



Faith Adventures Youth Resource

Embedded in Faith Adventures: Children Together, this youth resource is intergenerational in nature and designed to foster God-connection in church, home and beyond.

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link:
<https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Faith-Adventures-How-To-FAYR.pdf>

Joshua 2: 1 - 7 – Rahab's brave decision

Theme: God is with us when we have to make courageous decisions

Contents:

Introduction	1
Together	2
Experience	2
Explore	2
Express	3

Introduction: What would be helpful to know before we begin?

Joshua 2

The theme for this session is 'God is with us when we make courageous decisions'.

It looks at the story of Rahab – one of the few women who is named in the Bible – and her interaction with two spies who had been sent by Joshua to scout out the city of Jericho.

In every Bible translation we explored, Rahab is described as either a 'prostitute' or a 'harlot'. It may surprise people to see this word in the Bible. A prostitute is when someone sells their body to someone else for sex. Harlot is an old fashioned word for prostitute and tends only to be used in a disapproving or derogatory sense.

Rahab had to make a quick, but potentially life-threatening, decision: does she hide the men from the King? Or does she hand them over? Handing them over would probably result in their death, while not handing them over but them being found, would likely result in all three of them being killed.

So in this session we are encouraging discussion and thought around the decisions and choices we have to make that take courage.

We will explore the idea that bravery or courage isn't a lack of fear but, rather, doing something despite being scared.

And we invite the question: is God always with us when we make decisions?

Together

Let's start our time with God and each other well

If used in a mixed-age group, then young people can support younger ones in using the gathering prayer in Faith Adventures: Children Together. If used in a youth group, you could use this opening prayer or encourage young people to open the session with a prayer of their own.

All mighty God,

Be with us as we learn more about you through stories and people in the Bible.

Help us to walk in your way and follow your path.

Be with us as we make decisions that affect our lives, and the lives of those around us.

Amen

In-person and Alternative game

See this week's Faith Adventures : Children Together for suitable games for this theme.

Experience

Research different versions of this reading on <https://www.biblegateway.com/> recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV

Watch Vantage: Rahab Bible Story <https://youtu.be/bSdmxJbhWjA?feature=shared>

Discuss

- What three things really stand out for you from this clip?
- What do you think was Rahab's motivation for the choices she made?
- Does it help to hear the story from Rahab's point of view?
- What questions do you have about this story?

(Note: Yahweh is the Hebrew name for God)

Explore

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

A new way to explore the theme

You may wish to use the Explore section from this week's Faith Adventures: Children Together to guide your exploration of the theme this week.

Alternatively: Rahab took a courageous decision when she hid the men and distracted the soldiers, she did what she thought was right. There are many other people in history who made courageous decisions, ones they felt were right even though they knew it might have negative consequences for them individually.

Spend some time looking at those people in history who made courageous decisions, here are a couple of suggestions: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Rosa-Parks> Rosa Parks and <https://malala.org/malalas-story> Malala Yousafzai.

What is that makes these people act courageously? I wonder what would be considered a courageous act?

If jumping into a river to save a child is considered courageous, is jumping into a river to save a dog courageous? What about a hamster? Is it ever more courageous not to jump into the river or to stay on dry land and call the emergency services?

If standing up to a bully who is hurting your best friend is considered courageous, is standing up to a bully who is hurting someone you don't know courageous too? What about if the person being bullied was your worst enemy? Is it ever more courageous not to step in and stand up to the bully but to go and get a teacher instead?

Discuss any other similar situations people may find themselves in.

Modern parables

You may also enjoy the picture book recommended for Faith Adventures: Children Together and explore the relevance of the story to the theme of the session in more depth – young people and adults are often well tuned in to the deeper meanings in materials aimed at younger people and the authors are often very aware of the adults reading the books to or with younger ones.

Watch: Phoebe and Joey – There are no selfless acts:
<https://youtu.be/jgr-CpLNCYo?si=ixAiQr26lI8uVAXW>

Questions for discussion

- Do you agree that there are no selfless acts?
- What makes an action truly selfless?

Talking together: Going deeper

- Why do you think Rahab made the decision to help the men? (You might want to read the rest of the chapter for context)
- Do people sometimes have to be brave because they have limited choice? How does power or status influence bravery?
- How can you tell the difference between a courageous decision and a stupid or rash decision?

Conversation starters

- Is it ever courageous to do nothing?
- I wonder why God made it so we need to be brave sometimes?
- Is bravery a head decision or a heart decision?

Express

How do we respond to what we've discussed and express our faith personally?

Praying together

Prayer Respond to the theme by writing or saying a short prayer. Alternatively use the creative prayer from Faith Adventures: Children Together for this session, or use the prayer activity below

Alternatively light a candle and play some music while you listen and talk to God together, or use this prayer:

(Leave a decent pause between each sentence to allow personal reflection)

Strong God

Why do I often take the cowardly way out?

Why do I not always speak up when I see something that is unjust?

Why do I not always act when I see something that is wrong?

Is it because I'm scared?

Is it because I'm worried about what might happen to me if I do or say something?

Supporting God, your presence gives me strength and courage

You were there for Rahab when she needed to be brave.

You were there for Jesus when he needed courage

Be with me, too, so that the right decisions can be made and the right actions taken.

Amen

Responding together

This is an opportunity for a social justice challenge, some research, craftivism, or a craft or STEM activity. You may have a specific activity chosen but free choice is also an option. Here are some suggestions for this week's theme. See Faith Adventures: Children Together for a craft and a STEM activity which may also be appropriate. Choose whatever will work best for your group.

Be brave boxes!

Have a collection of boxes with a hand hole in each, the challenge is to insert a hand in and see what can be found in each box. Choose a variety of objects or materials with different shapes and textures.

Make the boxes increasingly challenging to try – you could add things which are not so pleasant to touch such as a toy rubber snake, baked beans, a toy spider etc

The boxes could also be filled with packing material like shredded paper or packing chips making the items harder to find and add a time limit for guessing the items in the box.

Just a note to remember when choosing items to place in the box to consider the needs of those who have touch sensitivity.

Challenge

Discipleship doesn't stop when you walk out of the church door – it is a part of everyday life. Take a challenge with you and try to make it part of your week.

You may think of your own suggestion of what you as an individual or a group might do in the coming week in response to what you have explored today? If not here are some suggestions:

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- Use one of the “conversation starter” questions or the question below to talk with someone of a different generation or from a different setting and share your questions, thoughts, insights together. **What is the most courageous thing you have ever done?**
 - Research something suggested by JPIT [Resources \(jpit.uk\)](https://jpit.uk) or Commitment For Life cforl.co.uk
 - Research different acts of bravery shown by others. What does it show you about how people act in different situations? Is there something you need to be brave about this week? Perhaps these stories of bravery may help you?

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosa_Parks courageous act during apartheid

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corrie_ten_Boom courageous act hiding jews during 2nd world war

Thank you for exploring the **Rahab** passage with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing children.youth@urc.org.uk or by sharing it on https://bit.ly/FACT_FB