

Christmas Hope: Rahab

Do you ever question why God would want you in his family? Do you ever feel like you just don't belong or that you're too messed up to bother saving? These feelings are difficult any time of the year but can be particularly acute during the Christmas season. Join *Groundwork* for an Advent reflection on the story of Rahab. Rahab is the second woman named in Jesus' genealogy. She was a prostitute, she wasn't an Israelite, and she was *seemingly* as unworthy of belonging in God's family as one could get. Yet, Rahab is called by name in Jesus' family tree. Join us in discovering biblical truths about faith, deliverance, and belonging in Rahab's story. Together, we'll find encouragement for our own faith in this unexpected story of God's grace.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- 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?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Christmas Hope: Rahab](#)

READ [Matthew 1:5](#), [Joshua 2](#), [James 2:25-26](#), [Romans 8:1-2](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- 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 for further study

[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?

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

Printed on November 4, 2024