

LESSON 1

RAHAB AND THE SPIES

LESSON AT A GLANCE

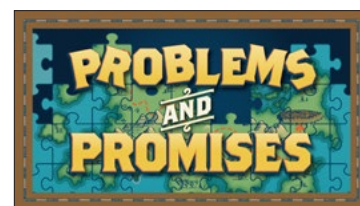
WONDER TRUTH: God Prepares the Way

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 2

GOD'S BIG STORY: A woman named Rahab hides and protects two Israelite spies in her home in Jericho as God prepares the way for His people to live in the land He promised them.

WORD OF WONDER: God keeps His promises forever. —from 1 Chronicles 16:15

- Play Stations:
 - I Spy Bottles
 - Spy Hunt
 - Rahab and the Spies Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Spy Obstacle Course
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- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing
- Circle Time: Jump the Rope
- Craft: Special Spy Binoculars
- Game: Find the Spies



**SCAN FOR THIS
WEEK'S VIDEO!**



LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Prepares the Way

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 2

WORD OF WONDER: From 1 Chronicles 16:15

When my infant son was in the hospital with seizures, fear overwhelmed me. On a day when I was especially low, I received a large cash gift from an acquaintance. “I thought you could fly our mom out,” he suggested. I was floored by God’s provision from an unexpected source.

When the Israelite spies went to stake out Jericho, God prepared the way through a young woman of ill repute who hid them. All Rahab asked for in return was her life and the lives of her family members. Not only would Israel overtake Jericho, but also Rahab would become part of the lineage of Christ.

Read Joshua 2:8–14. Imagine being an Israelite—one of God’s chosen people—and making a deal with a prostitute. I wonder if they ever doubted whether this was truly God’s provision. And yet, Rahab would become part of the fulfillment of God’s greatest promise—a Savior for the world.

- In what ways have you seen God keep His promises to you?
- Is there a particular area in your life where God has prepared the way?
- How have God’s methods of provision been different from those you would have chosen?

Like the Israelites, we sometimes face big obstacles. These challenges may tempt us to lose heart. But as we trust in God and follow Him, we’ll discover that God prepares the way for us.

Thank Jesus for His salvation and daily provision.

—Suzanne Gosselin

Children’s Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The focus of this story is on the Israelite spies and the Canaanite Rahab. Rahab lived in Jericho and had a morally objectionable job, but she was willing to protect the spies and serve the God of Israel.

WHAT?

Joshua 2 is about the adventure that two Israelite spies went on when scouting out the city of Jericho to check out its defenses. The spies discover just how God prepared the way for Israel's victory.

WHERE?

The story is set in the famous walled city of Jericho. After Jericho's destruction, it would not be rebuilt for over 500 years. Jericho is also where Jesus met the tax collector, Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1–10).

WHEN?

This story takes place shortly after the death of the prophet Moses. Joshua became the leader of the Israelites, and he told them to prepare to enter the promised land of Canaan. He sent spies to Jericho as part of that preparation.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

Because Rahab showed trust in God by helping the Israelite spies, Hebrews 11:31 lists her among the people of great faith. Her faith was ultimately rewarded when God made her one of the ancestors of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:5).



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Prepares the Way

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 2

WORD OF WONDER: From 1 Chronicles 16:15

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: empty disposable soft drink bottles (5–8); rice, beans, or beads; small toys; alphabet beads; cardstock; scissors (prep only); magnifying glass (1 per kid); coloring utensils; masking tape (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Spy Hunt Sheet \(1 per every 2 kids\)](#), [Rahab and the Spies Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?

Play Station: I Spy Bottles

Set up: Clean and dry soft drink bottles. Fill each bottle three-fourths full of a filler, such as rice, beans, or beads. Drop in small toys, alphabet beads, or any other small item kids will love to find. Place the cap on the bottle (with masking tape, if you want) and shake it up! If you have younger kids, make sure the cap is secure and that kids don't open the bottles, so the filler won't create a choking hazard.

