

LESSON AIM:

This lesson is to teach the principles of salvation through the story of Rahab and the two spies from Israel.

KEY SCRIPTURES: Joshua 2:1-21

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- 1) Who was Joshua?
- 2) What did God tell the people of Israel to do?
- 3) What happened to the city of Jericho?
- 4) Review last week’s verse; have students explain it in their own words.

INTRODUCTION:

- This lesson features the story of Rahab, a Canaanite harlot, who made a confession of faith and then demonstrated that faith (see James 2: 24, 25) by putting a scarlet cord in her window.
- “The scarlet cord’ is used in this lesson as an expression of the practice of animal blood sacrifice so that sins could be covered until Jesus would come and shed His blood once and for all.
- The practice of the shedding of blood becomes a “scarlet thread” throughout the pages of the Bible that ultimately leads us to Jesus who shed His blood for us to pay the redemption price for our sin.

LESSON:

Before attacking Jericho, Joshua sent two spies into the city. They were taken in by a woman named Rahab who hid and protected them when the king of Jericho learned that the spies had come into the city. Rahab told the spies that the Canaanites living in Jericho had heard about the God of Israel and the mighty works that He had done in bringing them out of Egypt and across the wilderness. She confessed her belief in God saying, “The Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath.”

When the spies got ready to leave and return to their camp they promised that the home of Rahab would be protected if she put a scarlet cord in her window. Anyone coming into her home would be protected from the attack upon Jericho Rahab tied the cord in her window and Jericho fell, she and all of her family that were in her home were saved. They were saved because of the scarlet cord (Joshua 2:17-21). The scarlet cord became the most important thing in her home, the most valuable—its presence would be their salvation.

The color scarlet is the same color as blood. Just as the scarlet cord was necessary to save Rahab, so the blood of Jesus is necessary to save you and I. Blood is mentioned often in the Bible. (You could have a scarlet cord that you pull from your Bible as you speak) The scarlet trail of blood runs all the way through the Bible. Remember the Passover Lamb. The lamb was killed so that its blood could be placed around the doorways of the homes of the Hebrews who were in Egypt and protect them from death. God had said “when I see the blood, I will pass over you” If there was no

blood on the doorposts then the firstborn will die.

Later, an important practice would be established: whenever someone sinned an animal would die in that person's place. The person that sinned would bring the animal, often a lamb, to the tabernacle and the animal would be slain and its blood would be placed upon the altar. The blood would be a temporary covering for the sin of that person.

This practice of substituting an innocent sacrifice would continue all through the Bible...the trail of blood through the pages of the Bible has been called 'the scarlet cord of redemption'. That trail of blood leads us to the Lord Jesus Christ in the New Testament who gave His life and shed His blood for us. Sin has a high price - -the Bible says that "the wages of sin is death" - - and the only price that can be paid to redeem us from the penalty of our sin is the shed blood of Jesus Christ. After all of the animals that were sacrificed in the Old Testament finally one would come who would shed His blood once and for all. John the Baptist called Jesus "the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world".

The scarlet cord that Rahab would receive from the two Hebrew spies would become her most cherished possession—far more important than anything she would ever own. It was a symbol of her faith, a symbol of salvation. The most important possession that any one could have today is eternal life given to us by Jesus who purchased it with His own shed blood. We can't see it, but we can know that we have it by the promise in the Bible. Never be ashamed of Jesus, the eternal life that He has given you, or the Bible, the Word of God!

MEMORY VERSE:

(Even year):

"...the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and earth beneath" Joshua 2:11b

(Odd year):

"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow." Isaiah 1:18