

Life Lesson 39  
*Entering the Promised Land*  
Text: Joshua 1 and 2

Introduction

We learned that the Bible is like a whole library put together into one book. That's because it's made up of many different books. God wrote them all, but He used many different men (about 40) to write down His words.

We've been studying the first five books of the Bible which are the books of the law. Moses wrote those five books. Now we're ready to look at the next division of books, the books of history.

There are 12 books of history. In these books we will learn about the children of Israel and the things that happened to them in the land of Canaan. The book of Joshua tells about their entry into their promised home.

The Story

At last they had arrived! After all the years of wandering they were finally ready to enter the land of Canaan. Moses had died, and Joshua was the new leader of God's people.

Joshua had helped Moses' all the years they had been in the wilderness. He had seen how hard it was for Moses to lead the multitude of people who were often stubborn and sinful. Do you think he might have been a little nervous and scared about taking over his big responsibility?

I think he must have been, because God told him over and over in the first part of the book of Joshua, "Don't be afraid. Be of good courage. I was with Moses and I will be with you." That certainly should have made him feel better. If God was with him, there wasn't a thing to

worry about.

The first thing Joshua did was to send out two spies to look over the city of Jericho, the first city the children of Israel would need to conquer. The spies went into the city and did their snooping. They saw how difficult it would be to take this city. It was surrounded by a high, thick wall. While they were still looking around, somehow the king found out they were there. He didn't like the idea of spies in his city one little bit!

The two spies stayed in the house of a woman named Rahab. When they heard the king was looking for them they knew they had to hide -- fast! Rahab didn't throw them out and she didn't turn them over to the king. Instead she risked her own life by hiding them. She took them up to the flat roof of her house. She had bundles of flax drying there. Flax is a plant that people used to make linen fabric.

She made them lie down and then she piled the flax on top of them.

The king's men came to her door.

"Where are those two men who were staying with you?" the soldiers demanded. "They are here to spy on us."

"They were here, but they left about dark," she said. "If you hurry you might be able to catch them." They rushed away, and Rahab must have breathed a sigh of relief. She went back up to the rooftop.

"I know that your God has given you this land," she told the spies. "All of us are afraid of you. For years we have worried about when you would come in and defeat us. We've heard all about how your God opened the Red Sea for you, and all the other wonderful things He did for

you. Our hearts just melted within us! Since I've done you this favor and have hidden you from the soldiers, would you do me a favor? When you come into the city to capture it, would you save my family and me? Would you not let anyone kill us?"

"Yes," they answered. "If you won't tell anyone that we were here, we will save your life and the lives of your family." The gates to the city were closed, so Rahab helped the men escape by putting a rope down from her window to the ground. The men climbed down the rope to safety. "When we come to take the city, put this red rope out your window just like this," they told her. "Everyone that is in the house with the red rope will be safe. Tell all your family that they must be in the your house, or we won't be responsible for them."

When the spies returned home they had surprising news for their people. All those years they had been wandering around in the desert, afraid of the Canaanites. Remember, they thought the Canaanites were giants, and they felt like little grasshoppers next to them. All this time they had been afraid of the Canaanites, and the Canaanites were scared to death of *them*.

### The Life Lesson

Sometimes it seems scary to obey God. Maybe God will tell you to talk to your friends about their salvation, or to invite them to church. Or God might tell you to stand up and say, "No, that's not right," when your friends want you to do something wrong. Maybe God wants you to sing or play the piano for church or the nursing home. Those things can make you nervous! We should remember the lesson the Israelites learned, though. If God tells us to do it, He'll make sure we're able to do it. There is really nothing to be scared about at all!

## Review Questions

Who wrote down the first five books of the Bible?

*Moses*

What is another name for the first books of the Bible?

*The books of law.*

What is the next division of books in the Bible library?

*The books of history.*

How many books of history are there?

*Twelve*

What are the books of history about?

*About God's people and what happened to them in the promised land.*

What is the first book of history?

*Joshua*

Who wrote down the book of Joshua?

*Joshua*

Who was the new leader of God's people after Moses died?

*Joshua*

How many spies did Joshua send out?

*Two*

What city did the two spies check out?

*Jericho*

Who hid the spies in her house?

*Rahab*

Where did Rahab hide the spies?

*In the flax on her roof.*

What favor did Rahab ask of the spies?

*That they would save her and her family alive.*

How was she to show the soldiers where she and her family were staying?

*She was to hang a red rope out her window.*

How did Rahab help the spies escape?

*They went climbed down the rope to the ground.*

Do you need to be afraid of anything if you are obeying God?

*No. He will always take care of His people.*