

Session 3

Spies in Jericho

God protects us

Scripture: Joshua 2

Supplies:

- Red cardboard
- Red rope/wool cut into pieces
- Ropes between 1 and 2 meters long the children can pull each around with
- White cardboard
- Red A4 sized cardboard
- Hole punch



Welcome

Bring ropes between 1 and 2 meters long. *(If you can find red rope, it would be even better.)* The children pair up. One child lies down and holds the rope's end. The other tries to pull them across the floor. Swop around. Now make groups of three. Let two of them lie on the floor holding the rope and see who manages to pull them across the floor. *(The children are reminded of the time where Rahab let two spies go down the wall.)*

Play hide and seek if you have room for it. *(It reminds us of Rahab who hid the spies.)*

All the children lie on the ground and no one is allowed to move or make a sound. Set an alarm for two or three minutes where they must lie as still as possible. *(It reminds us of the spies who had to hide underneath the ropes.)*



Worship

Settle down ritual: Play the sound clip (download it free from our website and play on a phone.)

Loud sounds

“Look left and look right, but don't be scared!” *(Show with movements)*

Thunder etc.

“Look up, look down, and don't be afraid.” *(Show with movements)*

Music

“In front and behind you, above and below you, around you and inside you is God, the everlasting Lord.” *(Turn around with your arms spread out.)*



Word

Read Joshua 2 in a dramatic way.

(You could also do an impromptu drama with the children. You would need Rahab, 2 spies, 2 soldiers and a king. If you have clothes or other items, you can dress the children with it.)

“Jericho was the first city on the other side of the River Jordan that the Israelites had to attack. Joshua sent two spies there to see how strong the people of Jericho were. When it was almost dark, they arrived in Jericho. They asked a prostitute if they could sleep in her house that night. Her name was Rahab. She frequently let strangers sleep in her home. Some of Jericho’s people saw that there were strange men in Rahab’s house. They told the king of Jericho: ‘You know the Israelites are camping nearby. They want to steal our city! Two of their spies are here.’

The king told Rahab: ‘Send the two men staying in your home to me immediately. They are spies coming to check out the city.’ Rahab quickly made a plan. She told the king: ‘It’s true, there were two men who were looking for a place to stay. But they left at dusk. It was just before the city’s gates were locked. I don’t know where they went. But if you hurry, you could still catch them!’ Meanwhile, Rahab let them climb onto her house’s roof. They hid there under a bundle of rope. The king of Jericho’s soldiers couldn’t find the men in her house. They believed her. They unlocked the city gates and searched for the spies in the direction of the River Jordan. The gates were locked again behind the soldiers.

Rahab went up to the roof of her house and told the two spies: ‘I know God has given this land to you. Everyone who lives here, is very scared of you. We heard that God led you out of Egypt. We know that you walked through the Red Sea on dry land. We heard the kings on the other side of the River Jordan couldn’t stop you. We are very scared because we know that your God is the God of the whole world. I treated you well. Promise me now that your family would also treat me well when you attack Jericho. Let us agree on a sign so that you can spare the lives of my father, mother, brothers and sisters, and the rest of my family.’ The spies answered: ‘If you don’t betray us and God gives us this land, then we will treat you well. We promise this as long as we live!’

Rahab’s house was on the wall that went around Jericho. She made a clever plan. She took one of the ropes they were hiding under – it was bright red. She told them: ‘I will let you down with this rope to the ground. The king’s soldiers are looking for you on the road to the River Jordan. Flee to the mountains and hide there for three days. When the soldiers are tired of looking for you, you can go back to your people.’

The men answered: ‘When we attack the city, you must let this rope hang from your window. Your family must be with you in your house when it happens. If one of your family members aren’t with you in the house, it won’t be our fault if they die. But we will make sure that no one in your house will be hurt. The red rope is a sign that everyone in your house will be spared. But if you betray us, we cannot keep our promise.’

Rahab then said: ‘I will do exactly as you say.’ She lowered them to the ground with the red rope from her window. The spies immediately fled to the mountains. They hid there for three days. The king of Jericho’s soldiers looked everywhere for the spies, but could not find them. They returned to Jericho. The spies went back to Joshua where he was waiting for them across the River Jordan. He told them: ‘God gave this land to us. The people in the land tremble with fear when they hear of us!’”

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder if the prostitute felt good about her good deed and if she stopped doing the wrong thing.
2. I wonder if the spies began to doubt whether God was with them while they were hiding.
3. I wonder if you have ever doubted God when you were scared.
4. I wonder if Joshua became braver when he heard that people were scared of them.
5. I wonder if Joshua would remember that people were scared of them because they heard that God made Israel strong.
6. I wonder if you know that Rahab was one of Jesus’ ancestors.



Working and Playing

- Give each child a piece of white cardboard. It can be A4 size and cut into 4 pieces. Also give each of them red string and glue. Let the children draw a wall on the cardboard. Help them to make a wall with big stones. Each child can glue the rope to the wall and take it home. Teach them to tell the story of the rope as a sign of God's protection and care.
- Cut pieces of paper 2cm x 21cm from red A4 cardboard. You should get 15 strips from one A4. The strips can become wristbands that the children take home. Let the older children write: "God protects me." You can write the words for the younger children and cut them apart. They must put the 4 loose words together and glue it to the red wristband.
- Give the children 4 wristbands to write each of the 4 words. They can put the 4 wristbands together like a chain. An easy way to bind them together is to punch a hole on one side. On the other side you can cut out a triangle. Put the triangle through the hole.

Closing prayer to end the session:

Joshua 1:9 "Be strong, be courageous. Don't be afraid, don't be scared, because I, the Lord, am with you wherever you go."

