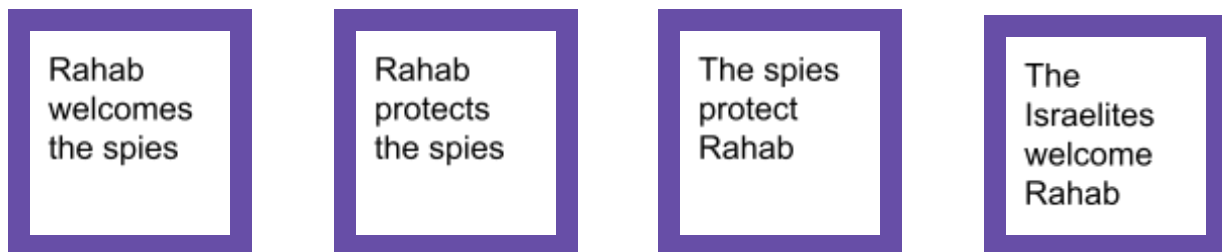


Women in the Word  
Feb. 2, 2021  
Joshua 2  
Topic: Life-Changing Faith  
Leola Floren Gee

## Rahab: Woman of Faith and Ancestor of Jesus Christ

**Jeremiah 29:11:** “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

There’s a lovely balance to the story of Rahab as recorded in Joshua 2. What Rahab does for the spies, the spies do for Rahab.



Rahab put faith in several things, as we so often do. She put her faith in:

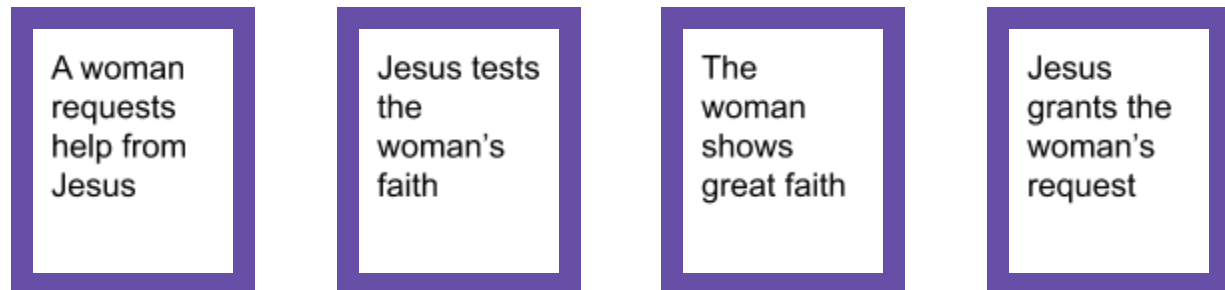
1. \_\_\_\_\_ Result: \_\_\_\_\_
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We have much in common with Rahab. We sometimes put our faith in:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Result: \_\_\_\_\_
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## Jesus encounters another bold Canaanite woman

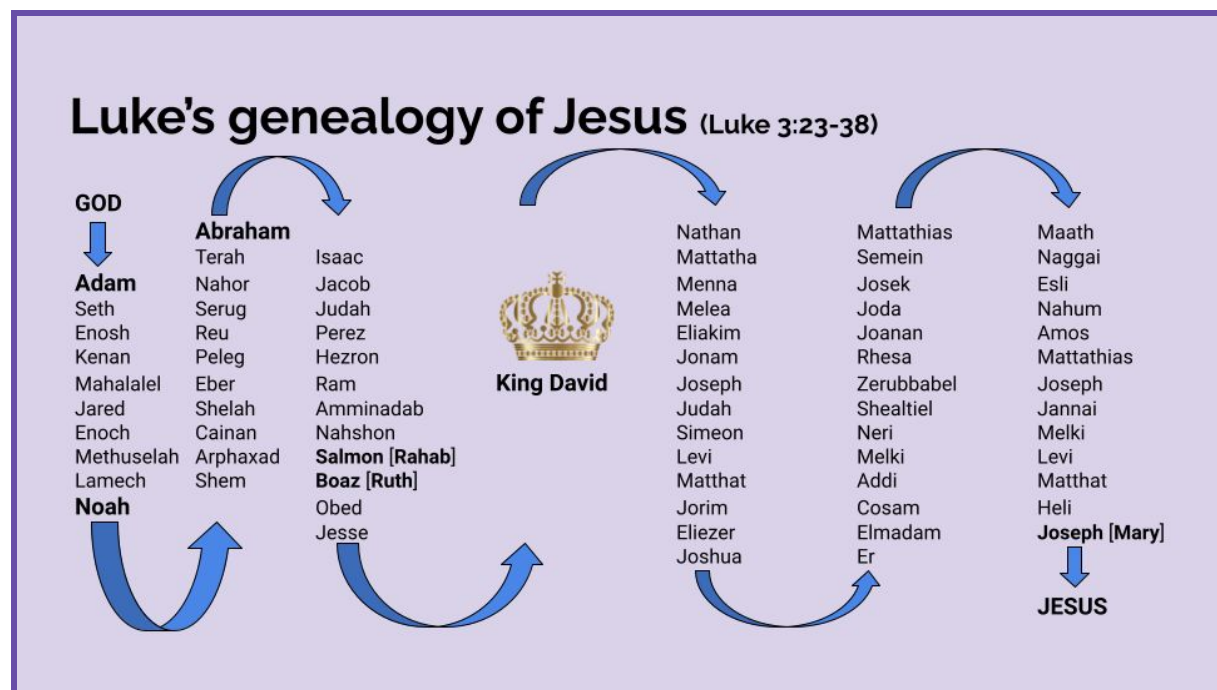
Jesus is the bridge that connects Rahab, a Canaanite woman of the Old Testament with another Canaanite woman of faith who lived 1,400 years later and whose story is told in Matthew 15 and also in Mark 7. We'll briefly review that story.



Faith transformed the lives of Rahab and the Canaanite woman who asked Jesus for help.

- The NT woman sees her daughter restored to good health.
- Rahab's faith is evidenced in the genealogy of Jesus. Rahab marries Salmon, a member of the tribe of Judah. They have a son, Boaz. Boaz grows up and becomes a successful businessman, as we know from the book of Ruth.
- See where Rahab appears on the chart below.

## Jesus' family tree includes Rahab



The genealogy is taken from Luke 3, with Rahab, Ruth, and Mary added for the purpose of today's lesson. Luke's genealogy differs from Matthew's, and many Bible scholars attribute the differences to this:

- Matthew traced the genealogy of Joseph, who was descended from King David through his son Solomon.
- Luke traced the genealogy of Mary, who was descended from King David through his son Nathan.

The Jews traced ancestry through the father, which is why Joseph is listed even though he is not Jesus' biological father. Bottom line: In the New Testament, Jesus' ancestry is traced through both Mary and Joseph, and both are descendants of Rahab, as well as her great-great grandson, King David.

No matter who your ancestors are: kings and queens, theologians, prostitutes, train robbers...every one of them is a sinner in need of a savior. No exceptions. That's why Jesus came. And as we put our faith in him--as Rahab put her faith in the God of Israel even before she knew him--he offers us an escape from certain destruction: not through a window, but through the cross.

## **Discussion questions**

1. How do we reconcile Rahab's lies with what we know to be God's attitude toward lying? (see Proverbs 12:22)
2. Was Rahab saved because of her actions or because of her faith? (see James 2:24-26)
3. What lessons about faith can we take away from the story of Rahab?