

God Helps the Israelites

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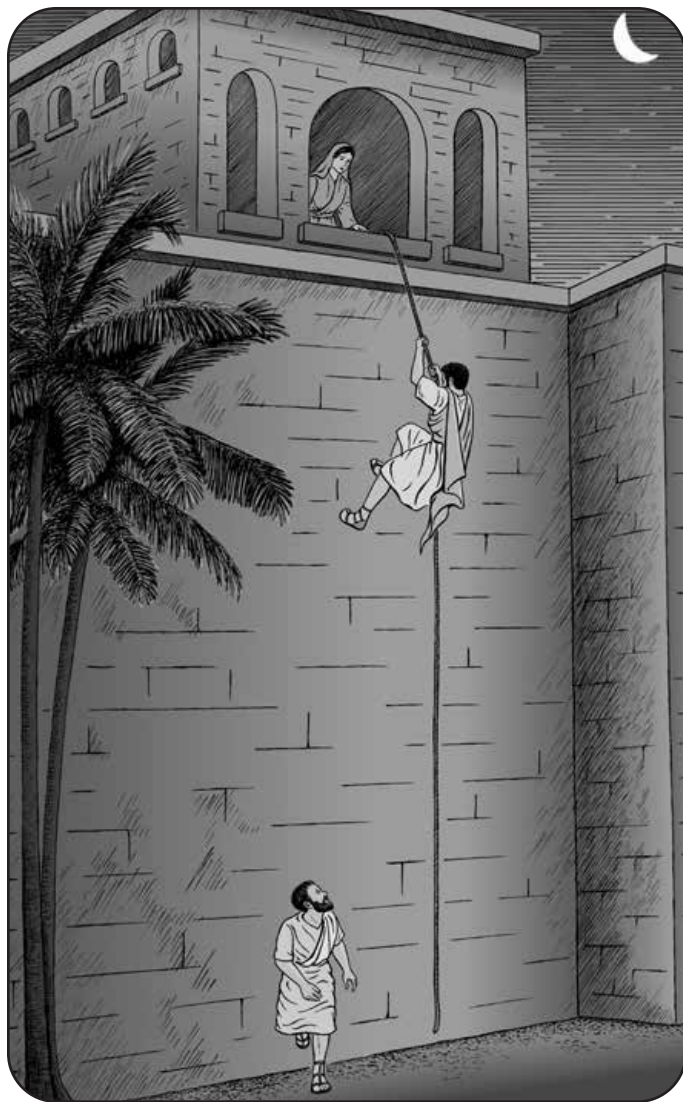
Bible texts and lessons are selected and developed by CL. The Youth and Adult quarterlies follow an eight-year cycle and provide opportunities to study all of the Bible and its doctrines. The Preschool, Primary, Junior, and Intermediate Sunday school lessons follow a three-year cycle.

In addition to Sunday school materials and take-home papers, CL also has tracts, pamphlets, books, a Bible Journey series for Bible schools, and Christian Light Education, a complete school curriculum for schools and homeschools.



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Rahab Helps the Spies



Joshua 2:3, 6, 15

3. And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country. 6. But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof. 15. Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall.

My Bible Story

Joshua sent two men to spy out Jericho. Rahab hid the spies on her roof under stalks of flax.

Rahab said, "I know that God has given you this land. We are afraid. We know how God helped you. Please be kind to my family because I have been kind to you. When you come to Jericho, save my family."

