RAHAB

Read her story closely • Joshua 2; 6:17, 22–25; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25

READ FIRST: Joshua 2; 6:17, 22–25; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25. Notice what the passage says, what it leaves unsaid, and whose voice you hear.

A woman in Jericho

Rahab lived in Jericho and is described as a prostitute. When Israelite spies came to the city, she hid them from the king’s search. She explained that her people had heard of the Lord’s power and that fear had fallen on the city. She declared her belief that the Lord was God and asked that she and her family be spared.

A dangerous agreement

The spies agreed to protect her household under specified conditions. A scarlet cord in her window would identify her home, and her family needed to gather inside. Rahab lowered the spies by a rope through the wall and directed them away from their pursuers. She took significant risks while trying to secure a future for those she loved.

Remembered for faith and action

When Jericho fell, Joshua sent the spies to bring Rahab and her family out safely. The account says she lived among Israel. Hebrews remembers her faith; James points to what she did. Scripture names her former work without treating it as the final word about her. We should not assume we know why she lived as she did or romanticize the danger she faced.

Hold this question

How does listening closely to her actual story change the way you understand her?

RAHAB

What her story can teach us today • Joshua 2; 6:17, 22–25; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25

The Bible gives us a particular woman’s story. These connections invite reflection; they do not claim that every woman’s situation is the same.

A person is more than a label

Rahab is often introduced by a single description. Her words, choices, faith, and care for family deserve just as much attention. We can ask how labels keep us from hearing a full human story.

Courage can be practical

Rahab negotiated, planned, hid the spies, and marked her home. Faith and careful action worked together. Seeking a safer future may involve asking direct questions and making concrete arrangements.

Risk is not a demand

Her decision was hers within an extraordinary situation. We should never use it to pressure another woman to face danger to prove faith or loyalty.

Who receives a place in the community?

Rahab and her family survived and joined a new people. Her story invites us to consider whether our communities can offer belonging without requiring someone to hide every part of their past.

RAHAB

Reflect, discuss, and pray • Joshua 2; 6:17, 22–25; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25

1. What assumptions might I make when I hear a label before hearing a person’s story?

2. How did Rahab combine belief with a practical plan for her family?

3. Where might I need to ask for clear terms or trustworthy help?

4. How can our group welcome people whose histories differ from ours?

A step to take this week

Name one safe, practical response this story invites: a prayer, a conversation, a boundary, a request for help, or a way to care for someone else.

Closing prayer

God of mercy, help me see people fully and speak of them with dignity. Give me wisdom to make practical plans and courage to ask for safe help. Make our community a place where a person’s past does not cancel their voice, worth, or future. Amen.