

LESSON 1

RAHAB AND THE SPIES

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Prepares the Way

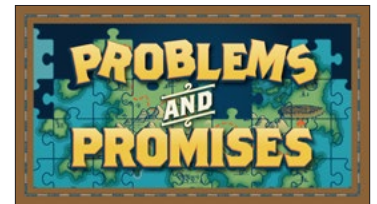
SCRIPTURE: Joshua 2

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

WORD OF WONDER: He will keep his covenant forever. He will keep his promise for all time to come.

—1 Chronicles 16:15

- PRESERVICE
 - OPTION 1 Object Lesson: The Maze
 - OPTION 2 Interactive Game: Table Tennis Marble Run
- Welcome Question: What place would be extra exciting for you to visit? What's the first thing you would do when you got there?
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Psalm 8, Over & Over
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder
- Responding in Worship: King of My Heart
- Blessing Your Kids



Leader Tip: This passage includes mature subject matter. Be sure to read the selected verses ahead of time and discern what verses are best to include with your unique group. For this lesson the leader should read the verses aloud to the kids.



SCAN FOR THIS
WEEK'S VIDEO!

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: 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 fl your mom out,” he suggested. I was floo ed 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 fulfillmen 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.

—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).

LESSON 1 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Large Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Prepares the Way

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WORD OF WONDER: 1 Chronicles 16:15

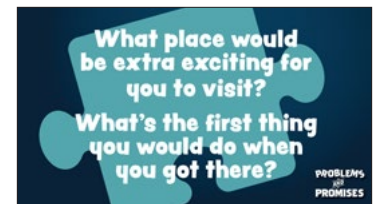
Series Bumper and Countdown Videos

Choose between the [Problems and Promises Bumper Video](#) and [Countdown Videos](#) to introduce the kids to the series.

Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

Before kids arrive, [display the Rahab Welcome Questions Slide](#) or write the following questions on a whiteboard: “What place would be extra exciting for you to visit? What’s the first thing you would do when you got there?” Set out paper and coloring utensils.



As kids arrive ...

Welcome kids warmly by inviting them into your group and giving them high fives. Show kids the Welcome Questions and encourage them to share their answers with a friend. For younger kids, read the questions to them. Share your response as well. If time permits, kids can draw a picture to illustrate their response.

At your start time ...

Call on several kids to share their answers to the Welcome Questions: **What place would be extra exciting for you to visit? What’s the first thing you would do when you got there?**

Today in God’s big story, we’ll see how God prepared the way for two spies and sent them help along the way as they checked out a place the Israelites couldn’t wait to reach.

OPTION 1 Interactive Activity: The Maze

SUPPLIES: cardstock, painter's tape, laminator (optional), sidewalk chalk (optional), stopwatch (optional), blindfolds (1 per kid, optional)

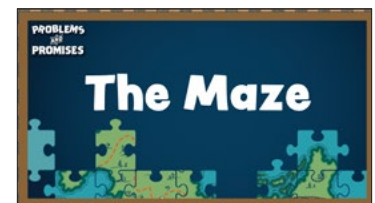
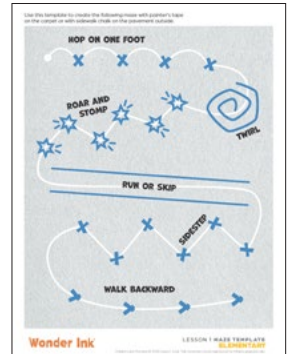
Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Maze Template\(1/LG\)](#), [Maze Instruction Sheets \(1 set/LG\)](#)

Ahead of time, print one Maze Template. Also, print the Maze Instruction Sheets onto cardstock. Consider laminating each Maze Instruction Sheet, if a laminator is available. Using painter's tape, create a life-size maze that mimics the maze illustrated on the Maze Template. Tape each Maze Instruction Sheet to the floor in its respective location on the maze. If your group is large, consider creating multiple mazes (each one can follow the same template) to allow more kids to go through the maze at one time.

Display The Maze Slide. Today we're going to play a game called **The Maze**. I've prepared the maze in advance with the directions you need. Let me show you how it's done! Demonstrate how to go through the maze or ask a volunteer to do so. **Now, let's have fun and play a few rounds!**

Give your kids instructions for each round that work well for your group and setting. Here are some ideas:

- Kids go through the maze as fast as possible. Consider using a stopwatch to time the older kids.
- Kids go through the maze with a partner.
- Form two teams, then select a volunteer from each team. One at a time, volunteers will race to complete the maze—but while blindfolded! Teammates can shout out instructions to the volunteers as they go through the maze.