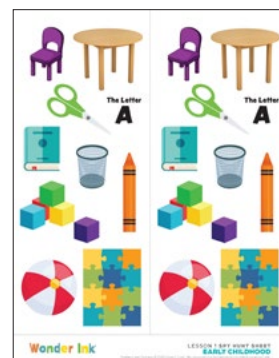
Play: Encourage kids to work individually or with a partner to find the different items in the I Spy Bottles. For extra fun, encourage them to count how many things they can find.

Leader Tip: Feel free to get creative with fillers and miniature items for the bottles. Make them fun and exploratory!

Play Station: Spy Hunt

Set up: Ahead of time, print a Spy Hunt Sheet on cardstock for every two kids and cut each sheet in half. Set out magnifying glasses.

Play: Let kids go on a Spy Hunt around the room. Give kids a magnifying glass and the Spy Hunt Sheet, then tell them to find as many objects as they can around the room from the list on the sheet.



Play Station: Rahab and the Spies Coloring Sheet

Set up: Ahead of time, print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw something they spotted in the room, then let someone guess what it is.

Curiosity Activity: Spy Obstacle Course

SUPPLIES: balloons (10–12), yarn (3–6" per balloon), scissors (prep only), tape (prep only), table, cones or boxes (optional)

Before kids arrive, set up an obstacle course. Inflate balloons and cut pieces of yarn 3–6" long. Tie a piece of yarn to each balloon. Tape the balloons from the string in a random path to the underside of a table so the balloons hang down at different lengths to form a balloon obstacle course under the table. You can also use cones or boxes to create an obstacle course on the floor (or a simple setup).

Allergy Caution: Be aware of any latex allergies or sensitivities among your kids and volunteers before doing this activity!

Let's play a game. I'll lead the way. We'll pretend you're all spies, and you need to carefully sneak through this obstacle course of balloons to get to safety on the other side. Try your best not to let any part of your body touch a balloon. I'll be on the other side, helping lead you through the course!

Have kids line up at one end of the table. As kids crawl under the table and sneak past the balloons, encourage them by giving instructions and by praising their efforts. Repeat if time allows.

In God's big story today, we're going to see how God prepared the way for two spies to escape a scary situation. He had a plan from the beginning and helped them find a way out! Today's Wonder Truth is: **GOD PREPARES THE WAY.**

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, painter's tape or floor tape

WORD OF WONDER

God keeps His promises forever.

—from 1 Chronicles 16:15

Before kids arrive, create a hopscotch grid on the floor using painter's tape or floor tape. Make sure there are at least five boxes that kids can hop through on the grid. If you have a large group, make several grids.

Our Word of Wonder for the Problems and Promises series is from 1 Chronicles 16:15: "God keeps His promises forever." Encourage the kids to say the verse with you.



In today's story, God promised His people, the Israelites, a special home in the land of Canaan. They had to wait a long time, but God was faithful and He kept His promise. He helped the spies get in and out of Jericho safely. God was preparing the way for His people to go and live in that land, the special home He had promised them.

Help kids learn the Word of Wonder by showing them the motions for each word in the verse. Repeat the verse several times, doing the motions together.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **GOD**—Point up.
- **KEEPS**—Spread your right hand out before you from left to right.
- **HIS PROMISES**—Place an index finger on your lips. Move your hand downward and open your palm.
- **FOREVER**—Draw large circles in the air with your index finger.
- **FROM 1 CHRONICLES 16:15**—Open your hands in front of you, like opening a book.

Encourage kids to line up at the start of the hopscotch grid. Let the first kid hop through the grid while saying a word from the verse on each hop. Encourage the rest of the kids to say each word with him and do the motions. Repeat until all kids have had a turn.

Gather the kids to discuss these questions:

- **Why do you think God keeps His promises forever?** (Possible answers: because God is faithful; that's who He is; God is honest; God loves us.)
- **What is a promise God has kept to you or your family?**

VIEW THE GOD'S BIG STORY VIDEO
Watch the God's Big Story Video as
kids eat their snacks!