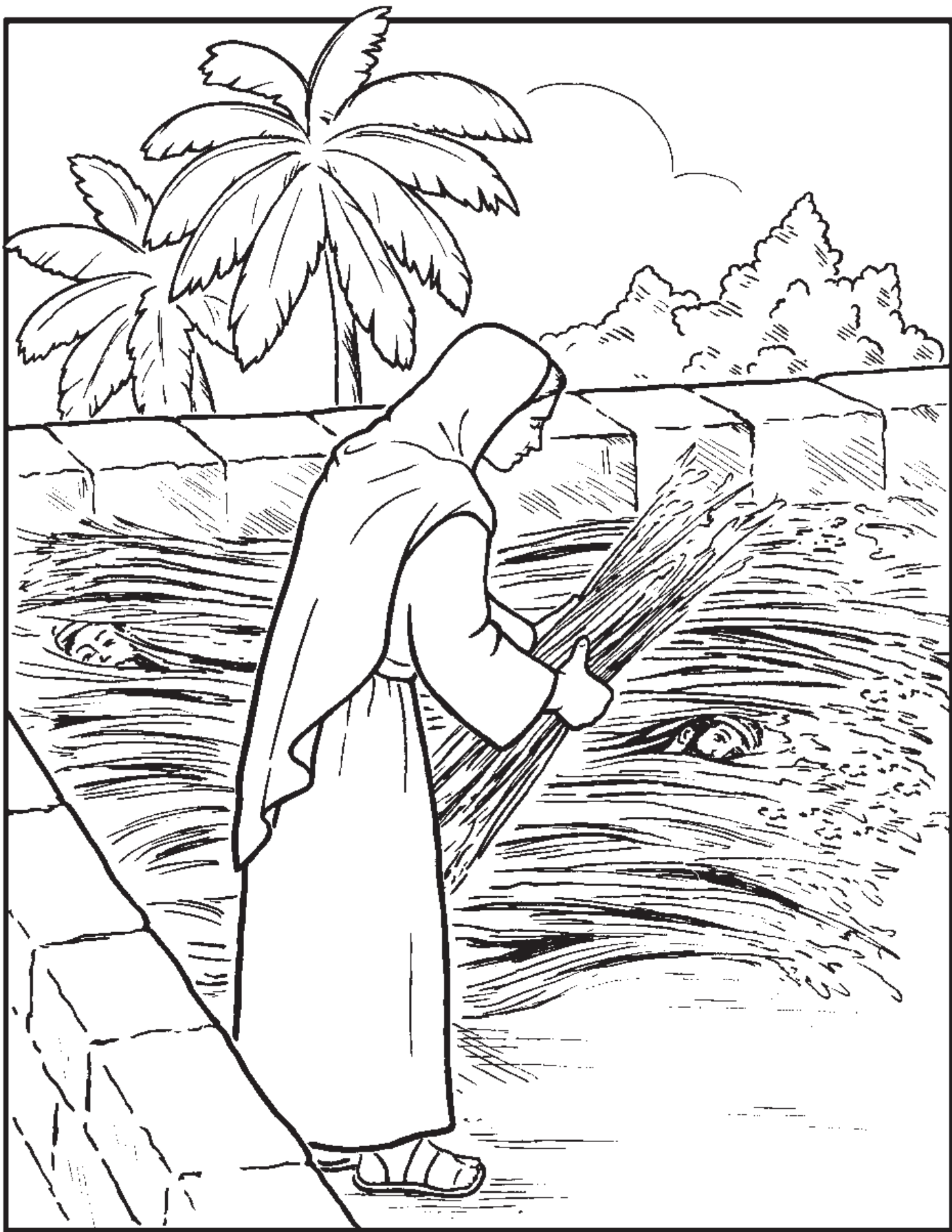
The spies said, "If you don't tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly. Tie this red cord in the window. Bring your family into your house."

The spies escaped out the window and down the outside of the wall. They told Joshua, "Surely God has given us this whole land!"