Make It Inclusive: If any kids have physical limitations, invite them to think of a sound or animal noise (such as cluck like a chicken). The kids who are going through the maze must then make this sound as they complete the next section of the maze.

Gather the kids together to talk about the game. **How difficult was the maze? Show me with your bodies: Crouch down on the ground if you think it was easy. Stand up high on your tippy-toes if you think it was really hard. Or if you think it was somewhere in the middle, stand normally.**

OPTION 2 Interactive Game: Table Tennis Marble Run

SUPPLIES: cardstock (1 sheet per kid), table tennis ball

Ahead of time, choose a starting point and an end point for your marble run course. This could be from one wall to the other or from a table in one part of the room to a point marked on the floor in another part of the room. Consider playing multiple rounds and plan one course that's shorter and can be completed if kids simply line their cardstock up next to each other, and another course that will require kids to move while the ball is rolling.



Display the Table Tennis Marble Run Slide. Gather the kids and give each one a sheet of cardstock.

Then show them the table tennis ball. Point out the starting point and the end point for the first, easier round.

For this game, you get to work together to find a way for this table tennis ball to get from the starting point to the end point. You can only use the sheets of cardstock you have, and you are not allowed to touch the ball itself at any time. How are you going to do it? Allow kids to brainstorm ideas. If they need a hint, take a sheet of cardstock and fold it in half longways (“hot dog style”). Encourage them to figure out for themselves that they can use their sheets of folded cardstock like a “pipe” for the ball to roll through. If they line their sheets up next to each other, the ball can keep rolling across them to reach its end point. Once kids have a basic idea of how to make it work, encourage them to try their idea out and see if it works.

How are you going to make a way for the ball to get to the end point? Does your group have a plan? Does everybody know what to do? Pause for kids to share. **OK, let's try it!**

Once kids are in place, drop the ball at the starting point and see if it rolls to its intended end point. If it does, congratulate the kids on their creativity! If not, encourage them to rethink, make adjustments, and try again.

Great job, everyone! Nice work creating a way for the ball to get where it needed to go! We're going to play another round and make a new way. But this time, it's going to be a little harder.

Show the kids a new starting point and end point. This time, consider making a course that's longer than the pipe created by the kids if they simply line up next to each other. **Is your cardstock pipe going to be long enough? How will the ball still get to the end point? How will you make a way now?**

Let kids work out how they will make a way for the ball to still get to the end. (Solution: Some kids from the beginning of the course will need to let the ball roll through their cardstock, and then quickly move to the end of the line to make the pipe longer!)

Once kids have successfully gotten the ball to the end point, or when time is up, gather the kids back together.

How did you make a way for the ball to get to its end point? Allow kids to answer. **When you first got your cardstock, was it easy or difficult to see a way this could work? Did you think you could get the ball all the way to its end point when the way was longer than the pipe you could make?** Invite kids to share.

Sometimes we face hard things, and we can't always see how they will work out. Sometimes we might not see a way through at first. But God is with us when things are easy, and He's with us when things are hard. We'll see in today's story that no matter what we face, God always makes a way for us. Display the Rahab Wonder Truth slide. Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD PREPARES THE WAY**.



Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is _____ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"

Declaring God's Wonder

Display the Rahab Declaration Slide. Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

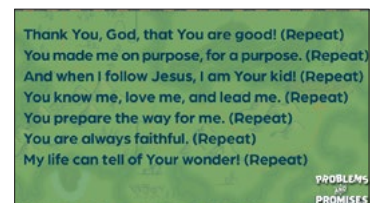
And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

You prepare the way for me. (Kids repeat.)

You are always faithful. (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, thank You for Your love. Thank You for being there for us when times are easy and when times are hard. As we learn about Your Word today, we invite Your Holy Spirit to teach us and speak to us. Remind us how You always go ahead of us to prepare the way. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

God loves us, and He's always with us, preparing the way for us to walk in His good ways. Let's worship Him now through music.

Play [Psalm 8](#), [Over & Over](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

Display the Rahab Title Slide

Tell kids today's story comes directly from the Bible, God's Word.

