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Unlikely Faith Joshua 2 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

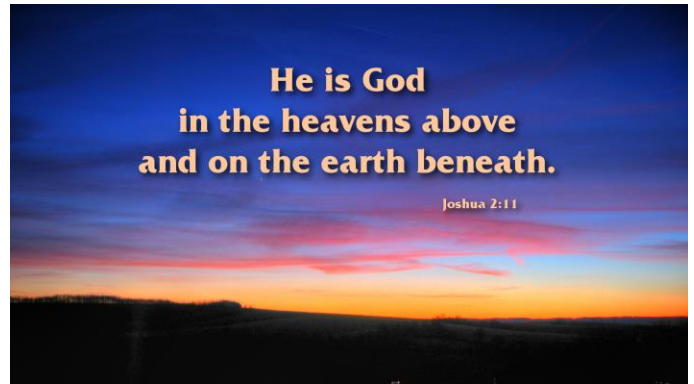
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we will study the 2nd Chapter of Joshua. In this chapter we see Rahab who is described as a prostitute. She takes in the spies that Israel has sent and hides them in her house. She then lies to the people in her city about where they are and sends them the other way. Rahab makes the request that she be shown favor when the Israelites attack. It is an interesting account for us to look at. On one hand Rahab shows tremendous faith in God and a sincere desire to follow Him. On the other hand, she is just trying to save herself and willing to lie to her people to do it. Join us this week as we talk about what we should learn from Rahab and how we can apply it to our lives.



Rahab Shelters Spies

2 Then Joshua the son of Nun sent two men as spies secretly from Shittim, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went and entered the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab, and rested there. **2** But it was told to the king of Jericho, saying, "Behold, men from the sons of Israel have come here tonight to spy out the land." **3** And the king of Jericho sent *word* to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to spy out all the land." **4** But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them, and she said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from." **5** It came about, when *it was time* to shut the gate at dark, that the men went out; I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them." **6** But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them in the stalks of flax which she had laid in order on the roof. **7** So the men pursued them on the road to the Jordan, to the crossing places; and as soon as those who were pursuing them had gone out, they shut the gate.

8 Now before the spies lay down, she came up to them on the roof, **9** and said to the men, "I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have despaired because of you. **10** For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. **11** When we heard *these reports*, our hearts melted and no courage remained in anyone any longer because of you; for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth below. **12** Now then, please swear to me by the LORD, since I have dealt kindly with you, that you also will deal kindly with my father's household, and give me a pledge of truth, **13** and spare my father and my mother, and my brothers and my sisters, and all who belong to them, and save our lives from death." **14** So the men said to her, "Our life for yours if you do not tell this business of ours; and it shall come about when the LORD gives us the land that we will deal kindly and faithfully with you."

The Promise to Rahab

15 Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall, so that she was living on the wall. **16** And she said to them, "Go to the hill country, so that the pursuers will not encounter you, and hide yourselves there for three days until the pursuers return. Then afterward you may go on your way." **17** And the men said to her, "We *shall be* exempt from this oath to you which you have made us swear, **18** unless, when we come into the land, you tie this cord of scarlet thread in the window through which you let us down, and gather into your house your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father's household. **19** And it shall come about that anyone who goes out of the doors of your house outside *will have* his blood on his own head, and we *will be* innocent; but anyone who is with you in the house, his blood *will be* on our head if a hand is *laid* on him. **20** But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be exempt from the oath which you have made us swear." **21** She then said, "According to your words, so be it." So she sent them away, and they departed; and she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

²² So they departed and came to the hill country, and remained there for three days, until the pursuers returned. Now the pursuers had searched for *them* all along the road, but had not found *them*. ²³ Then the two men returned and came down from the hill country, and they crossed over and came to Joshua the son of Nun. Then they reported to him all that had happened to them. ²⁴ And they said to Joshua, "The LORD has indeed handed over to us all the land; furthermore, all the inhabitants of the land have despaired because of us."

● EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.

Make 10 of your own observations from this passage. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

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🕒 Explore His Word (Interpretation) (For Community group discussion)

What does God MEAN?

1. Why did Rahab help the spies?
2. What causes Rahab to believe that God is the one true God?
3. Why do you think the spies would go to the prostitute's house?
4. What instruction was given to Rahab?
5. How do you think Rahab would get her family to come to her house? Do you think they were all believers?
6. What made the spies believe the land had been handed over to them?
7. Was it wrong for Rahab to lie in order to save the spies?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

Sermon Notes