

VICTORY!

WEEK 2

A STUDY OF JOSHUA

THE RIGHT THING

When Jackie Robinson took the field in April of 1947, the Reds fans and players let loose their hate. In response, Dodger captain, Pee Wee Reese, raised a hand, walked from shortstop to 1st base, and put an arm around Jackie Robinson's shoulders. Standing there, he looked into the dugout and the stands, staring into the hate. Reese never spoke. His deed was beyond words. Later, Robinson recalled, "After Pee Wee came over like that, I never felt alone on a baseball field."

As Joshua planned his military campaign, he sent two spies into the land to check out their first objective—the city of Jericho. These two unnamed spies went to the sketchy part of town for information and found themselves at the house of a prostitute named Rahab. The king found out about their presence and sent men to find them. Rahab hid the spies in the roof of her house and sent the king's men off in the wrong direction.

Rahab took a risk to save foreign invaders. In today's passage, the coast was clear, and we discover why. Like Pee Wee, she didn't have to do such a thing—however, both understood that, despite their differences, their actions were the right thing to do.

JOSHUA 2:8–14

⁸ Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof⁹ and said to the men, "I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. ¹⁰ For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. ¹¹ And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.

¹² Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a sure sign ¹³ that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death."

¹⁴ And the men said to her, "Our life for yours even to death! If you do not tell this business of ours, then when the LORD gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you."

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

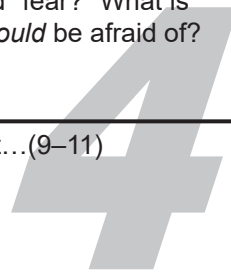
God safely delivered Israel to the opposite shore after parting the Red Sea. Exodus 14:31 says, "*Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.*"

The "fear of the Lord" expressed saving faith in the Old Testament. In chapter 15, the people sang in worship. Rightly viewing God drives us to worship him. Scan the QR code to join in the worship of the Lord.



DISCUSSION

How would you define the word "fear?" What is something you think people *should* be afraid of?



ICEBREAKER

OBSERVATION

1. What does Rahab say about... (9–11)
 - the Lord?
 - the population?
 - the Israelites?
2. What does she ask of the spies? (12–13)
3. How did the men respond? (14)

INTERPRETATION

4. What do Rahab's words about God, her people, the Israelites, and her family say about her faith? (9-13)
5. In what ways did the "fear of the Lord" create mutual trust among Rahab and the spies?

APPLICATION

6. How has correctly placed "fear of the Lord" changed your life?

Misplaced fear leads to putting other things in front of our true Savior, Jesus. Maybe you're struggling with something along these lines. If you need help, talk to your coach today.

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STUDY NOTES ROWDY

We've all seen that player who seems to do everything they can to find trouble. Coach gives opportunity after opportunity for correction, but this player's disrespect and self-destruction leads to no other choice. Coach must remove the player from the team.

God made an incredible promise to Abraham that he would give his descendants the Promised Land. However, God told Abraham that his descendants would be enslaved for 400 years *before* they could take the land. We might ask, "Why doesn't God just give the land now?" The answer God gave, "*the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete*" (Genesis 15:16). This means that the inhabitants of the land had not yet sinned enough to get kicked out.

The inhabitants were like the petulant teammate, they were bad and getting worse. They were given multiple opportunities to make a correction. At the end of 400 years, God displayed incredible power delivering Israel from Egypt. Not only that, the fame of Israel and her God grew for the 40 years they wandered in the desert. The inhabitants of the land were given 400 years, plus 40, to fear Israel's God, humble themselves, and turn from their wicked ways. However, in that time, they only sank deeper into sin and fortified their resolve to fight back against God.

At this point, as God knew they would, they crossed an invisible threshold of judgment and God would use the nation of Israel to remove them from the land—except for one family. As we will see in our passage today, there was one family that learned the lesson 440 years in the making.

VICTORY REQUIRES TEAMWORK

Rahab had hidden the spies and sent the king's men on a "snipe hunt." The coast was clear and they were going to rest for the night. ***Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof.*** Rahab lived in Jericho and probably did not want to see it destroyed. However, there was something she feared more than the destruction of her city by foreign invaders—God.

Rahab told them men, ***"I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to***

Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.

Rahab's words illustrated she understood several things—first, she recognized the reality and power of Israel's God. Israel wasn't *taking* the land. Rahab rightly understood the Lord was *giving* it to them. Additionally, she understood God's power through the miracle of the Red Sea and Exodus from Egypt. Only God could have allowed slaves to defeat what was probably the most powerful nation on earth at the time.

Secondly, she understood the correct response. Although fear had fallen on Jericho and their hearts "melted," only Rahab humbled herself before the Lord. The book of *Proverbs* repeats the phrase, "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*" Like us, the people of Jericho probably feared losing their lives, their wealth, their successes—they feared something they could defeat. They thought they could fight back. Only Rahab understood that they're fighting the Lord, and they won't win.

TEAMWORK GROWS WITH MUTUAL TRUST

Rahab sought protection, asking, ***"Please swear to me by the LORD that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house... deliver our lives from death."*** For her assistance, the men agreed and, as we will see in several chapters, Rahab was spared.

Rahab's fear was correctly placed and her trust in the Lord solidified her place in the lineage of Jesus himself (Matthew 1:5). Jesus said in Matthew 10:28, ***"Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell."*** Rahab understood the difference. Do you?

Many of us deal with "misplaced fear." If the things we fear most are driving a beater car, losing a starting position, being single, bad grades, etc., the our savior is a nice car, the starting lineup, a boy/girlfriend, or all A's. These fears control us—when we win, we're on top of the world. When we don't, we're miserable. If our fear isn't sin and torment in Hell, then any savior will do. However, if our fear is sin and torment in Hell, then *only* Jesus can save.

Not only does God save us through correcting our fears, but it also frees us to live boldly for him. When we fear God above all else, nothing, and I mean *nothing*, can stop us.