Let's start by watching part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we'll watch and experience more of the story!



LESSON 1 RAHAB AND THE SPIES EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: posterboard or butcher paper (1 large sheet per 3–4 kids), coloring utensils (include 1 red per 3–4 kids)

Invite kids to sit in groups of three or four. Give each group a posterboard or large sheet of butcher paper and coloring utensils. Be sure that each group gets at least one red coloring utensil.

We need your help today to illustrate what happened in this part of God's big story! At different points in the story, your group will have a few moments to work together and draw what is happening on your poster. Then we'll put everything down and listen to the next part of the story. Are you ready? Pause for responses.

Many years after God promised to give Abraham countless children and great-great-grandchildren and to give them the land of Canaan to live in, they were finally at the border of the promised land. Pause to let kids draw a border, or a line, along one side of the poster. Encourage them to leave a little space between the border and the edge of the poster. **For over 400 years, Abraham's family, now called Israelites, had been slaves in Egypt until God led them out of slavery and through the Red Sea. But now, before they could live in the land God had promised, the Israelites would have to defeat their enemies who were there. Though they were scared, the Israelites trusted that God would prepare the way for them. The book of Joshua tells us about this time.**

Joshua, the leader of the Israelites, sent two spies to check out the city of Jericho in Canaan. Jericho was famous for its high, strong walls. Pause to let kids draw the city wall in the middle of the poster. **The spies snuck in and hid in the home of a woman named Rahab, whose house was built into the city wall.** Pause to let kids draw a window in the city wall to show Rahab's house.

The king of Jericho heard that the two Israelites were staying in Rahab's home, and he sent his men to pressure her to give up the spies. Rahab, however, did not tell the men where the spies were. Instead, she hid the spies under big bundles of dried plants she was keeping on her roof and told the king's men that the Israelites had already left the city. Pause to let kids draw the two spies hiding under plants on the roof. When the soldiers set out after them, the city gates were shut, locking the Israelite spies inside of Jericho. Pause to let kids draw the closed gates and soldiers running out from the city.

But God had prepared a way of escape. Because Rahab's house was built into the city wall, it had a window to the outside. She planned to let the spies down by a rope through the window. Pause to let kids draw a rope hanging from the window.

Before the spies left, however, Rahab explained, "We have heard all about the ways God saved your people from your enemies. When the Egyptian army chased you, God parted the Red Sea and let you pass through on dry ground. He helped you defeat the kings of the Amorites when they fought against you. If we fight against you, God is going to help you defeat us too." Rahab continued, "I'm helping you, so please be kind to me and my family when you capture Jericho."

The spies agreed. They told Rahab to gather her family in her home and hang a bright red cord in her window so that the Israelites would know which house was hers. If she did as they told her, they promised that no harm would come to her or her family when the Israelites entered Jericho. Pause to let kids draw a red cord in the window. Then the spies climbed down the rope and escaped out of the city.

When the two spies arrived back at the Israelite camp, they reported to Joshua what they had seen and what Rahab had told them. Pause to let kids draw the two spies with Joshua on the other side of the border. The people of Jericho—enemies of the Israelites—had heard of all the ways that God had saved the Israelites, and they were terrified! If the Israelites entered the land and fought their enemies, God would fight for His people, just like He had before. God had prepared the way for the Israelites.

Like the Israelites, we sometimes face hard things that can seem too big for us to handle. But when we trust in God and follow Him, we'll discover that God prepares the way.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Display the Rahab Wonder Truth Slide.

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

Because Rahab showed trust in God by helping the Israelite spies, she was remembered by God's people for many, many years! Through Rahab, God prepared the way for Israel to defeat Jericho. Later, God also prepared the way for our Savior, Jesus, to be born, and Rahab was part of that too! The book of Matthew lists Rahab as an ancestor, or relative, of Jesus. And later in the Bible, she is listed in Hebrews among God's most faithful followers!



In Awe of God's Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God's story.

What did you wonder about in today's story? Allow kids to answer freely.

If you were stuck in a place where it looked as though you had no escape, what would you wonder about? Allow kids to answer freely.

Responding in Worship

SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

***Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.



WORSHIP VIDEO: [King of My Heart](#)

Blessing Your Kids

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: God loves you and has good plans for your life! May He remind you that He is with you and is preparing the way through every difficult situation—now and always!