

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 7

Question 1

- a) Faith requires action. To spy the land was not to doubt God, but to use the gifts God had given him and obey His commands. Of course, he would then leave the outcome to God.
- b) Remember that Joshua was a military man. Anticipating what they were up against and drawing up a strategy were second nature to him.
- c) We have to do our part when God calls us.
- d) Bearing in mind the debacle of the previous spying trip some 38 years earlier, we note that the spies' mission here was to determine not whether, but when and how an attack could be made.

Question 2

- a) They would have stuck out like a sore thumb trying to blend in with the people of Jericho. They had to find somewhere to stay and to hide.
- b) Strange men going into the house of a prostitute would not arouse suspicion. They were less likely to draw attention to themselves.
- c) Of course at this stage they were unaware that their cover had very quickly been blown.
- d) We soon see that God has prepared an unexpected way.

Question 3

- a) We need to be clear that God could have protected the spies without Rahab's lie.
- b) Verses 9-11 explain Rahab's actions. It was about faith.
- c) She had heard about Israel's God opening up the Red Sea. She had heard how He had given them victory over their enemies.
- d) Her conclusion was *that "He is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath"*. Note her use of the title *"the LORD your God"*.
- e) Rahab was convinced that this God had given the Israelites the land of Canaan.
- f) Although her faith was at its very early stage she knew that no-one could get in the way of what Israel's God was going to do.

Question 4

- a) God had been preparing Rahab so that she was ready to hear and accept the reasons that the spies were in Canaan (see verse 14).
- b) In verse 9 God uses Rahab to reaffirm to the Israelites that He has given them the land.
- c) In verse 11 the spies are also given important information to report back to Joshua. The people of Jericho were afraid: *"our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you"*.
- d) This is a wonderful passage on the sovereignty of God!

Question 5

- a) Her reaction would have been normal for her. Denying associations with certain men would have been part of the etiquette of her profession.
- b) It would be through this story that Rahab would meet this Great God for herself and become part of the nation of Israel (see **Joshua 6:25**).
- c) One of the most significant references to Rahab is found in **Matthew 1:5**. She marries the Israelite Salman and becomes the Great-Great-grandmother of David.

Question 6

- a) Trusting God still requires us to be responsible in doing our part, to the best of our ability (note that Joshua still sent spies).
- b) God uses the most unlikely people to carry out his purposes.
- c) God uses the most unlikely people and situations to confirm his promises (see **verse 9**).
- d) God is sovereign over all circumstances and goes in front of us to prepare the way (note Moses' words to Joshua in **Deuteronomy 31:8**).