

Lesson B1.7 - We Need Your Help



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Joshua 2:1-24

- Bible Characters: Joshua, two spies, Rahab

Joshua was the leader of God's people after Moses. Before entering the Promised Land, Joshua sent two spies into the area. While the spies were in the city of Jericho, a woman named Rahab hid them and later helped them to escape. In gratitude for her kindness, the spies promised to help her later.

Brief Bible Background

- Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament
- Scripture Section: Conquest

Joshua led the people into the Promised Land and captured the cities of the Canaanites. God led the people to many miraculous victories, including the battle of Jericho.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening prayer song should be sung every week with young kids — remember, repetition is good. The words to this song are sung to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb." No accompaniment needed.

*Thank you, Jesus, for this day, for this day, for this day.
Thank you, Jesus, for this day and everything you do.*

*Help us as we learn and pray, learn and pray, learn and pray.
Help us as we learn and pray and turn our hearts to you!*

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

We all need help at times. It's good to know when something is a little bit too hard for us to do alone. At those times, we can look to others and say, **We Need Your Help!** What can we say? **We Need Your Help!**

- Think of a time when you needed help. What did you do? (*Call on volunteers.*)
- Who can you ask for help when you need it? (*God, parents, grandparents, teachers, pastors, friends, etc.*)

In today's Bible story, two people were alone in a hard situation. What do you think they did? (*They asked for what they needed.*) What might they have said? **We Need Your Help!** Let's find out if anyone came to their rescue!

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.

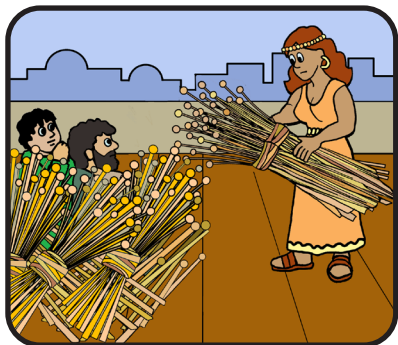


Picture 1

Tell the children: The commander of God's people was a man called Joshua. One day, Joshua chose two men to go as spies into the Promised Land and see what they could learn. It was a dangerous mission.

Read the caption: When God's two spies came to Jericho, a woman named Rahab hid them on her roof, so the guards couldn't find them.

- *Look at the picture. Which person is Rahab? How many soldiers do you see?*
- *Why do you think Rahab let the spies hide in her house? [She knew God was powerful and mighty, and she believed God had given them the land.]*



Picture 2

Tell the children: The soldiers didn't know that Rahab had hidden the spies under a bunch of flax stalks that were drying on the top of her building. She sent the soldiers off in the wrong direction so they never found the spies.

Read the caption: After the guards left, Rahab went to the hidden spies. "When your army comes," she said, "please help me and my family."

- *Have you ever played "Hide and Seek?" How do you feel when you know someone is searching for you? [Nervous, excited] How do you think the spies felt? [Scared]*
- *How do you think Rahab knew who God was? [She had heard about him.]*

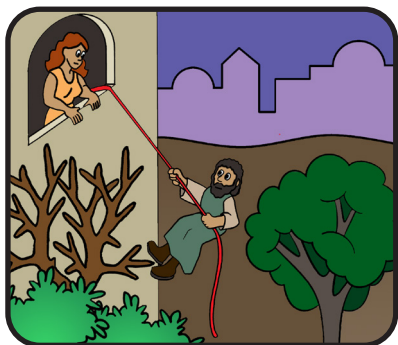


Picture 3

Tell the children: Rahab's house was built into a wall of the town. One of her windows faced the outside. "Stay inside and tie this red cord to your window," the spies said. "That way, we can find you when we return."

Read the caption: Rahab gave the spies a rope and said, "Use this to escape out the window! Then, run to the hills and hide there."

- *What is Rahab doing, and what is she holding in her hand? [Rahab is pointing the way to the hills and holding a rope for them to use in their escape.]*
- *Why did the spies want Rahab to hang a red cord? [Red is easy to see.]*



Picture 4

Tell the children: Rahab believed the two spies were serving the one, true God. So even though it was risky for her, she was glad to help them.

Read the caption: The spies did as Rahab said. Later, when God's army came, they saw the red cord and they knew to save Rahab and her family.

- *How are the spies leaving? [Out the window with a rope] What do you think it was like for them to escape from a house that way? [Scary, exciting, etc.]*
- *How would you have felt if you were Rahab when the spies escaped?*

Remember today's message: **We Need Your Help!**

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*Entering the Promised Land,
Joshua sent ahead two men.
To spy the land, he told them, "Go,"
and so they went to Jericho.*

*In Rahab's house the spies hid out.
No one knew their whereabouts.
When guards came in to have a look,
Rahab hid them on her roof.*

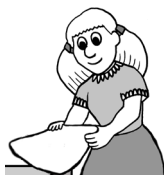
*They promised they would keep her safe
if Rahab helped them both escape.
She let them down a long red cord,
for Rahab knew they served the Lord.*

h. Young Children's Activity (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the "craft" for the day.)

Find the Spies

Materials needed: Printed pictures of the two spies (or small stick figure drawings of the spies), red licorice



Instructions: Have kids stand outside the classroom with an adult while you hide the picture of the two spies somewhere in the room. Make sure the door is closed or kids are facing away while you are hiding the picture, so no one has an advantage!

When it's time, play a game of "Hot and Cold" but with a twist. To do this, tell kids that they are going to be the King of Jericho's soldiers, and their job is to find two spies who are hiding in the land. Let them search as a large group. If the group gets close, say, "warmer," and if they are getting farther away, say, "cooler." If they are very close, say, "hot" or very far, say, "cold."

Here's the twist: When the group finds the picture, they have a choice: they can turn the picture over to the king (you), or leave the picture where it is, and let the spies "escape." If they remember the story and make the second choice, tell them that Rahab has sent them a treat — red licorice, a reminder of her red rope!

g. Song (optional)

The tune to this spiritual can be found on YouTube, Vimeo, or online children's music sites.

Standin' in the Need of Prayer

Refrain:

It's me, it's me, it's me, O Lord, (Point to self)

Standin' in the need of prayer! (Fold hands)

It's me, it's me, it's me, O Lord, (Point to self)

Standin' in the need of prayer! (Fold hands)

Verse 1:

Not my brother, not my sister, (Shake head "no")

but it's me, O Lord, (Point to self)

Standin' in the need of prayer! (Refrain)

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

► **Start: Joshua picked two men to go as spies into the Promised Land. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

For all our friends, and family too,

Please bless them, Lord, in all they do.

Thank you for helping us today

So we could learn and grow and play.

Be with us as we leave again.

And bring us back next time. Amen.