Hebrews 11:31. Matthew 16:27.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts.

I. STARTER:

[Prepare two students to enact the following skit as you relate it.]

Three cousins were spending a week in their grandparents' house. Once they were in the garden climbing trees.

ELDEST CHILD: Let's break mangoes and eat them!

ANJALI: No, Grandpa said that he is going to pack them and sell them. He told us not to pluck them.

ELDEST: Why do you always want to listen to Grandpa? You're such a 'goodie-goodie'!

MIDDLE: Anyway Grandpa's fast asleep! He can't see what we are doing.

ANJALI: Yes but it's his garden. And he is so kind to us. We shouldn't disobey him.

ELDEST: If you don't join us, then we won't play with you again. You'll have no friends for the rest of the holiday! Decide!

MIDDLE: Yes decide!

Anjali felt very sad to think of having no friends for the rest of the holidays. But she thought about it and decided to obey Grandpa. She jumped down from the tree and went inside to play by herself.

II. DEVELOPMENT:

- Today we are going to hear about another person like Anjali. She also had to choose what to do, and whom to listen to. Let's see what she decided.

Last time we heard how Joshua and the Israelites crossed the River Jordan. Today I'll tell a story that happened just before they crossed.

After Joshua heard God telling him to move forward he called two men and said, "Jericho is the first place we have to defeat if we want to live in this land. Dress up like the people living here and go quietly and check out the place!"

The two men disguised themselves and went towards the city. They saw that all round the city there was a huge, strong wall. It was such a big wall that it even had houses built into it. They could see

windows high up in the wall. But there was no way to enter the city except through the gates. And the gates were well guarded by soldiers. The men waited till there was a crowd of people going in. Then they joined the people and entered with them.

Once they were in, they walked all round the city, and looked at everything: How many soldiers there were; where the king lived; and most important, if there was any other way to enter the city. But there was none!

In the evening they tried to get out, but the gates were shut. They knocked at the door and asked if they could stay the night. The woman who lived there let them in. Her name was Rahab.

But the next morning... trouble! Someone had recognised the men and had told the king, "There are two Israelites in Rahab's house!" The king sent soldiers to catch them. There was a loud banging on the door. "Open the door Rahab! There are Israelite spies in your house! Open fast or you will land in trouble!"

The Israelites said, "Yes we are Israelites, but please help us escape!"

Rahab had to think fast. Should she help these men? Or should she obey the king? If the king found out that she had helped them, he would kill her and her family.

But Rahab had heard stories about the God of the Israelites. She had heard how he had saved them from the king of Egypt and how they had crossed the Red Sea.

She said, "Come quickly! I will hide you! I want to serve your God, because he is the living God!" She took the men up to the roof of the house and made them lie down. Then she covered them with straw that had been put out to dry.

She ran down and opened the door. "Yes, there were two men here but they went away. Were they Israelites? Go fast and catch them before they get back to their camp."

The soldiers searched Rahab's house but they didn't find the men. Then they left the city and went out searching for the men. They kept the gates locked.

Rahab went up to the roof and told the men what had happened. She said, "The gates are shut and the soldiers are searching for you. But I know that your God is the all-powerful God who made heaven and earth! He will help you to defeat our king. When you win, don't forget me. Don't let any harm come to me and my family."

The men said, "We will surely remember your kindness to us. As a sign, tie a red ribbon to your window and keep your family in your house. We will see that you are kept safe."

Now Rahab's house was built into the city wall, and she had a window on the outside of the wall. She tied a long rope to her window and the two men climbed out of the window and down to safety. "Go and hide in the hills while the soldiers are searching!" Rahab told them. "Only when they return go back to your camp."

The men did what she said. When it was safe they went back and told Joshua all that had happened.

[Give out handouts. The students fill in the story of Rahab and the spies with the help of the phrases given in the 'wall'.]

NEXT CLASS:

- Last time we started the class with a short skit about Anjali and her cousins. Then we heard the story of Rahab and the two spies. Was Rahab like Anjali in any way? *[Students discuss the question in pairs and then answer. Bring out:]*
 - Anjali did what her grandfather wanted even though the others made it difficult for her.
 - Rahab did what God wanted, even though the king's soldiers told her to give the men to them.
 - They were both brave.

Today I will tell you another true story about a woman named Corrie. Like Rahab, she was living at a time when there was war going on. A powerful man called Hitler was trying to become the leader of the whole world. He hated the Jews and was trying to catch them all and put them into prison camps. (The Israelites are called Jews now.)

Corrie was not a Jew, but she knew that Jesus wanted her to help these people. She and her family built a special room in their house to hide Jews in. When Hitler's soldiers came and searched the houses, they wouldn't find anyone. Then Corrie and her friends would help the Jews to escape to a safe country. They helped hundreds of Jews to escape, men, woman and children, even they knew it was dangerous for them and they might get caught.

One day someone went and told the soldiers what was going on. They came and took Corrie and her whole family away and put them into prison. It was a very hard time for them, but Corrie knew that God was happy with her.

One day, Corrie's sister Betsie died in prison. She had been treated so badly that she had become very thin and covered with hurts. But when Corrie went to see her sister's dead body, she got a wonderful surprise! She saw that her wrinkled old face had become soft and fresh and smooth like a young girl's. It looked as if angels had combed her hair and made her look beautiful. There was a peaceful smile on her face.

Corrie understood. She thought, "Jesus has taken Betsie to heaven and now she is there with him! He will look after all of us. I'm happy that I did what he wanted."

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

- Jesus told his friends something very important. He wants all his friends to remember his words. Let's read them and think about them.

[Read the words at the bottom of the handout.]

*I tell you my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body
and after that can do nothing more.*

*I tell you, if anyone stands up for me before others,
I will stand up for him before the angels of God.*

(Luke 12:4,8)

- Can you think of any way that God will want you to stand up for him?

[Students could think of other situations when they might have to stand up for God, even when it is difficult. They could present these situations in the form of a short skit.]

- Are you ready to be like Rahab and Corrie and to help Jesus, to do what he wants, even if it is difficult and dangerous? Let's ask God to help us to be brave.

Lord Jesus/ You were so brave/ You suffered for our sake./

Help us also to be brave / and to do what you want / even if it is difficult./

Help us to remember that you are powerful/ and that you will reward us in heaven.

Home assignment: Read handout at home.
