

Welcome to the eleventh week of

25 Weeks of Advent!

The stories of Advent all give us some insight as to the point and value of Jesus' life for us.

Rahab had *heard* of God, and His chosen people: she had *heard* about how God had dried up the Red Sea when He led the people out of Egypt—and she had *heard* of their defeat of the Amorite kings, Sihon and Og.

Rahab didn't know God for herself, but because of what she had heard, she *knew* that God was the one true God in heaven and on earth.

Without knowing God personally, she *knew* it was important to obey Him, and follow His ways. Rahab hid two Israelite spies on her roof—risking her own life to save two of the Lord's people! Rahab followed God's way, when she neither knew Him nor understood Him. (*How much more ought we, who do know God, follow Him and obey Him!*)

Obedience to God brings about radical transformational power. God saved Rahab and her family in the destruction of Jericho; He took her life, which was headed down a wrong path, and turned it around through her simple choice to follow His way—Rahab was transformed and redeemed!

Week 11: The Red Rope

Read: Joshua 2, 6:22-25

Rahab hung a scarlet cord from the window of her house—by this cord, Joshua would know she had honoured her oath, and she and her family would be saved. Do you think it was a coincidence that the rope was red? The red rope—the scarlet colour of blood—echoes back to the blood of the lambs on the doorframes during the Passover in Egypt, by which God's people were saved when God passed over. This foreshadows the blood of the Lamb, Jesus, by which we are saved through his sacrifice. Even 'redemption' - the very word! - reminds us of the colour of the rope by which Rahab was saved!

*We have been saved by Jesus; we do not need to hang a rope from our window, or paint blood on our doorframes. **Who in your life hasn't yet been redeemed and transformed by God?** Use your red rope (or ribbon!) as a reminder to pray for salvation this week for someone in your life.*

Rahab was not only saved, but *transformed*. She and her family became a part of the people of Israel, living with them (even amongst them!) for the rest of their life! God actually included Rahab in Jesse's family tree—the family tree of Jesus! An outsider, walking down a path that was leading her away from God! Rahab married Salmon, who was the father of Boaz, the father of Obed, the father of Jesse... the father of King David. Now *that*, is a pretty clear statement from God: "You are in **my family** now, Rahab." A life, transformed, turned upside-down, following God.

Do you see God transforming lives today? How can he use you to reach out to 'Rahab's in your life?'

Remember to add this picture to your Jesse tree!

