

LESSON 1

RAHAB AND THE SPIES

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Prepares the Way

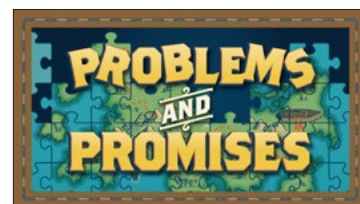
SCRIPTURE: Joshua 2

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

- Welcome Question: What place would be extra exciting for you to visit? What's the first thing you would do when you got there?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder Activity
- God's Big Story
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- Small Group Prayer Time
- LARGE GROUP
- Elementary Responding in Worship: Group Poster Prayers
- Preteen Responding in Worship: Poster Reflections



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 fly your 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.

—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

Small Group

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: 1 Chronicles 16:15

Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: paper, coloring utensils, whiteboard, dry-erase marker

Games & Activities Guide

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have activities ready to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them! Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

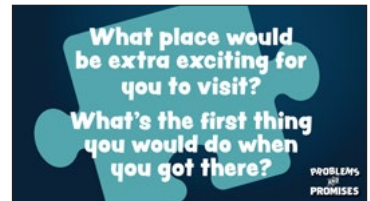
As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Use the Welcome Question and the following "I'm Curious" questions to engage kids. Say "**I'm curious..**" before each question and give kids an chance to think before answering each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

Consider having a whiteboard or poster for kids to write or draw answers to any of the questions:

- **What place would be extra exciting for you to visit?**
- **What's the first thing you would do when you got there? Tell about it.**



Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity or game, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Word of Wonder Activity

WORD OF WONDER

He will keep his covenant forever. He will keep his promise for all time to come.

—1 Chronicles 16:15 (NirV)

SUPPLIES: Bible (1 per kid)

The Word of Wonder for the Problems and Promises series is 1

Chronicles 16:15. Today we learned that God kept His promise to the

Israelites and brought them to the edge of the promised land after 40 years in the wilderness. God prepared the way for them to enter the land and defeat their enemies because, like this verse tells us, God always keeps His promises. Let's read the Word of Wonder together.

Open your Bible to 1 Chronicles 16:15. Encourage the kids to sit in a circle, open their Bibles to 1 Chronicles 16:15, and read the verse together. Then teach kids the following verse motions to help them commit it to memory or have them split up into partners and come up with their own motions.

NIV

He remembers (Point to head.)

his covenant (Hands together, palms up, like a book.)

forever, (Arms open wide out to sides.)

the promise (Hands together, palms up, like a book.)

he made, (Point up.)

for a thousand generations. (Point quickly to all the people in the room.)

1 Chronicles 16:15 (Shout out the passage.)

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Tell kids today's story comes directly from the Bible, God's Word. Show them how to find Joshua 2 in the Old Testament in their Bibles. Remind kids that the book is Joshua and the chapter is number two. Encourage volunteers to assist kids in finding the passage.

Today's story is about a woman named Rahab who was an unlikely helper to the Israelites.

Read Joshua 2:8–9, 12–14, 22–24 aloud.

Elementary Questions

- **Who did Joshua send to check out the land that God had promised the Israelites?** (two spies)
- **Where did the spies go?** (to the city of Jericho, to Rahab's house)
- **How did God save the spies while they were at Rahab's house?** (Rahab hid the spies on the roof and sent the soldiers out of the city to look for them.)
- **How would you have felt if you were one of the Israelite people who heard the spies' story after they returned?**
- **Can you think of a time when God prepared the way for you or your family?**

God always prepares the way, even when we can't see it. He knows what we will face, and He is always there, ready to help us. Let's talk with God and thank Him in prayer.

Preteen Questions

- **Before the Israelites could enter the promised land, Joshua sent two spies to check out the land. Why would he do this? What do you think they were looking for?**
- **Whose house did the spies stay at in Jericho?** (Rahab's)
- **How was Rahab a significant part of how God prepared the way for the Israelites? Do you think God could work through you to prepare the way for someone else? Why or why not?**
- **How would you have felt if you were one of the Israelites who heard the spies' story after they returned?**
- **Can you think of a time when God prepared the way for you or your family? Is there a way you see Him preparing the way for you now?**

It doesn't matter how hard something looks or how difficult the circumstance may be: God never leaves us, and He is always preparing the way for what is next for us. He is always ahead of us, and because He loves us, He promises to never leave us alone. Let's talk with God and thank Him in prayer.

