

**Introduction:**

1. What kind of undercover work could you most see yourself doing? Why?
2. When have you scouted out a new place to move to or vacation at? What did you look for?

**Understanding:**

3. Read about the original sent-out spies 40 years earlier in Numbers 13:25-33. Contrast how those spies reacted with how Rahab reacted in Joshua 2:8-11. Why do you think Rahab had a different reaction?
4. Read Hebrews 11:31. Why is Rahab referred to so favorably despite being an outsider? How does that connect to Christians who love Jesus but don't think they are part of the "in" group?
5. Read James 2:25. Is James complimenting Rahab for believing the right facts about God? What is James really talking about? And how does it challenge you?
6. Read Matt 1:3-6. What is unusual about this genealogy of Jesus? (One Hint: society back then was very patriarchal) How does this affect how we who belong to Christ think of ourselves?
7. Read Joshua 6:25 for info about what later happened to Rahab. Did she benefit simply because she "knew about God?" What does this say about her kind of faith?
8. There are those who argue that the Israelites in the Old Testament were guilty of "ethnic cleansing", just wantonly slaughtering all the non-Jews. But the spies say to Rahab, a non-Jew, "we will deal kindly and faithfully with you." What does this say about the character of God? What was more important than what ethnic group someone belonged to?
9. A TV teacher claims "Take a risk for God! It always comes out great!" But now read Hebrews 11:35b-40. What does this tell you about the difference between short term success and God's long term guarantee? How can it help overcome your fear of taking a risk?
10. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-30. What does this passage teach us about the kind of people God uses to accomplish His purposes? How does it connect to Rahab? To you?
11. It's wonderful to trace God's mark of protection from the Old Testament all the way through to what we have in Christ.
  - A. Read Exodus 12:7 and 12:23. What was God's mark of protection?

- B. Read Joshua 2:17-18. What was God's mark of protection?
- C. Read 1 Peter 1:18-19. What is God's mark of protection for us now?

12. In Titus 3 Paul encouragingly writes about Jesus "he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy." But read Paul's warning in Verse 9. Why does Paul give the warning? How does it connect to Pastor Dave's admonition to not discuss whether Rahab was right to lie?

**Application:**

- 13. Today's passage teaches us about God's faithfulness to believers who take risks because of their faith. In what area does that encourage you to take a step?
- 14. Pray for Pastor Dave and the rest of the Mali team. Pray for God's protection on their ministry and that their work bears much fruit.