



## Discussion Guide- 2

### Face the Issue:

In part 2 of our series “Courage”, we focused on the story of Rahab.

Many times we feel like we cannot be courageous because we are somehow “unworthy” to be courageous. Courageous people are brave and wise. That’s not us.

But God loves to turn things upside-down. He selects the most unexpected people to work with. He specializes in using the rejects of society, the broken and flawed, the down and out. Consider how God used Abraham, a liar; Moses, a murderer; David, an adulterer; Peter, the denier; Saul, a killer. The list goes on and on. God works through the most ordinary and unlikely people who are on the edge of respectability. These are the very people that show courage.

*What do you feel are some of your limitations that would prevent God from using you?*

*Why would God choose to use flawed people?*

### Into the Word:

Let’s refocus on the scripture that Jeremy used in his sermon.

#### Read Joshua 2:1–13

The really neat thing is that this chapter is like a side story. As a chapter, the account of Rahab is not needed to tell the story of the conquest of Canaan. If you read chapter one, then skip chapter two and pick up with chapter three, you won’t miss the of the main story. So why is chapter two included? What is the purpose of Joshua 2 and the story of Rahab, the prostitute? The purpose of Rahab’s story is not simply to tell us what God did; it’s to teach us what God does.

*What statement of faith does Rahab make in verses 9–11? Why is this statement so remarkable? What about it would be pleasing to God?*

*What one thing does God seem to be looking for in Rahab? What do you think He looks for in you?*

*According to verses 12–13, Rahab believed so completely that the Lord was God that she was willing to put her family on the line. What do you need to trust Him with?*

## **Read Joshua 2:14–24.**

*How did Rahab's actions affect Israel's future? Why was what she said and did so important to Joshua and his warriors?*

*In what ways has God tapped you for service? When has God looked past your flaws because he loved you and chosen to use you as a part of his unfolding plan? Share at least one instance if you are in a group.*

*Make a list of your current flaws (for your eyes only, no one else will see this). Make a note after each flaw about how God might use it for His purposes.?*

## **Apply The Word**

The story of Rahab does not end at Joshua 2. Notice the following:

1. Rahab survived the battle of Jericho and became a member of the Israelite community. She packed up and moved on with the people of God. She later married a Jewish man named Salmon and raised a family of her own, gaining respect in the community.
2. The first chapter of Matthew chronicles the ancestors of Jesus Christ. Guess who's on that list? Rahab. Her descendants became the kings of Israel and Judah. The Savior of the world, Jesus Christ, was of her lineage.
3. Jewish tradition holds that Rahab was one of the four most beautiful women who ever lived. She's renowned as a hero of Israel even today. The book of Hebrews lists men and women set apart for their great faith. Look who shows up: "By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient" (Hebrews 11:31).

*You do not know the end of your own story. There will be things you understand years from now that don't make sense at this time. Some things will only be clear when we reach heaven. What details of your life do you need to trust God with?*

*Think of someone you know who is feeling useless or discouraged. Write a letter of encouragement to that person using the story of Rahab as inspiration..*

*What do you think is the most important quality you have that God might choose to use?*