Small Group Prayer Time

Invite kids to sit with a partner or group of three. Encourage them to share about a time God was there for them. Encourage kids to offer their praises and requests to God and then pray for each other. Close the prayer time together by praying over the group.

LARGE GROUP

Elementary Responding in Worship: Group Poster Prayers

SUPPLIES: posterboard or butcher paper (2 large sheets), painter's tape, marker, coloring utensils (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: "How Great Is Our God" from the [Problems and Promises Elementary Spotify Playlist](#)

Ahead of time, tape the two large posters, using posterboard or butcher paper, onto the wall where kids will be able to see them. At the top of one poster, use a marker to write "Thank You, God." At the top of the other poster, write "We Need Your Help."

In God's big story today, we learned that God deeply loves His people and has good things in mind for them, and He prepares the way for them. The same is true for us. God has good things in mind for us, and He loves us more than we can imagine. Sometimes life feels easy, and sometimes we face really hard things. But no matter what we face, God is always with us, and He will make a way for us to get through it.

We're going to spend some time thinking about the times God has made a way for us and thank Him for what He has done. Can you think of some ways God has been there for you? What would you like to thank Him for today?

Allow the kids time to reflect. Then invite them to share ways they have seen God working in their lives and things they would like to thank Him for. As each answer is shared, write it on the "Thank You, God" poster.

Those are some awesome things God has done! Let's take a moment to thank Him for all the ways He has been with us and made a way for us.

Lead the kids in a prayer of thanks for all the things that have been written on the poster or invite several kids to choose one and pray a prayer of thanks over it aloud. Then direct the kids' attention to the "We Need Your Help" poster.

Now that we've remembered some ways God has been there for us in the past and thanked Him for those things, let's think about some things we want to ask His help for. He loves us, and He loves to hear what's on our minds.

Invite kids to share things they would like to ask God for or things they are concerned about. As each request is shared, write it on the "We Need Your Help" poster.

Thank you all for sharing. Let's pray for those things and ask for God's help. Lead the kids in a prayer for all the things that have been written on the poster or invite several kids to choose one and pray over it aloud.

If time allows, invite kids to illustrate each poster by drawing pictures of things they're thankful for (on the "Thank You, God" poster) and things or situations they need God's help with (on the "We Need Your Help" poster). As kids are drawing, play the song "How Great Is Our God" from the [Problems and Promises Elementary Spotify playlist](#).

Close with a prayer thanking God that He hears our prayers and is with us always, no matter what we face, and that He will make a way for us to get through all of the hard things in our lives.

Preteen Responding in Worship: Poster Reflection

SUPPLIES: posterboard or butcher paper (6 large sheets), painter's tape, markers (1 per kid)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Problems and Promises Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, tape six sheets of posterboard or butcher paper onto the wall in various places around the room. On each poster, write one of the following phrases at the top:

- You are ...
- You are working in ...
- You are with me when ...
- You never stop working because ...
- You are my light in the darkness when ...
- I worship You because ...

In God's big story today, we saw how God continued to be with the Israelites and prepared the way for them, even when they didn't know what was in front of them. He prepared the way as Joshua led the people to the promised land. He prepared the way as Rahab offered a safe hiding place for the spies.

He prepared the way so the spies could make sure the land was safe for the people. He prepared the way for Rahab's family to be safe when the city of Jericho was captured. Why do you think God prepared the way for all those people? Allow kids to respond.

Good thoughts! God prepared the way because that's who God is. He keeps His promises. He is always true. He is always faithful. He works in ways we can't see and in ways we don't understand. God is with us in the easy times and the very tough times. Never linching, never giving up, and always there for the people He loves. That's who God is! He loves us that much!

Let's spend some time reflecting on who God is. All around the room are posters with unfinished sentences on them. Direct kids' attention to the posters around the room and read each one. As we respond in worship today, I invite you to make your way around the room to each poster and think about who God is. As you get to each poster, finish the sentence with your own words or drawings. Allow kids time to get a marker and begin making their way around the room. Encourage them to take their time as they reflect at each poster. Play music from the [Problems and Promises Elementary Spotify playlist](#) quietly in the background.

Once kids have had time to move around the room and respond to God at each poster, gather the kids back together. Close with a prayer of thanks for who God is, that He hears our prayers, and that He is always with us and makes a way forward for us, no matter what we face.