

Big Idea: I will only move onward from the shame of my past when I am tied to the rope of God's rescue.

Have you ever tried to get a red stain out of carpet or clothing? How difficult was it?

What is shame? Is it hurtful or helpful? Why? What causes shame? How difficult is it to get rid of shame?

1. Onward from the shame of our past. (1-8)

What do you think would cause a little girl with dreams of being a wife and mom to become a prostitute? How do you think men had treated Rahab? How do you think Rahab perceived men? Do you think she had any respect or trust for men? Why or why not?

Rahab had experienced sex, but never love. What's the difference?

What the difference between being loved and begin used?

What about you? To what degree have you experienced the same kind of shame that Rahab carried?

What kinds of sins had been committed against her?

What kinds of sins had been committed by her?

Discuss this statement: *"Your past may explain your sin but your past doesn't excuse your sin."*

2. Onward by faith in our present. (9-24)

What response did Rahab have to the knowledge of God? Faith or Fight? Which do you do?

Why do you think she asked the men for a sign and not just a promise in verse 12?

What impact do you think it had on Rahab to hear these words from men, "Our life for yours"? (v.14) Do you think she felt loved?

What did the spies have in common with Rahab? What do you have in common with the spies and Rahab?

How much red had the spies seen 40 years earlier on the night of Passover? (Exodus 12)

How much red was seen on the day Jesus died on the cross?

Read Isaiah 1:18. What does the sign of scarlet represent in this verse?

Read Ephesians 1:7. What does the sign of red blood represent in this verse?

What is the evidence of Rahab's faith? Discuss this statement: *"It is not great faith, but faith in a great God that results in the rescue."*

What would have happened to Rahab if she believed she would be saved but didn't tie the rope in the window? What would have happened if she tied a rope of any other color than scarlet?

What happens to a person who talks about faith, but doesn't demonstrate it?

Discuss these two aspects of the gospel. How do you see them at work in Rahab's life?

- **Justification - Jesus forgives the sin committed BY YOU.**
- **Expiation - Jesus cleanses the sin committed AGAINST YOU.**

3. Onward in hope for our future. (6:22-25)

What happened to Rahab when Israel invaded Canaan?

What happened to the place where her sin and shame originated? She would never return to the place of her sin and shame. How does this reflect what God does when he saves us?

Pastor Trent said, *“In order for the spies to be rescued, they had to trust the rope as they repelled down it from one end to the other. In order for Rahab to be rescued she had to move from clinging to her sin & shame to clinging to the blood & cross. The same is true for us. One end of the rope is tied to my sin and shame. The other end is tied to the blood and the cross of Jesus. My identity will be determined by which end of the rope I cling to.”*

Have you chosen who will determine your identity?

- **My identity will no longer be determined by what has been done BY ME.**
- **My identity will no longer be determined by what has been done TO ME.**
- **My identity will now be determined only by what Jesus has done FOR ME.**

Is your identity tied to your sin and shame?

Is your identity tied to the blood and cross of Jesus?

Read these verses. How was Rahab identified in these verses? Are you identified by these qualities?

- **Hebrews 11:31. Rahab was identified by her faith.**
- **James 2:25. Rahab was identified by her works.**
- **Matthew 1:5. Rahab was identified by her legacy**

Additional Scripture

- Hebrews 9:12-14
- 1Corinthians 5:7
- 1John 1:7
- Revelation 1:5
- Revelation 12:11