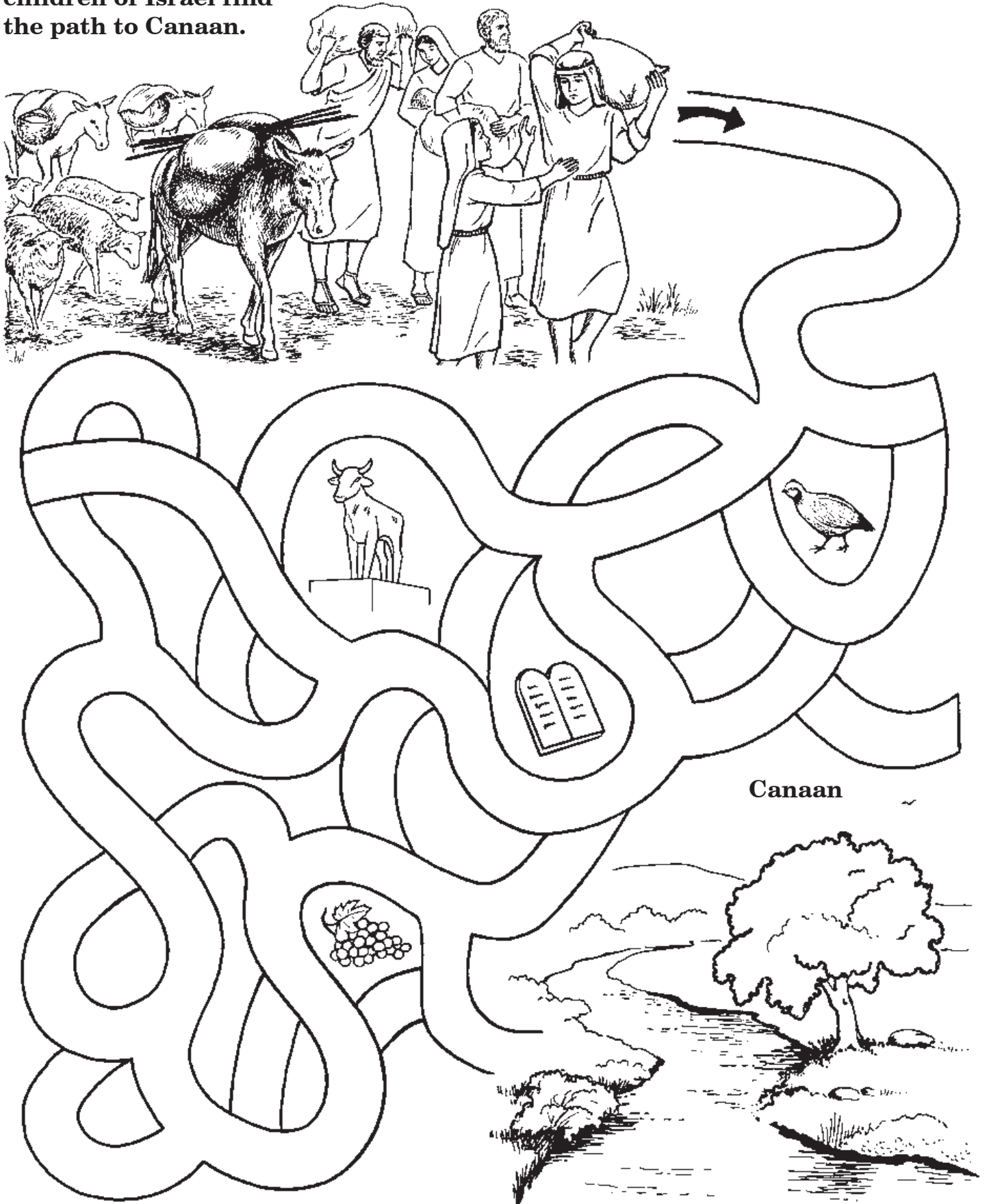
Memory Verse

I am God, and there
is none like me.

Isaiah 46:9



God led the children of Israel through the wilderness to Canaan. Help the children of Israel find the path to Canaan.



Teacher's Guide

To the Teacher

This quarter focuses on God's leading. We are studying real people in real situations. How well we can identify! The time and circumstances vary, yet there are many similarities. We thrill as we see God performing miracles. We see the need to build memorials in our own lives because we forget so easily how God has helped us. We know from experience how we struggle with temptation. We depend on our intellect and forget to pray, then wonder why we were tricked. We can identify with Gideon's hesitancy and need of confirmation. We wonder, "God, are You really with us?" We rely on our own strength, flirt with temptation, and need to face the consequences of our actions. We determine that God will be *our* God, and we trust Him to lead us, even though it means pain and sacrifice and surrender.

As you study these lessons, look back in your own life to see how God has been with you and blessed you. Look at the present, and be aware of the extraordinary and the commonplace happenings that show you that you are God's special treasure. Then look to the future, and wholeheartedly trust our changeless God to be all that He has been, and all that He says He is.

Here is an explanation of the main parts of the quarterly and some ideas about how to use them.