Declaring God's Wonder

Show the Early Childhood Declaration Slide and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up and then to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for always being with us and for preparing the way no matter what we face. As we listen to Your Word, show us Your love. We invite You to lead us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Today we'll learn about how God prepares the way for us and leads us. Let's sing together and thank Him!

Play Psalm 8, Over & Over and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible; Bible Story Picture (1 SG)

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible, and what do I see? *(Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)*

God's big story, waiting for me! *(Point to yourself.)*

Let's start by reading part of God's big story from the Bible. We're going to read from the Old Testament.

Read the God's Big Story Script provided.

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

Today you get to help tell part of God's big story! At certain times in the story, I'll ask you to help by acting out what I say. So listen carefully! Let's give it a try.

God made a promise to take care of His people. He promised to bring them to live in the land of Canaan. Let's cheer! Invite kids to cheer. **Great job!**

A long time ago, God promised Abraham a big family and a special home. Abraham's big family was called the Israelites. God saved them from being slaves in Egypt. Let's cheer! Invite kids to cheer. **God took care of the Israelites on a long journey. Now Abraham's big family was almost to the land of Canaan—the special home God had promised them. The Israelites just needed to beat the enemy army to get into the land. The book of Joshua tells us about what happened. Let's open the book.** Invite kids to hold their hands together, then their palms like they're opening a book.

In the promised land of Canaan, there was a big city called Jericho. Joshua was the leader of the Israelites, and he wanted to know what the big city of Jericho was like. So Joshua sent two spies, or helpers, to go look at the city. Let's use our binoculars to spy out the city. Invite kids to put their hands up to their eyes like binoculars and look around the room.

The spies went into Jericho and hid in the house of a woman named Rahab. Her house was built right into the city wall! But the king of Jericho heard that the spies were there, and he sent soldiers to Rahab's house. Let's knock on Rahab's door. Invite kids to pretend to knock on a door with their fists and make a knocking sound. **Rahab was brave and kind. She didn't tell the soldiers where the spies were. Instead, Rahab told the soldiers to look for the spies outside of Jericho. But she had secretly hidden the spies under big piles of plants on her roof.** Invite the kids to hide their faces behind their hands.

When the soldiers left to look for them, Jericho's gates closed tight. Let's close the big city gates. Invite kids to hold their arms out to their sides like their arms are gates and then close them together in front of them. **The spies were stuck inside the city! But God had a plan. Jericho had very tall, strong walls. Rahab's house was built right into one of the walls, and her house had a window. She said, "You can go down this rope and escape!"**

Before the spies left, Rahab said, "We know that your God is very strong." Let's show someone very strong. Invite kids to flex their arm muscles. **Rahab said, "God takes care of you."**

Everyone who lives here is afraid because of you. I helped you. Will you please help me and my family when your people come to Jericho?"

The spies said, "Yes! Bring your family into your house and hang a bright, red cord in your window. When we see it, we will keep you safe." They promised that Rahab and her family would not be hurt when the Israelites came into Jericho. Then the spies climbed down the rope and escaped out of the city. **Let's climb down the rope out the window.** Invite kids to pretend to climb down a rope.

When the spies went back to Joshua, they said, "God has helped us! The people in Jericho are scared because they know God is with us!" If the Israelites went to Jericho and fought their enemies, God would fight for His people, just like He did before. God had already prepared the way for the Israelites. **Let's cheer!** Invite kids to cheer.

Just like the Israelites, sometimes we face things that feel big or scary. But when we trust God, He helps us too. **Let's cheer!** Invite kids to cheer. **God goes ahead of us and is always ready to help us because God prepares the way.**

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to help kids connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

Our Wonder Truth today is GOD PREPARES THE WAY. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

Rahab showed her trust in God by helping the Israelite spies. Because of this, God's people remembered her for many, many years! Through Rahab, God prepared the way for Israel to conquer Jericho so they could get to the promised land. Rahab was also Jesus' ancestor—she was His great, great, great—lots of greats—grandmother! Through Rahab, God prepared the way for the Savior, Jesus, to be born! Later in the Bible, in the book of Hebrews, Rahab's name is also in the "Hall of Faith," a list of some of God's most faithful followers!

