

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PRAY TOGETHER

Father God, we invite you to open our eyes and soften our hearts as we gather, just as you did for Rahab when she recognized you as the God of heaven and earth. Help us to hear your voice above every label, reputation, or lie we've believed about ourselves or others, and to see people as stories you are still writing, not as fixed snapshots. Show each of us a clear next step today so that what we may have been known for in the past is not what we are remembered for, but that our lives would reflect your redemption.

ICE BREAKER

What's something funny or unexpected you're "known for" in your family or friend group (backseat driving, grill master, intense sports parent, movie quote master, etc.), and how did you get that reputation?

SERMON OVERVIEW



SCAN FOR
SERMON CLIP



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This week, Pastor CJ leads us as we examine the story of Rahab, a woman whose profession as a prostitute became her label, yet whose faith positioned her for an extraordinary redemption. Rahab chose to align herself with the God of Israel, rather than with the security of Jericho's fortress. What makes this story so compelling is how it challenges our understanding of who qualifies for God's grace. Rahab's journey from the margins to a masterpiece teaches us that what we're currently known for doesn't have to define what we're ultimately remembered for. Her story culminates not just in her rescue from Jericho's destruction, but in her inclusion in both the Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11 and the genealogy of Jesus Christ in Matthew 1. This reminds us that God specializes in taking broken people from shameful situations and weaving them into His redemptive plan. When we choose to anchor our lives to God's promises, we too position ourselves for transformation that transcends our past and propels into a glorious future through the redeeming work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

READ SCRIPTURE

JOSHUA 2:1-21; JAMES 2:20-26; HEBREWS 11:30-31, MATTHEW 1:1-5

CONNECT RELATIONALLY

- 1) Rahab lived under the heavy label of "prostitute," yet God later places her in the "hall of faith" (Hebrews 11:31). How does it make you feel to realize that God is not afraid of, or limited by, your worst labels or moments?
- 2) Pastor CJ contrasted how we often define each other by brief snapshots of a person's story, while God knows every detail in its entirety. When have you jumped to conclusions about someone's character based on a single snapshot and missed the mark? Considering that God, who knows you best, still loves you the most, how should you respond to this truth?
- 3) Why is it significant that Hebrews 11 ends with Rahab rather than a king, priest, or prophet? What encouragement do you find in this truth?

**GROW
SPIRITUALLY**

4) Rahab said, "I know that the Lord has given you this land" and "the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on earth below." How did someone in a pagan culture come to this revelation? Look at Joshua 2. What information, feelings, or concerns helped to influence her decision to pursue the God of Israel?

5) Pastor CJ emphasized that "what you are known for doesn't have to be what you are remembered for," drawing on Rahab's journey from a "house of shame" to the "Hall of Fame." How does Rahab's story biblically illustrate this truth, and what does it reveal about God's redemptive character?

6) James uses Rahab as his example of "faith without works is dead." What was the visible action that demonstrated her faith? Did her actions to help the spies come before or after they agreed to rescue her? How should that impact us?

**LIVE
GENEROUSLY**

7) Pastor CJ warned that when we accept the labels others put on us ("lost cause," "broken," "beyond hope," etc.), we can end up living a kind of "life sentence," trapped in bondage to a lie. What labels, reputations, or past mistakes are you still tempted to see as final and character-defining? What needs to happen for you to reject those and instead embrace your true identity as a redeemed child of God?

8) The scarlet cord made Rahab's faith visible and tied her house to God's promise, marking the difference between destruction and deliverance. What are some "visible markers" you could adopt that clearly show your trust is in Christ (e.g., rhythms, practices, baptism)?

9) God specializes in taking broken people from shameful, seemingly impossible situations and weaving them into His redemptive plan. Who in your life do you need to remember still has hope for redemption?

**TAKE
ACTION**

Based on our conversation today, how is the Holy Spirit inviting you to take a next step in practical application? Please answer this statement:

I am feeling convicted to take the following action (keep it simple):

Please ask each member to share their step if they have one. It is ok if you are still discerning and need time to process, pray and ponder.

**PRAY
TOGETHER**

Please take a few moments to ask each member to share a joy or praise and an area of concern. Ask someone to pray over these requests, and please distribute them to all group members so you may continue to intercede for one another between your meetings.

**ENGAGE
TOGETHER**

Mother's Day at Northview - Join us next weekend for special services designed to honor the most important women in our lives. This weekend is a great opportunity to extend invitations to friends and neighbors and to let the moms in our lives know how much they are loved, seen and valued.