

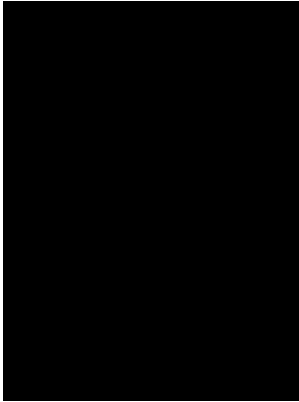


# THE SPIES AND RAHAB



## Lesson 1- Joshua 1 - 2

### What happened before?



Before his death, Moses asked God to appoint someone to be the new leader. God appointed Joshua.

God took Moses up on Mt. Nebo and showed him all the land that had been promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Moses, who loved God and loved God's people, died without going into the Land of Promise.

God buried Moses in the land of Moab. The Children of Israel mourned his death for thirty days in the wilderness.

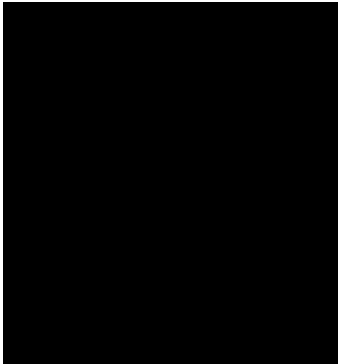
### Our Story:

The mourning for Moses had ended. As the new leader, Joshua had a great task before him. He would have a lot of enemies in the new land. God encouraged him by telling him that He would be with him wherever he went, just as He had been with Moses and no man would be able to stand up against him. God told him again and again, "Be strong and of good courage." Joshua had the courage he needed because he believed that God would keep His promise to be with them. God told Joshua to observe the law that had been given to Moses and to meditate on it day and night.

It was a wonderful time for the people of Israel. The time had finally come when God was going to fulfill the promise He had made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He was going to give them the land of Canaan! Joshua gave orders to his officers to go through all the camp and tell the people that in three days they would cross the Jordan. They were to make preparation for entering the Promised Land.

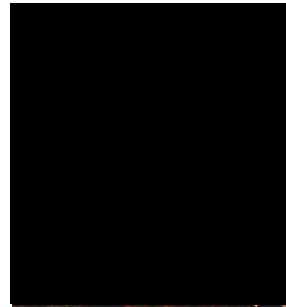
Because the land on the east side of the Jordan River had been given to Reuben, Gad and half of the tribe of Manasseh, Joshua instructed those tribes that their fighting men were to cross with the others to help take the land on the west side of the Jordan. They were to leave their wives and children on the east side of the river and when the fighting was over, the men could return there to settle in their portion of the land. They promised faithfully that they would do as they had promised Moses.

Before the people crossed the river, Joshua selected two men to go over and scout out the land, especially the city of Jericho. Jericho was a wicked city and it had a great wall around it. Because of its location, Jericho would be the first city to be taken by the Israelites. When the two spies crossed the river, they stayed in the home of a woman named Rahab.



Someone in the city saw the spies and quickly told the king. The king sent his soldiers to Rahab's house and told her to send the two men out. Rahab would not betray the men. She told the men to lie down on the roof of her house. She then spread bundles of flax over them. Rahab told the soldiers that the men had come in, but they had already escaped over the wall of the town. She told the soldiers to hurry toward the Jordan River and they might overtake them before the spies got back to their camp.

After the soldiers had left, Rahab told the men that her people had heard of all the wonderful things God had done for the Israelites. She believed in God and asked that the spies save her and her family in return for her hiding them. They promised they would do that if she and her family would tell no man about their plans to destroy the city. They told her to bring all her family into her house and to mark her house by putting a red rope in her window. Anyone outside her house would be destroyed. Rahab agreed that she and her family would keep their secret of the invasion. Rahab's house was actually built on top of the wall surrounding the city. She helped the spies escape by letting them down from her house on a rope through her window.



The spies hid out in the mountains until it was safe. They returned to the camp across the river and told Joshua all that had happened. They told him that the people of Canaan were afraid of them now because they had heard all the things God had done for the Children of Israel.

Rahab was not a God fearing woman at first, but she learned about God and His greatness. She had an active faith and risked her life for the spies. She later married Salmon, who was an Israelite. From their family came Boaz who married Ruth. Boaz and Ruth were the great grandparents of David. Rahab's name is listed in the genealogy of Christ (Matthew 1:5).

