

JOSHUA 2:1-24

24 JANUARY 2021

ICE BREAKER: Describe a time someone lied to you.

GROUP QUESTIONS:

(Read verses 2-7) **Rahab lied** to men sent to her by the King of Jericho, and thus **saved** the **lives** of the two Hebrew spies. For her courage, Rahab is **commended** for **her faith**. In the famous Hall of Faith chapter in Hebrews, listen to her praise. **'By faith** the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.' (Hebrews 11:31)

James continues her tribute, 'In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute **considered righteous** for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?' (James 2:25)

1. As a Christian, is there ever an **acceptable time to lie**? If so, explain.

(Read Genesis 20:1-15 & Exodus 1:15-21) Like Rahab, the **Hebrew mid-wives** epitomized **courageous faith** in **lying** to Pharaoh and **saving** the **countless lives** of Hebrew male babies. **God rewarded** the mid-wives for their faith, 'So God was kind to the mid-wives...And because the mid-wives feared God, He gave them families of their own.'

Abraham also lied to a king to save life. But unlike Rahab and the Hebrew mid-wives, the Bible does not commend Abraham for lying that Sarah was his sister and not his wife.

2. Discuss the **difference** between the **lies of Rahab** and the **Hebrew mid-wives**, and that of **Abraham**.

(Read Hebrews 11:31, James 2:25 & Exodus 1:21) Rahab is commended for her faith in Hebrews and James, and rightly so, but look closer at the praise. Rahab is **praised** for her **faith**, for **giving lodging** to the **spies**, and for **sending them safely** to their **escape**. She is **not praised** specifically for **lying**.

The same holds true for the mid-wives. God **commends** them for their **fear of God** over fear of Pharaoh, but there is **no praise** for their **lying**.

Rahab's faith was indeed **remarkable**, but **not perfect**. We must always **be careful** to **not use human sin** to **further God's good**, as Paul warns against the idea—'Let us do evil that good may result.' (Romans 3:8)

Commenting on Joshua 2, John Calvin states, 'Those who hold what is called a dutiful lie to be altogether excusable, do not sufficiently consider how precious truth is in the sight of God...That cannot be right, which is contrary to the nature of God. And God is truth.'

3. In what way could you **imagine** Rahab still **saving** the spies' **lives**, but **without lying**?

(Read Mark 8:34-38 & Matthew 10:32-33) When faced with two **principles in conflict**, speaking the truth or saving life, we often argue to 'choose the lesser of two evils'. We choose to lie to save life. However, as important as life is. Human life is not the highest good.

In the face of public mocking, betrayal and torture, Jesus gave his life to save ours. Jesus was unashamed to save us and call us His own. He calls us to be unashamed to profess Him our Lord, even when our lives are threatened.

4. As a Christian, could you **profess Jesus** as your **Lord**, even at **threat of losing your life**?

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to share Christ with this week.)
