

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new?! How is your walk with the Lord? Did you have any opportunities to share the Lord with anyone?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement? How can we pray, encourage, and show love to them?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?
[Dialogue]
2. Read our primary text. As we open this text, we are introduced to a woman by the name of Rahab. What do we know about Rahab from this text and from the Bible as a whole?
Rahab was a prostitute according to our primary text, but the Bible also tells us that Rahab is in the lineage of Jesus (see Matthew 1:1-16), she was a woman of faith (Heb.11:31), and she had good works (James 2:25).
3. Is it safe to assume these men had "relations" with Rahab, given the text mentions she was a prostitute?
Not at all. The Bible frequently describes events as they actually happened, regularly revealing the sinful behaviors of people. Since it is not mentioned here, it is safe to assume that sexual relations were not present.
4. How well did the two spies execute the mission of spying?
Not too well. The King of Jericho was made aware almost immediately.
5. Rahab uses deception to misdirect the officers looking for the spies? Some would use this text as an opportunity to advocate that the Bible promotes lying. How might you respond to this?
Given that this is a historical book that uses descriptive narrative, it would not be wise or true to say this is a prescriptive Christian ethic. The ninth commandment clearly prohibits lying, making obvious that God opposes lying. There are instances of deception used in the Bible by some to seek to harm or distract an enemy, as Rahab did. In contrast, instances of lying in the Bible to harm a neighbor (not an enemy) end in some form of judgement. It is safe to conclude that the normative biblical ethic is not to lie, but there are clearly instances where deception was used to protect human life, which we are also called to do.
6. How might you connect the scarlet thread in this story to the Passover in Exodus?
In Exodus 12, the Lord made a provision for the people of Israel to spare them the impending judgement that was soon to fall on the Egyptians (10th Plague - Every firstborn shall die). The Lord provided a way of escape for the people of Israel by the blood of lambs placed on the doorposts

and lintels of every house, which indicated the Lord would "pass them over." In the same way, the scarlet cord would save Rahab from the destruction that was soon to come at Jericho, she too would be passed over.

7. How does this text challenge you? How does it affect your daily life?

[Dialogue]

8. How might you share this passage/truth with someone else? A child? A family member?

[Dialogue]

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- Is there anyone that needs an invite to our church or this group?
- Is there anyone you know who needs to hear what we learned today in God's word?
- Does anyone here need a "refresher" on how to share the gospel?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Without getting too specific, is there anything you want to confess before the group? [apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy]
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply his word to our lives, putting to death sinful desires.

HOMEWORK:

- **Memorize our weekly "Fighter Verse"** - Psalms 37:1-4: [Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers! For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.] Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- **Listen to the book of Joshua over the next few weeks (approx. 1hr 42 mins, due 3/5).**

Sources:

- ESV Study Bible (Crossway)