

Women's Bible Study
Discussion Questions

Joshua 2

As the chapter opens Joshua faces a tremendous challenge. First Israel has to cross the Jordan river in full flood and then immediately conquer a well-armed and walled city. Joshua decides to send out two spies to secretly scope out the situation.

1. In your opinion, does sending the spies on a secret mission to Jericho signal Joshua's failing to trust the LORD completely? Why or why not? How can faith and common-sense sometimes be compatible?
2. How do you make sense of the fact that the spies stay with Rahab, well known as a prostitute? Does Rahab do a godly or ungodly thing in vs. 4-7 when she lies about the spies' whereabouts? Were her lies necessary to accomplish God's purposes? Why or why not?
3. In vs. 9-11 Rahab gives the spies a remarkable summary of the history of God's miraculous work on Israel's behalf. How are the people of Jericho responding to the news of Israel's success?
4. Rahab herself draws the conclusion: "I know that the LORD Yahweh has given you the land." And further that "He is the God in the heavens above and the earth beneath" (vs. 9, 11). For Rahab, the God of Israel is also the God of Jericho. If this is so apparent to a common prostitute, why do the people of Jericho resist this all-powerful God? In what ways do you see the same resistance manifesting itself in our culture today?
5. The book of James (2:20-24) mentions Rahab as a prime example of faith. James also declares in v. 26 that faith apart from works is dead. In what way(s) do you see faith and works working together in the episode of Rahab and the spies?