

PVC SMALL GROUPS

UNCOMMON

uncommon

FAITHFULNESS • STRENGTH • COURAGE

WEEK 2: Uncommon Courage (Rahab)

CONNECT

This week we continue our three-week series looking at women of the Bible who showed themselves to be UNCOMMON in a God honoring way. This week we look at the uncommon courage of Rahab.

- If you could go undercover, what event in history would you want to spy on, and why?

DISCOVER

Following Moses, it was Joshua who would take the nation of Israel into the promised land. It was also Joshua who would lead them to conquer their enemies before giving the land to the twelve tribes of Israel. Jericho was the first town they came to when they crossed. It was during this time that we meet Rahab, a prostitute who lived in Jericho.

This week you'll discover the uncommon courage Rahab had, trusting a God she did not know, hoping to spare her life and the lives of those in her family.

Read Joshua 2:1-24 and 6:7. Answer a few questions together.

Joshua 2:1-24 | *Then Joshua secretly sent out two spies from the Israelite camp at Acacia Grove. He instructed them, "Scout out the land on the other side of the Jordan River, especially around Jericho." So, the two men set out and came to the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there that night. ²But someone told the king of Jericho, "Some Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land." ³So the king of Jericho sent orders to Rahab: "Bring out the men who have come into your house, for they have come here to spy out the whole land." ⁴Rahab had hidden the two men, but she replied, "Yes, the men were here earlier, but I didn't know where they were from. ⁵They left the town at dusk, as the gates were about to close. I don't know where they went. If you hurry, you can probably catch up with them." ⁶(Actually, she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them beneath bundles of flax she had laid out.). ⁷So, the king's men went looking for the spies along the road leading to the shallow crossings of the Jordan River. And as soon as the king's men had left, the gate of Jericho was shut. ⁸Before the spies went to sleep that night, Rahab went up on the roof to talk with them. ⁹"I know the Lord has given you this land," she told them. "We are all afraid of you. Everyone in the land is living in terror. ¹⁰For we have heard how the Lord made a dry path for you through the Red Sea when you left Egypt. And we know what you did to Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings*

east of the Jordan River, whose people you completely destroyed.¹¹No wonder our hearts have melted in fear! No one has the courage to fight after hearing such things. For the Lord your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below.¹²“Now swear to me by the Lord that you will be kind to me and my family since I have helped you. Give me some guarantee that¹³when Jericho is conquered, you will let me live, along with my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all their families.”¹⁴“We offer our own lives as a guarantee for your safety,” the men agreed. “If you don’t betray us, we will keep our promise and be kind to you when the Lord gives us the land.”¹⁵Then, since Rahab’s house was built into the town wall, she let them down by a rope through the window.¹⁶“Escape to the hill country,” she told them. “Hide there for three days from the men searching for you. Then, when they have returned, you can go on your way.”¹⁷Before they left, the men told her, “We will be bound by the oath we have taken only if you follow these instructions.¹⁸When we come into the land, you must leave this scarlet rope hanging from the window through which you let us down. And all your family members—your father, mother, brothers, and all your relatives—must be here inside the house.¹⁹If they go out into the street and are killed, it will not be our fault. But if anyone lays a hand on people inside this house, we will accept the responsibility for their death.²⁰If you betray us; however, we are not bound by this oath in any way.”²¹“I accept your terms,” she replied. And she sent them on their way, leaving the scarlet rope hanging from the window.²²The spies went up into the hill country and stayed there three days. The men who were chasing them searched everywhere along the road, but they finally returned without success.²³Then the two spies came down from the hill country, crossed the Jordan River, and reported to Joshua all that had happened to them.²⁴“The Lord has given us the whole land,” they said, “for all the people in the land are terrified of us.”

Joshua 6:7 | Jericho and everything in it must be completely destroyed as an offering to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and the others in her house will be spared, for she protected our spies.

- Why might the Israelite spies have stayed at the home of a prostitute?
- If the Israelites were trusting God to defeat Jericho, why was it necessary to send in spies?
- What did Rahab believe about God? Is this saving faith? Why or why not?
- How did Rahab demonstrate courage? Why would she be willing to take such a risk?
- Given her occupation and reputation, what earns Rahab the distinction of being mentioned later in the Bible as a woman of faith? What is the relationship between faith and courage?

- God is the God of truth, and lying is a sin under the ten commandments, so why isn't Rahab's lying a bad thing?

GROW

Big Idea: UNCOMMON COURAGE is actively trusting God in spite of our fear!

- Describe a time that you demonstrated courage in your life? What fear did you have to overcome?
- The courage Rahab showed led to changed lives. Her family was saved, and brought under the care of Israel. She ultimately became part of the ancestry of King David and Jesus.
- What would uncommon courage that changes lives look like in your life?
- What fears would you have to overcome to live a life of uncommon courage?
- How are courage and faith connected in your life?

NEXT STEPS

- Is there something happening in your life right now for which you need uncommon courage?
- How can we pray for, and help, you face your fears and encourage you to take this courageous step?