



## Lesson 2: Stepping Out in Faith: Rahab's Conversion

I love to watch movies—old movies, musicals, movies set in a different period from my own...I am an incurable romantic. Give me a Jane Austen or Charlotte Bronte story made for film and I am in heaven! My sons say I am ancient and my husband simply cannot take another Audrey Hepburn movie. Being the only female in a house full of men, I've had to develop other tastes—sci-fi and the spine-tingling action flick! These are movies we can enjoy as a whole family.

One of the most memorable scenes in cinematic history is the "leap of faith" scene from *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*. Jones comes to a chasm he must cross in order to get the water from the Holy Grail to save the life of his father. As he extends his foot out over the gulf to take his first step, a bridge appears and he is able to make it safely to the other side.

That scene is a great demonstration of faith. We step out, trusting God to have the stone in place as our foot lands (however shaky the landing may feel to us). In the second chapter of Joshua, Rahab is faced with circumstances that call for a leap of faith. Her "stepping out" response secured for her a place in the Bible as a hero of faith.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Share a time in your life when you were faced with a critical decision that felt like an Indiana Jones "leap of faith" choice.

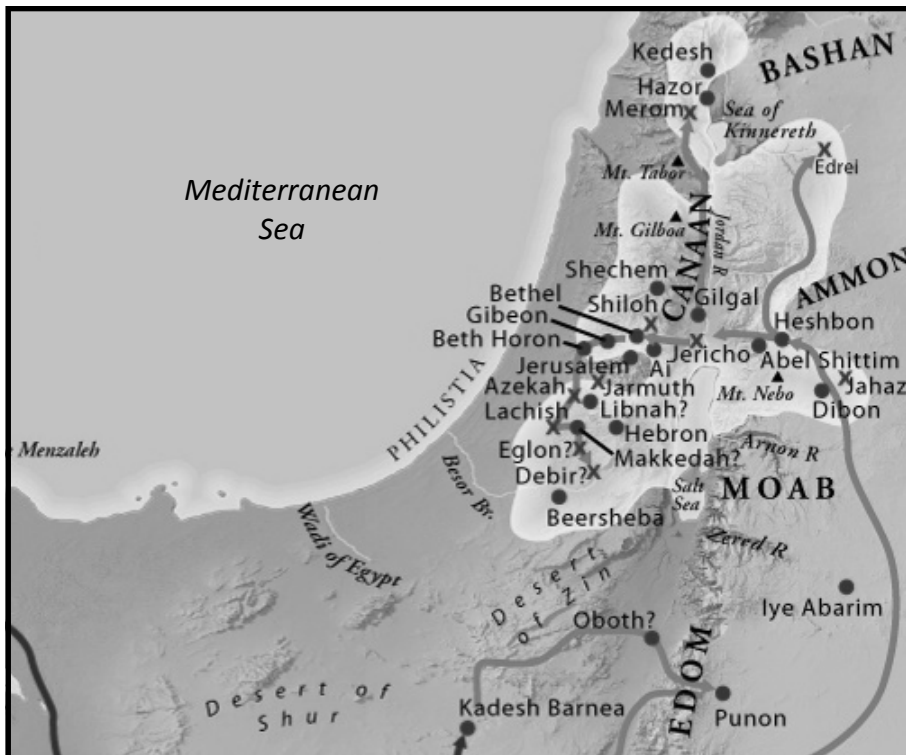
## Where Are We Going? Shittim and The Transjordan

After being commissioned by God and receiving instructions, Joshua instructs the officers of the Israelites saying, *Pass through the camp, and command the people: "Prepare your provisions; for in three days you are to cross over the Jordan, to go in to take possession of the land that the LORD your God gives you to possess"* (Joshua 1:11). After receiving Joshua's instructions, the leaders of all twelve tribes pledged allegiance to Joshua, as they had done previously to Moses. As chapter two opens, Joshua and the Israelites are camped at Shittim, east of the Jordan and northeast of the Dead Sea. In anticipation of the crossing, Joshua sends two spies on a secret reconnaissance mission.

### JANE'S NOTES:

The Transjordan Tribes:  
The east side of the Jordan had already been assigned to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh prior to Moses' death. Forty thousand of their best warriors were instructed by Joshua to help with the conquest of the land west of the Jordan before they could return to their assigned territory (see Numbers 32).

Look for the Xs below to find Shittim on the map. The Transjordan is the whole area east (to the right) of the Jordan River.



