

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 8

Question 1

- a) Notice again how Rahab addresses Israel's God as 'LORD'. Her description of God in verse 11 shows the belief that He is able to give the city into the Israelites hands and that nothing can stop Him.
- b) Note that Rahab seems to be clear that there will be total defeat for her people and that the city will be destroyed. This leads to her specific request.
- c) There is also an understanding here that although she is afraid of the activity of Almighty God, she also senses that there is mercy to be found in Him.
- d) These verses give evidence of Rahab's faith: *"Genuine faith never rests content with being convinced of the reality of God but presses on to take refuge in God"* (Dale Ralph Davis).
- e) Only the supernatural work of God could have created such faith in a pagan prostitute!

Question 2

- a) The spies also demonstrate faith (observe the difference in between them and the 10 spies back in Numbers 13).
- b) In verse 14 they make a promise in the form of a binding oath (see v17). This oath in effect invokes punishment on them with death if they do not perform their promise to save Rahab's life (see verse 19b).
- c) Note also in verse 18 their total confidence in what God is going to do: *"when we come into the land"*.

- d) Also in verse 18 we see that the scarlet cord would be a visible testimony to the oath they had just made. They trusted God to keep His word and save Rahab and her family.

Question 3

- a) A simple Scarlet cord in the window would be all that was required for that house to remain untouched. When Joshua's army saw the cord they would spare the lives of all those inside.
- b) It was a simple instruction, but would it work? This is true faith!
- c) She was to gather her family together and not let them leave the house what ever happened. If they did, they would be outside of the protection and salvation offered to Rahab.
- d) She was not to tell anyone about the visit of the spies or that the Israelites were going to attack Jericho. This was total dependence on God.

Question 4

- a) This is reminiscent of the Passover, where the angel of death visited the firstborn of all the Egyptian families while the Israelites were saved.
- b) When God saw the blood on the door frames of the Israelite homes in **Exodus 12:13**, He would pass over.
- c) Note also in **Exodus 12:22** Moses' instruction to the people that they must remain in the house. If they did not, then they would be outside of the protection offered to them.

Question 5

- a) Some scholars have struggled with James seemingly suggesting that salvation is gained through works.
- b) A closer examination of James 2 shows that he is certainly not contradicting the rest of scripture. Rather, the point he is making is that salvation by faith is then to be demonstrated by action (see James 2:17).
- c) Rahab in our passage is given the opportunity to do something to demonstrate her faith in God.
- d) She literally puts her life on the line. If she had been found out, it would have without doubt cost her that life.
- e) She hid the spies; she let them escape; she told them the best way to escape (v16); she tied a simple piece of rope from her window having believed it would save her and her family.

Question 6

Encourage the group members to share their personal observations. These might include aspects of the passage that they did not understand before; or lessons about faith which can be applied today.