

## CHRISTMAS HOPE: RAHAB

Matthew 1:5

Joshua 2

James 2:25-26

Romans 8:1-2

### Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- Is it important to remember the reality of human brokenness and sinfulness at Christmas? Why?
- What do you think: is there anything that can disqualify a person from serving God?

Rahab was a prostitute. Therefore, we might be shocked to see Rahab's name in Jesus' family tree. What's more, she was not even an Israelite. She does not seem to belong; her heritage and trade would seem to make her unworthy of God's attention. And yet, as we study her story, God shows us that no one is beyond his grace, not even a foreign prostitute. He will work through anyone who is willing to serve his kingdom and he welcomes them into his family. In Rahab's story, we find affirmation of God's providence, his grace, and our belonging, as we anticipate the coming birth of Jesus, our Savior, the descendent of Rahab.

**Listen:** [Christmas Hope: Rahab](#)

### Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Rahab was an unexpected source of God's provision for the Israelite spies. A foreigner and an outsider, she was a broken, vulnerable, and imperfect person. In what ways are you like Rahab?
- In segment 2, host Scott Hoezee observes that in [Joshua 2:11](#), Rahab uses what's known in Hebrew as a *merismos*, the style of stating the highest point and the lowest point to stand for everything, when she says, "God is God in heaven above and on the earth below." Reflect on your life for a moment. What are some of the highest and lowest points you could use to describe how God is God of everything in your life? Then, write your own *merismos*!
- Identify instances of God's providence and grace in Rahab's story. What truths do these examples teach you about who God is and how he works?
- Against the odds, Rahab lived out her faith in the God of Israel and God used her faithfulness to advance his plan. She is named in Matthew's genealogy and now belongs to God's family because of her faith, not her past. How does this encourage you in your faith?

### Related Passages

- **Hebrews 11:31**
- **1 Samuel 16:7**
- **John 4:1-42**
- **John 1:1-14**
- **Romans 5:8**

## **Conclusion**

Spend some time reflecting on the following questions. Journal or draw your responses.

- How does Rahab's story make your celebration of Christmas and Christ's birth more profound?
- In what ways does it give you hope?

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<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/christmas-hope-rahab>

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