Introducing the Lesson. One point of contact is presented for you to consider, and more ideas are given in the *Alternate Introductions*. It doesn't matter which idea you use; however, the first is usually most directly linked to the approach used in the lesson story.

Lesson Story. The Bible story is written much as a teacher might talk to a class. Sometimes, some questions for discussion or suggestions for visual aids are included. You may choose to read the story to the pupils. Better yet, *tell* the story. Know the story well enough to tell it completely rather than reading it. Use gestures. Draw diagrams. However crude they may be, the children will enjoy them. Flannelgraphs work wonderfully in maintaining attention. Walk around rather than sitting in one spot all class period. Vary your teaching methods, but know where you are going with the lesson.

Questions About the Story. A few questions are given for your convenience. The questions provided are merely samples. Feel free to make up your own.

Songs. A few song suggestions related to the lesson are given. If the songs are found in *Praises We Sing*, available from Christian Light Publications, the song number is given. You may choose many more songs of a general nature (worship, love of God, etc.). Preschool children love motion songs. Use your class's favorites freely.

Memory Verse. You will find a complete list of the memory verses at the front of the take-home project pages. Remove it and send it home so the parents can teach the verse to the child before class. The verse for each lesson is also printed on the take-home project for each Sunday.

Page to Do. Although the activity is relatively simple, many of the pupils will need your help.

Take-Home Project. A paper project is provided for each lesson. Depending on the maturity of your class, you may need to give considerable assistance (or do some of the project yourself ahead of class).

The chart on page T2 lists supplies needed for each project in the quarterly. Those listed as Needed Supplies are essential; the others are optional. Crayons are not listed, as they are a standard Sunday school supply.

The take-home projects will be part of a continued project lasting all this Sunday school quarter. Each Sunday, you will make part of a mobile. On the first Sunday, you will start the mobile and send it home. Then each Sunday, you will send home that Sunday's paper tied to the string. Then they will tie it onto the mobile at home.

Application Story. The story is one attempt to apply the lesson. The lesson doesn't depend on it—therefore omit it if you wish.

Read with lots of expression. If your class consists of only three- and four-year-olds, the vocabulary level and sentence structure may be too advanced for them. In that case, tell the gist of the story, using simpler language. The writers feel it is easier to make an advanced story more understandable for younger children (by explaining terms and using very basic words) than it is to make a short, easy story more interesting and challenging for older preschoolers.

Optional Ideas. These ideas may be used at your discretion (or adapted) depending on how much time you have. Most lessons have a full-page picture that pupils may color. As they do so, you may ask them review questions about the Bible story.

Lesson	Needed Supplies	Optional Supplies
1	Tinfoil/Styrofoam plate for each Hole punch Red yarn String Scissors Tape	Hanger for each child
2	Hole punch, string, scissors Gravel stone for each child Glue (and hot glue gun)	
3	Hole punch, string, scissors	
4	Fabric Penny for each child Glue Hole punch, string, scissors	
5	Melba toast/crouton/dry bread Glue Hole punch, string, scissors	
6	Hole punch, string, scissors	Glitter glue, gel pens
7	Cotton ball/pillow stuffing Hole punch, string, scissors	
8	Scissors, string Glue Orange yarn Popsicle stick for each child Comb	
9	Rice or grain Glue Hole punch, string, scissors	
10	Matches Hole punch, string, scissors	
11	Twine/candlewicking/heavy string Glue Hole punch, string, scissors	
12	Popsicle stick for each child 4 scraps of paper for each child Glue Hole punch, string, scissors	
13	Glue Sesame seeds, grain, or rice Hole punch, string, scissors	

Rahab Helps the Spies

Background Scripture: Joshua 1, 2

Lesson Aims

1. To tell the story of Rahab helping two spies from Israel.
2. To teach the benefits of kindness.
3. To encourage faith in God.

Meditation for the Teacher

Things that had been happening to surrounding cities and kings made all Jericho quake. By looking at God's greatness, Rahab saw her life as it really was—"ashes of defeat." Salvation, for a person, cannot begin until he sees himself as he really is.