Prayer and Blessing

At the end of the activity, close with a prayer and thank God for always going ahead of us and taking care of us, and for always keeping His promises.

God, thank You that You hear our prayers, and You know our thoughts and our needs before we even ask. You always keep Your promises, and You go ahead of us and prepare the way for us. Thank You that You are with us always and take care of us through everything in our lives, big and small. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May God remind you how much He loves you. You are never alone. May you know God always prepares the way for you. He loves you so much! He keeps His promises forever.

Circle Time: Jump the Rope

SUPPLIES: jump ropes (2)

Before the game, lay two jump ropes on the floor a few inches apart, parallel to each other.

Gather the kids and have them stand in a circle. **In our story, we heard about some people who were in a difficult situation. What happened to the ?** Allow the kids to respond. **The enemies were looking for them! They needed help, and God provided help in an unexpected way. But it wasn't a surprise for God! He had a plan all along to help His people. God led a woman named Rahab to help God's people. God prepared a way out for them. Even when we face problems or scary situations, God helps us too!**

Invite kids to line up behind one rope and jump across the other, trying not to touch either rope with their feet. After each round, ask a discussion question and have the kids answer. Then move the ropes farther apart and repeat the game. Each time the jump will get harder.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Who went to check out the city of Jericho?** (two spies)
- **Where did the spies hide?** (in Rahab's house)
- **How do you think the spies felt when they were hiding?**
- **How did God prepare the way for the spies?** (He led them to Rahab's house; Rahab's house had a window in the city wall so the spies could escape; Rahab sent the soldiers away so they wouldn't find the spies .)
- **Can you think of a time when God helped you?**
- **How does God prepare the way for us? What plans do you think He has for your life?**

God prepared the way for the spies and for Rahab. He prepared the way for the spies to see the city and escape, and He prepared the way for Rahab and her family to be kept safe. No matter how big or small our problems are, God knows all about them. We can trust God, and we know that He'll always prepare the way for us! Let's talk with God now in prayer and thank Him for guiding and helping us.

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for guiding us. God hears all our prayers!

Craft: Special Spy Binoculars

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), empty paper towel tubes (1 per kid) or toilet paper tubes (2 per kid), tape, markers, stickers

Ahead of time, use scissors to cut each paper towel tube in half (or you could use empty toilet paper rolls) so each kid gets two small rolls.

In God's big story today, we heard about the spies who went to check out the city of Jericho. If you wanted to see what a faraway land looked like, what things do you think you might use to help you? Allow kids to answer. Those are all great things to have when you're spying out a new land. If I wanted to spy out a new, faraway land, I would want a pair of binoculars. Today we get to make our own special spy binoculars!

Give each kid two tubes. Set out tape, markers, and stickers. Kids can tape the two tubes together to create a pair of binoculars. Then they can use markers and stickers to decorate them.

Take your binoculars home to remind you of how God took care of His people and prepared a way of safety for them. God prepares the way for us too.

Game: Find the Spies

SUPPLIES: disposable opaque cups (6, small bouncy balls (2, table

Show kids the cups and bouncy balls.

Let's pretend that these two bouncy balls are the two spies from our story today. We're going to hide them under two of these cups. Do you think you can find the spies?

Turn the cups upside down on a table and hide the two spies under two of the cups. Shuffle the cups around and see if kids can guess where the spies are hiding. Play the game until both spies are found. Repeat the game, if time allows. You can also allow kids to shuffle the cup .

Today we learned that God kept the spies safe and didn't let the soldiers find them. He prepared the way for them to escape the city and report to Joshua all they had seen. God prepared the way for Rahab and her family to stay safe too! God knows what we need, and He promises to always be with us and help us.