

# FAITH LIKE US

## HEROES: JOSHUA

### Here's some background, and what we need to know:

- Historical book (1400 to 1375 BC) - Written about 1375 BC by Joshua and Israelite scribes
- This book begins the story of Israel as a nation and contains the first events to take place upon entering the promise land.
- Moses has led the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt, Joshua was Moses' assistant (Numbers 11:28) and Moses appoints Joshua the leader who takes Israel into the promised land.

**Numbers 13:16** These are the names of the men Moses sent out to explore the land. (Moses called Hoshea son of Nun by the name Joshua.) (NLT)

- The name Hoshea (or Hosea) means "salvation," or "deliverer," while Joshua or Jehoshua means "Jehovah (Yahweh) is salvation."
- Jewish tradition says that he was born in 1355 BC and died in 1245 BC. (42 years old when he spied on the promised land, 82 years old when Israel took Jericho)
- Joshua's childhood isn't mentioned in the Bible. He was probably between 30 and 40 years old when he first spied on the promise land (Numbers 13-14), only he and Caleb wanted to take the land, the other 10 were afraid, and because everyone agreed with the 10, the nation had to wander in the wilderness for 40 more years. Everyone 20 and older will die and not enter the land, except Joshua and Caleb.
- We see him in Exodus; Numbers; Deuteronomy - but primarily his story plays out in the book of Joshua.

- Joshua 11 covers his conquests to the north after the army finished in the south. Mapping is extremely difficult, not only because many exact locations aren't known, but because Joshua 10 lists primarily by cities and regions (south), and Joshua 11 lists by kingdoms (north).
- The book of Joshua consists of 5 segments:
  1. Jericho - Rahab, Spies, Walls falling down, Joshua about 80 years old (1-5)
  2. Conquering the land - 7 years of battle, 31 kingdoms (6-9)
  3. Sun stands still (10-12)
  4. Distribution of the land - wars are over, Joshua is about 87-89 years old (13-21)
  5. Final orders and death at age 110 (22-24)

### Key Moments:

**Exodus 33:12** When the people saw the cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, they would stand and bow down in front of their own tents. **11** Inside the Tent of Meeting, the Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Afterward Moses would return to the camp, but the young man who assisted him, Joshua son of Nun, would remain behind in the Tent of Meeting. (NLT)

**Joshua 1:9** "This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (NLT)

**Joshua 24:14** "So fear the Lord and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord alone. **15** But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord." (NLT)

**Joshua 2:1** Then Joshua secretly sent out two spies from the Israelite camp at Acacia Grove. He instructed them, "Scout out the land on the other side of the Jordan River, especially around Jericho." So the two men set out and came to the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there that night. **2** But someone told the king of Jericho, "Some Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land." **3** So the king of Jericho sent orders to Rahab: "Bring out the men who have come into your house, for they have come here to spy out the whole land." **4** Rahab had hidden the two men, but she replied, "Yes, the men were here earlier, but I didn't know where they were from." **5** They left the town at dusk, as the gates were about to close. I don't know where they went. If you hurry, you can probably catch up with them." **6** (Actually, she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them beneath bundles of flax she had laid out.) **7** So the king's men went looking for the spies along the road leading to the shallow crossings of the Jordan River. And as soon as the king's men had left, the gate of Jericho was shut.

### Lesson #1

## \_\_\_\_\_ Like Us

**8** Before the spies went to sleep that night, Rahab went up on the roof to talk with them. **9** "I know the Lord has given you this land," she told them. "We are all afraid of you. Everyone in the land is living in terror. **10** For we have heard how the Lord made a dry path for you through the Red Sea when you left Egypt. And we know what you did to Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan River, whose people you completely destroyed. **11** No wonder our hearts have melted in fear! No one has the courage to fight after hearing such things. For the Lord your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below. **12** "Now swear to me by the Lord that you will be

kind to me and my family since I have helped you. Give me some guarantee that **13** when Jericho is conquered, you will let me live, along with my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all their families." **14** "We offer our own lives as a guarantee for your safety," the men agreed. "If you don't betray us, we will keep our promise and be kind to you when the Lord gives us the land."

### Lesson #2

## \_\_\_\_\_ Like Us

**Hebrews 11:31** It was by faith that Rahab the prostitute was not destroyed with the people in her city who refused to obey God. For she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. (NLT)

**James 2:24** So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone.

**25** Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. **26** Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works. (NLT)

**Matthew 1:5** Salmon was the father of Boaz (whose mother was Rahab). Boaz was the father of Obed (whose mother was Ruth). Obed was the father of Jesse. **6** Jesse was the father of King David. (NLT)

### What Keeps People Separated From God:

Believe God Is Not \_\_\_\_\_

Believe God Cannot Be \_\_\_\_\_

Believe God Will \_\_\_\_\_ Me

Believe God \_\_\_\_\_ More Than I Have

Don't Want To \_\_\_\_\_ Control

\_\_\_\_\_ Against God / Christians

**15** Then, since Rahab's house was built into the town wall, she let them down by a rope through the window. **16** "Escape to the hill country," she told them. "Hide there for three days from the men searching for you. Then, when they have returned, you can go on your way." **17** Before they left, the men told her, "We will be bound by the oath we have taken only if you follow these instructions. **18** When we come into the land, you must leave this scarlet rope hanging from the window through which you let us down. And all your family members—your father, mother, brothers, and all your relatives—must be here inside the house. **19** If they go out into the street and are killed, it will not be our fault. But if anyone lays a hand on people inside this house, we will accept the responsibility for their death. **20** If you betray us, however, we are not bound by this oath in any way." **21** "I accept your terms," she replied. And she sent them on their way, leaving the scarlet rope hanging from the window. **22** The spies went up into the hill country and stayed there three days. The men who were chasing them searched everywhere along the road, but they finally returned without success. **23** Then the two spies came down from the hill country, crossed the Jordan River, and reported to Joshua all that had happened to them. **24** "The Lord has given us the whole land," they said, "for all the people in the land are terrified of us." (NLT)

### Lesson #3

\_\_\_\_\_ Like Us

**Isaiah 1:17** Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows.

**18** "Come now, let's settle this," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool. **19** If you will only obey me, you will have plenty to eat. (NLT)

### How Do I Share My Faith

\_\_\_\_\_ An Opening

\_\_\_\_\_ Where They Are

\_\_\_\_\_ Your Story

\_\_\_\_\_ Them A Next Step

\_\_\_\_\_ Connected

\_\_\_\_\_ **AND** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ARE MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE**  
**THAN** \_\_\_\_\_ **AND** \_\_\_\_\_

**2022 Devotions:**  
**Ohio For Jesus**  
**Prayer Guide: Week #32**