Faith radiates in her words, "The Lord your God, He is God..." as well as in her obedience to all that was commanded her. God's love reached out and saved Rahab. God does that for every sinner who accepts and ties the scarlet cord of salvation in his heart's window.

Introducing the Lesson

To introduce the idea of spying (searching or finding out by close observation), play a short game of "I spy."

Alternate Introductions

Make a double wall of wooden blocks to represent the walls of Jericho. On top of it, place a Lego house to represent the house of Rahab. Our story today tells about what happened in a house on the wall of Jericho.

Or, take to class two figurines of men. Also take a long piece of yarn or cord. Attach the yarn to one of the men. Slowly lower him from the table to the floor. "Let me tell you the story of two men who were lowered by a rope."

Lesson Story

This quarterly begins rather abruptly for small children who may scarcely know the names of Moses, Joshua, or the Israelites. Sketch in more background than what is provided if it is needed for your class.

Moses had led the Israelites out of Egypt and through the wilderness, but he was an old man and he died. Joshua became the new leader. He had been Moses' helper, and he had trusted God even when many other people did not. Do you remember the story of the twelve spies in Canaan? Joshua was one of the spies who trusted God.

The Israelites were getting ready to cross the Jordan River and enter Canaan, the land God had promised them. (Sometimes we call it the *Promised Land* because it was land that was promised to them.)

Joshua wanted to know what the land was like, especially the city of Jericho. After all, it had been forty years since he had been in the land. He sent two men secretly. "You will be spies," he said. "Go and check out the land. Especially look at Jericho." Jericho was an important city a few miles from the Jordan River. It had high walls

around the edges. The gates in the wall were opened during the day, and shut at night. Men guarded the city so that no one could surprise them in an attack.

The two spies crossed the Jordan River and went into Jericho. They found a woman, named Rahab, whose house was built into the wall. They stayed at her house.

Someone who had seen the two spies ran to the king. "Look, King! Some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land!"

The king did not like this news. He sent a message to Rahab. "Bring out the men who have come to your house! They have come to spy out the whole land. They are dangerous men."

But Rahab decided not to obey the king. She quickly hid the two spies on her roof. She had stalks of grain (flax) on her roof and she hid the spies under the stalks of grain.

Rahab talked to the guards who came to find the spies. Rahab said, "Yes, some men came to me, but I didn't know where they had come from. When it started to get dark, the men left, just before the city gates were closed. I don't know which way they went. Go after them. If you go quickly, you might catch up with them."

The guards left quickly on the road they thought the spies had taken. Then the gates of the city were shut. No one could come in and no one could go out.

Before the spies went to sleep that night, Rahab went up onto the roof to talk to them. She said, "I know that God has given you this land. All of us are afraid of you. We have heard how God helped you cross the Red Sea when you came out of Egypt. We heard how God helped you fight your enemies and win. Ever since we heard these stories, we became afraid. We have no courage. We know that the Lord your God is God in Heaven and on earth. Now, please, promise me that you will be kind to my family because I have been kind to you. When you come to Jericho, please save my father and mother and brothers and sisters."

"We promise to be kind to you," the spies said. "If you don't tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when God gives us the land. Remember, you must not tell what we are doing."

Do you remember that Rahab's house was part of the city wall? She got a rope and used it to let the spies out of a window and down the outside of the wall.

She told them, "Go to the hills so the guards will not find you. Hide for three days until they come back to Jericho. Then go on your way."

The spies said, "We will remember our promise if you remember your promise. This is what you need to do. Hang this red cord in the window where you helped us escape. Bring your family—your father and mother and brothers and sisters—into your house. If anyone goes into the street, he will not be safe. Remember, you may not tell anyone what we are doing."

"I agree," Rahab promised. "I will do as you say." She sent the men away. Then she tied the red cord in the window.

That is how the spies escaped from Jericho. They went to the hills for three days until the guards had searched all along the road and had given up finding them.

When the spies crossed the Jordan River and came back to the Israelites, they gave a report to Joshua. “The people are afraid of us,” they said. “Surely God has given us this whole land!”

