**MESSAGE NOTES & Small group discussion guide**

**WEEK 2 – RAHAB: A STORY OF UNLIKELY FAITH**

**Joshua 2 & 6**

**Prelude**

The epicenter of our story today comes from the salvation-history account as recorded in the first six chapters of the Book of Joshua in the Old Testament of the Bible. But in order to better understand the mighty work of God we need to set the scene.

The sons of Israel, the chosen people of God, took their families to Egypt to escape a famine in their homeland. One of the twelve brothers, Joseph, held a high position in the Egyptian government, and as a result, his large extended family was honored as special guests of Pharaoh himself.

But as the years passed and the Hebrews multiplied, they fell out of favor and were eventually enslaved by the Egyptians. It took the leadership of Moses – and a series of breathtaking miracles performed by God himself – to deliver them. God was taking His people home, back to Canaan, the land He had promised would belong to His people forever.

God had promised Abram centuries before that “in the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure” (Gen 15:16).

On the verge of reclaiming their “Promised Land,” the Israelites’ faith in God failed. Fearing the power of the Canaanites, they refused to obey God’s command to advance and take the land. Their disbelief and disobedience resulted in a forty-year delay in the fulfillment of God’s promise. During those forty years, the Israelites wandered as nomads in the desert. All the adults who had left Egypt – and rebelled against God – died in the wilderness.

Finally, a new generation grew up, ready to take its place as God’s army and claim the land promised to its ancestors. Of the original multitude that had left Egypt, only Moses and his two assistants, Joshua, and Caleb, survived.

As the people of Israel approached the Promised Land for the second time, no one could stand against them. First the king of Arad, then King Sihon of the Amorites, then King Og of Bashan – all were put to the sword, their armies annihilated.

Even the five kings of Midian together were unsuccessful in stopping the advancing Israelite army. All of them died in battle, their armies slaughtered, their towns and villages burned, their wealth seized as plunder.

The time had come. The people of God were ready to claim their inheritance from God – the Promised Land. After designating Joshua as the new leader of Israel, the venerable Moses died, and the people prepared to cross the last remaining barrier between them and Canaan: the Jordan River, swollen with spring floods.

Now, all nations quake in terror at the knowledge that Israel is encamped at Shittim, just a short distance from Jericho. The walled fortress, the gateway to Canaan.

**Story One: As told by one of the spies (adapted from Joshua 2)**

**Story Two: As told by Rahab’s father (adapted from Joshua 6)**

**Epilogue**

Rahab and Salmon had a son, Boaz.
Boaz was the father of Obed;
Obed the father of Jesse;
Jesse, the father of King David.
And from the line of King David of the tribe of Judah
came the promised Messiah,

Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord

**Story Take-Aways:**

1. There is life after failure because God uses imperfect people for His glory.
2. God’s grace is scandalous!
3. Jesus is coming again, and His enemies are absolutely terrified as they anticipate absolute defeat!
4. In a dark world about to be judged, there remains one way of salvation.
5. God often takes what looks like hopeless people, with hopeless backgrounds, living in hopeless situations and uses them to bring the hope of God to others.
6. When God saves us – He gives us a future!