

Hope in the LORD! Be strong! Let your heart take courage! Hope in the LORD!  
(Psalm 27:14)

## Rahab – Joshua 2:1-24

### Prepare to Wonder

#### Faith Word: COURAGE

We are beginning the unit on courageous women. Today's Bible story is about Rahab. People often wonder why spies would stop at the house of Rahab. It was a good place for a quick stay and escape, because it was built into the city walls. And, as it would seem, Rahab played a significant role in this story. She had to act quickly and made the decision to protect the spies.

God directed the spies to Rahab's house so that Rahab might be instrumental in the victory. This story can teach us that everyday people can be courageous and help make a big difference. Rahab was smart and clever and made quick and wise decisions, even when it was hard to know what to do. But she trusted in God, and these acts demonstrated her courage.

God was with Rahab and with the spies. Rahab was faithful to God, which gave her the courage to make decisions and to help others. Children can see that they, too, can be courageous and help others. Having courage can be hard, and sometimes we might not know what to do. But God gives us the gift of courage so that we might have the strength to do what is right and what is good.

#### Spiritual Practice for Adults

Think fast. We hear this a lot in sports and in competitive situations. In our Bible story, this was truly what Rahab had to do. She thought fast and made the decision to protect her family.

As parents, caregivers, and leaders of children, we know what it means to have to think fast. Children can be unpredictable, and we often are kept on our toes. This week, think of a time when you had to make a quick decision to help or to protect a child. Journal about your experience. Ask, "Where was God during my decision-making? Did I have time to pray, or did I have a natural response to the situation?"

# Come Together

## Welcome to Wonder

**Supplies:** *Class Pack—pp. 16 & 17; Leader Guide—pp. 4, 85; Activity Sheets (Session 9); Celebrate Wonder Annual Music CD; CD player; stickers or markers; items for Wonder Table (small table, green cloth, and items such as a candle, rocks or stones, a plant, a flashlight); Wonder Box; a red rope; tape; paper punch; string; scissors*

**Prepare Ahead:** *Display the Attendance Chart (Class Pack). Set up a Wonder Table (see Leader—p. 4). Place the red rope inside the Wonder Box. Set the Wonder Box on the Wonder Table.*

- Play “Celebrate Wonder” (CD) as the children arrive. Lyrics are on page 85 of the Leader Guide.
- Greet each child. Show the children where to mark the Attendance Chart using a sticker or a marker.
- Distribute this week’s Activity Sheet (Session 9). Provide tape, a paper punch, and string. Help the children make the craft.

## Sing and Celebrate

**Supplies:** *Leader Guide—p. 88, Celebrate Wonder Annual Music CD or Celebrate Wonder DVD, CD player, DVD player, TV*

**Prepare Ahead:** *Photocopy “Song Sheet—Unit 3” for each child.*

- Gather the children around the Wonder Table, and hand out the Song Sheets.
- Play “Kind & Brave” (CD or DVD). Invite the children to sing and celebrate.

## Wonder Time

### Share a Story

**Supplies:** *CEB Bible; Class Pack—pp. 4, 10 & 23; Celebrate Wonder DVD; TV; DVD player; scissors*

**Prepare Ahead:** *Obtain the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 23). Cut out the Wonder Story Mat Figures (Class Pack—p. 4). You will use Rahab today.*

- Lay the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat on the floor.
- Read from the Bible today’s story in Joshua 2:1-24.
- Let a child move or place Rahab on the red rope on the Wonder Story Mat.
- Watch the Session 9 video on the DVD.

## Wonder with Me

*Supplies:* Class Pack—pp. 8 & 25, Wonder Cube (from a previous quarter or from the Digital Pack at [CokesburyKids.com](http://CokesburyKids.com)), Wonder Box (containing a red rope)

*Prepare Ahead:* Display the Unit 3 Faith Word poster (Class Pack). Locate a Wonder Cube.

- Let a child roll the Wonder Cube. Direct the children to answer the question(s) about the Bible story. You can interact with the Wonder Cube as time allows.
- Then pick up the Wonder Box and place it in front of the children.

