

## **What My Grandmother Taught Me**

### **Lesson Three: Rahab Handout**

Opening Prayer page 29

Our story today is about a prostitute. What is your initial response when you read or hear a story about a prostitute?

Scripture Study

Joshua 2 and Joshua 6:22-25

If you read the scripture passage together in your group, consider a dramatic reading by assigning parts: narrator, Joshua, the king, Rahab, the spies.

What do you perceive was the most motivating factor behind Rahab saving the spies and betraying her king and people?

Rahab seems to be an out-and-out liar. Yet Hebrews 11:31 holds her up as a model of obedience. Why do you believe Rahab is presented as a model of faith? Which of her characteristics do you find most appealing?

In what instances would you find it acceptable and more faithful to lie rather than to tell the truth?

As Rahab negotiates with the spies, the word faithfulness is used. Where have you experienced loyalty and faithfulness in your life?

Rahab takes great responsibility to save her father and brothers. How might we be bound by our responsibilities?

In her negotiations, the Hebrew word *hesed* is used. Often associated with God's steadfast love, why is it significant that a foreign woman embodies God's compassion? What does this reveal about God's nature?

Prostitution is a big part of this lesson. Our author says, "Legal systems tend to shame, blame, and punish sex workers while ignoring those who use their services." What circumstances lead woman into prostitution?

Do you think attitudes towards women's bodies have changed since the days of Rahab and Tamar?

Rahab is an outsider (marginalized) in 4 ways:

- She's a foreigner (to the Israelites)
- She's a prostitute
- She lives on the outskirts of the city
- She is the head of her household in a man's world.

What women in our society are victims of multiple marginality? How can we be their allies?

Our author ends the story with these words: Rahab "calls us to look more carefully for God's presence around us and within us." Who am I failing to see?

What might be the gift I am missing because I am living out of others' expectations and assumptions, rather than God's surprising presence?

End with the prayer on page 34.