Lesson Activities

Questions About the Story

1. Who did Joshua send to check out the city of Jericho?
Two spies.
2. Who hid the spies? *Rahab.*
3. Where did she hide them? *On her roof under some grain stalks.*
4. How did the spies get out of the city? *They climbed out a window and slid down a rope.*
5. What was Rahab to keep in her window? *A red cord.*

Songs

Joshua 1:9—Have not I commanded thee?

“God Is So Good,” #130

“My Lord Knows the Way Through the Wilderness”

Memory Verse

I am God, and there is none like me. Isaiah 46:9

Page to Do

Guide the children in choosing the correct pathway to the promised land. You could review some of the experiences in the wilderness: crossing the Red Sea, God sending manna and quail, receiving the Ten Commandments, worshiping the golden calf, grumbling, the twelve spies.

Take-Home Project

The take-home projects will be part of a continued project lasting all this Sunday school quarter. Each Sunday you will make part of a mobile. On this first Sunday, you will start the mobile and send it home. Then each Sunday you will send home that Sunday’s paper tied to a string. Then they can tie it onto the mobile at home.

Each child will need a tinfoil or paper/Styrofoam plate. Let students decorate them if you wish. Punch thirteen holes around the edge—one for each Sunday. Punch two holes in the center for a string for hanging it. An alternate idea is to tie strings onto a coat hanger.

The parents will need an explanation about how this works. For that reason, the note to the parents has been included in the center section. Feel free to use or revise it for your class.

Color the wall. Glue a piece of red yarn in the window. Punch a hole in the top of the picture. Tie the string to the picture and to one of the holes in the plate (or on the hanger).

Application Story

Being Helpful

“Umm, cookies!” Marvin sniffed as he walked into the kitchen. “May I have one?”

“Yes,” answered Mother, “but only one. We want to take the rest to the Bakers. Mrs. Baker just came home from the hospital and can’t do any work. I’m sure Timmy and Tanya like cookies as well as you and Janelle do. We want to visit them this evening and take the cookies along.”

“Goody,” said Marvin as he took a warm chocolate chip cookie from the table. Janelle waited till the cookies were cool and put them into the bowl Mother gave her.

That evening the Millers walked up the road to visit the Bakers. As they visited in the living room, Mr. Baker told Daddy he was having trouble with his car. “I will look at it and see if I can find the trouble,” said Daddy. Soon he and Mr. Baker had their heads under the car hood.

While the men worked on the car, Mother said, “Mrs. Baker, may I do the dishes for you? I know Mr. Baker would do them after we go home, but if I do them while we visit, he will not have to do them later.”

“Why, thank you. I’m sure he will be glad if you do them. Washing dishes is not his favorite job,” Mrs. Baker said.

Soon the dishes were done and the men came into the house again. “Well,” Daddy Miller said, “it’s almost time for this family to walk down the road and find their beds. Before we go, may we pray for you, Mrs. Baker?”

“Certainly,” replied Mrs. Baker. So everyone bowed his head and Daddy Miller prayed, asking God to help Mrs. Baker get well and strong soon. He prayed that the Bakers would feel God’s love for them in this time of trouble.

“Thank you for coming,” said Mr. Baker when Daddy had finished. “Come again soon.”

As the family walked out the door, Daddy Miller shook hands with Mr. Baker. As he did, he pressed a piece of paper money into Mr. Baker’s hand. “We want to help with the hospital bill, Charles,” he said. “It’s not much, but maybe it will help a little bit.”

“What would we do without kind friends like you?” Mr. Baker said with tears in his eyes. “Thank you, and may God reward you.”

Optional Ideas

1. Color the picture.
2. Discuss the *Application Story* after pointing out how Rahab was kind and helpful to the two men in need. God wants us to give to others cheerfully when they have needs, because we love them. Can you name some ways the Millers gave to the Bakers?

A. Cookies.

B. Time to bake the cookies and time to help fix the car and do the dishes.

C. Money to help with the hospital bill.

We can give in many different ways. No matter how old we are, we can all help.

3. Bring blocks and build the walls of Jericho. Find a “house” for Rahab, and slide a red piece of cord between two blocks. Put an index card over the opening in the walls for the gates. Let the children retell the story for you. You could keep the wall at Sunday school and use it again in Lesson 3.