**SAY:** Today's faith word is *Courage*: choosing to act in faith, even when you are afraid.

- Wonder together:
  - What is courage?
  - How does courage feel?
  - How was Rahab courageous?
  - What do you think is inside our Wonder Box today?
- Open the Wonder Box and reveal the red rope.

**SAY:** In our Bible story, Rahab protected the spies and taught us a lot about courage.

## Experience Wonder

### One Minute (Game)

*Supplies:* ropes (one per pair), timer

- Divide the group into pairs. Give each pair a rope.
- SAY:** The goal of the game is to see how many knots you can tie in the rope in one minute. Then your partner will have one minute to untie all the knots.
- Set the timer for one minute, and have one child in each pair begin tying knots. When the minute is up, have the children who tied knots give their partner the rope.
  - Set the timer again, and have the second child in each pair attempt to untie all the knots.
  - You may play the game again, with the pairs switching who ties the rope and who unties it.

## Deciding (Logical)

*Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 60, pens, pencils, crayons, markers*

*Prepare Ahead: Photocopy “Deciding” for each child.*

**WONDER:** How do you make decisions?

- Give each child a copy of “Deciding.”
- Direct each child to pick a question and to write or draw the answer.
- Let each willing child share her or his chosen question and response.
- Encourage the other children to use the deciding factors to understand why the child chose his or her answer.

**SAY:** Sometimes we have to think through how we make our decisions, how we respond, or how we answer hard questions.

**WONDER:** Would you change your answer?

*Tip: Children also could answer the questions in pairs.*

## Courageous Women (Mission)

*Prepare Ahead: Invite an influential woman in your church family to speak to the children.*

- Gather the children together.

**SAY:** This month we are learning about important women in the Bible.

**WONDER:** Do you have any important women in your life? What makes them important?

- Allow the speaker to talk about being courageous.
- Then invite the children to ask the speaker questions.

**WONDER:** What did you learn?

## Peaceful Place

*Supplies: suggested books: “Courage” by Bernard Waber and “Say Something!” by Peter H. Reynolds; quiet toys and items: “Would You Rather...?” playing cards, plastic loom and red ribbon, Bible maps*

- Locate the suggested books and quiet items, and place them in the Peaceful Place.
- Allow children who want or need a quieter activity to visit the Peaceful Place.

*Tip: You may choose to include other quiet toys, books, or activities.*

# Go in Peace

## Spiritual Practice—Exploring Courage Through Discipline

*Supplies:* Leader Guide—p. 89, “Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book” (optional)

*Prepare Ahead:* Photocopy “Celebration Chart” (Leader Guide) for children who have not received it yet.

- Have the children stand near the Wonder Table.

**SAY:** We learned about Rahab, who made a quick decision and demonstrated her courage to help others. Our Bible verse for today is “Hope in the LORD! Be strong! Let your heart take courage! Hope in the LORD!”

**WONDER:** What does it mean to let your heart take courage?

**SAY:** Let’s do a body prayer to remember the Bible story and the Bible verse. Repeat the words and motions after me.

**SAY:** Hope in the LORD! (*Put your fist straight up in the air.*)

Be strong! (*Flex your arm muscles.*)

Let your heart take courage! (*Place your hands over your heart.*)

Hope in the LORD! (*Put your fist straight up in the air.*)

Amen.

- Send “Celebration Chart” home with children who have not received it yet.
- Encourage the children and their families to use the “Celebration Chart” and to read together the quarterly *Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book* (if purchased).

**DECIDING FACTORS**

**Clarity**—the details

Could you draw what you mean?

Could you give me an example?

**Accurate**—facts and research

How could we check that?

How could we test that?

**Relevant**—related to the problem

Does it answer the question?

How does this help us?

**Fairness**—being aware of others

Are you considering the thoughts and feelings of others?

What emotions might you be feeling?

**QUESTIONS**

1. How would you feel if you were Rahab?

2. What other decision could Rahab have made?

3. How would you have solved the problem?

4. Where was God in this story?

5. Where did this story take place?