



## **RUNNING WITH THE GIANTS**

Rahab

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Discussion Notes

The Crossing Church

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### **OPENING**

This week we are continuing a series called “Running with the Giants.” The idea for this series comes from the Book of Hebrews where the author gives a long list of people who were giants in the faith. The race of life is a constant challenge, but we don’t have to run it alone. Now we are looking at the lives of biblical giants who ran with endurance and faith, and used their stories to build our own. This summer, we will be running with giants and discovering inspiration for our own journeys. We have these giants of the Bible who have gone before us, sharing their life lessons and helping to keep us from making the same mistakes.

### **SCRIPTURE<sup>1</sup>**

**Joshua 2:1** Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. “Go, look over the land,” he said, “specifically Jericho.”

**Joshua 2:9-12** I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below. Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you.

**Joshua 6:25** Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho – and she lives among the Israelites to this day.

**Hebrews 11:6** And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

### **OBSERVATION**

Rahab, a Canaanite prostitute who lived in Jericho, is the giant of the Bible who is encouraging us this week. She and her family lived in a wall of the city which Joshua and the Israelites were planning to destroy. They sent spies to scope out the city and Rahab saved them from discovery by the enemy. That was an act of great courage because she didn’t know if what she had heard about the power of the Israelites was true; or if the ones she had saved would actually keep their promise to spare her and her family when their army marched on Jericho; or if they would let her live at all. She had no idea what her life would look like after the battle, and she had tremendous insecurities about her decision to help them, but she determined that the God of Israel was worth the risk.

**Question:** So, the big question this week is, “When God asks you to trust him and take big risks for His kingdom, how will you respond?” What fears will you be dealing with?

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<sup>1</sup> All scripture is NIV unless otherwise indicated



## APPLICATION

Some of us are risk averse because taking chances causes us to lose control of our lives. The greatest obstacle to God's power and presence in our lives is our self-sufficiency and the desire to be in control. In every Christian life, God grants opportunities for us to come to the end of ourselves and choose to trust Him. It may be in our marriages, or our careers, or our finances, or in our relationships. He speaks to us through His Word, another person, or He impresses directly on our hearts a radical move He wants us to make. God tells us that, through risk, His power and presence are magnified in our lives. It is called a Rahab risk.

**Question:** In what form has the reality of God's presence manifested itself to you?

**Question:** What is God telling you to do that is so risky you feel faint at heart? What will help you to move forward in obedience?

We think of all of the negative consequences that would result if we take that risk, and need to realize that we are demonstrating a lack of faith. Ouch! That hurts. Rahab isn't telling us that risking is easy or that it always turns out okay. Stepping out in faith is initially scary, but there is a blessing in it somewhere, not always what we expect. Her life encourages us because God blessed her far and beyond anything she could have imagined. She went to live with the Israelites and married a man named Salmon. He was a prince in the house of Judah and she feared her background would eventually break up her marriage, but God gave her a family and a son named Boaz. You remember him, he was the kinsman redeemer of Ruth, and their great, great grandchild was King David. Who could have imagined that? Rahab, the prostitute, in the lineage of Christ! <sup>2</sup> Rahab is telling us that, when we take radical risks in the Name of the Lord, He becomes more real and more personal to us.

**Question:** What amazing thing can you imagine God will do in your life if you trust Him with a giant's courage?

**Question:** Tell us about a past experience you had with God when he impressed upon you His will that you take a huge, life-changing risk? What was it? How did it extend to the rest of your family?

It takes faith to take great risks. Hebrews defines faith as believing that God exists and He wants good things for us. Because Rahab trusted God He gave her an epic love story and a place in history. She is whispering in our ears that her trust in God was worth it and ours will be, too.

**Question:** In remembering our previous weeks' studies, has anything those giants said touched you directly? If so, which ones and what actions have they encouraged you to take?

**Question:** What risky prayer do you need to pray today? When will you trust enough to do it? Remember, loving God is obeying Him.

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we fear so many things needlessly. If only we had the faith of Abraham, Jacob, Noah, Gideon, Moses and Rahab we could get out of our comfort zones and open up new Spirit-filled futures. Lord, please prepare us for those Rahab times and give us the power, wisdom and humility we need through Your Holy Spirit to step out and obey. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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<sup>2</sup> Matthew 1:5