## Snapshots From the Journey

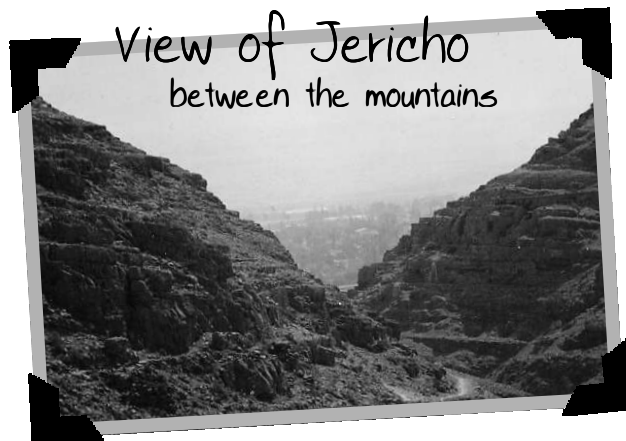
Read Joshua 2

NOTES:



Wadi Qelt  
the mountain road to Jericho

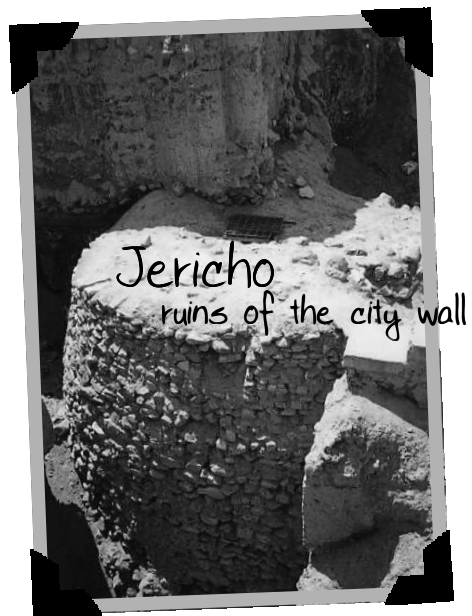
2. Like any good military leader, Joshua sent out spies to investigate the land across the Jordan, especially Jericho. They were approaching Canaan from the east and could not bypass Jericho. This is reminiscent of the time when Moses sent out twelve spies, Joshua being one of them, to scout out the land 40 years earlier. Read Numbers 13 and 14:1-8. What do you think Joshua learned from the first reconnaissance mission that contributed to how he conducted the second one?



View of Jericho  
between the mountains

3. Joshua was fully convinced that God was giving the Israelites possession of the land of promise, yet he sent men to scout out the land. Why does *stepping out in faith* mean that you are not “checking your brain at the door?”

4. What did the people of Jericho know about the Israelites? What was their response?



5. Rahab struck up an agreement with the spies to procure her own safety and the safety of her family. What were the conditions of the agreement and what was the sign of the agreement?



6. Read Exodus 12:1-13. Compare the sign described in Exodus 12 with the sign of Rahab's covenant with the spies.

..By faith, Rahab the harlot... Hebrews 11:31



9. In these examples, people of faith living in treacherous times were faced with the option of allegiance to governmental authority vs. allegiance to God and God's principles. Share an experience you have had in which you were asked to choose between difficult options. How did your faith influence your choices? What was the outcome?

10. Rahab committed an act of treason in hiding the spies and aligning herself with Israel's God. Are there times in life when our walk of faith will set us against other loyalties (i.e., national, denominational, friends, or family)? List some.

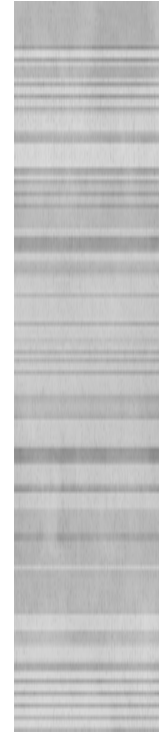


above and on earth beneath." Joshua 2:11



## **YOUR Leaps of Faith!**

....Back to the Indiana Jones story. When Indiana lifted his foot to step out the bridge appeared, but he still had to walk on it to cross over the chasm. His faith in the bridge propelled him forward; otherwise he would not have crossed the gulf to get the Holy Grail needed to save his father's life. Rahab heard about the mighty acts of God on Israel's behalf and she believed. The shape her belief took is significant. She could have been immobilized by fear or turned the spies over to the king's men in an effort to thwart the Israelites' attack. Rather, she saw the arrival of the spies as an opportunity to align herself with the *God [who] is indeed God in heaven above and on earth below*. It was a life-altering choice. As a prostitute in Jericho, life did not present Rahab with hope for change. However, her new-found life in Israel offered her a transformed life. We only have to look in the pages of the New Testament to see the evidence of her transformation from prostitute to one of the few women named in the genealogy of Christ. Rahab became the great, great grandmother of David and is named as one of the heroes of faith in the book of Hebrews. What a testimony of God's grace and power working in the life of one who dared to put her faith in God and act on that faith!



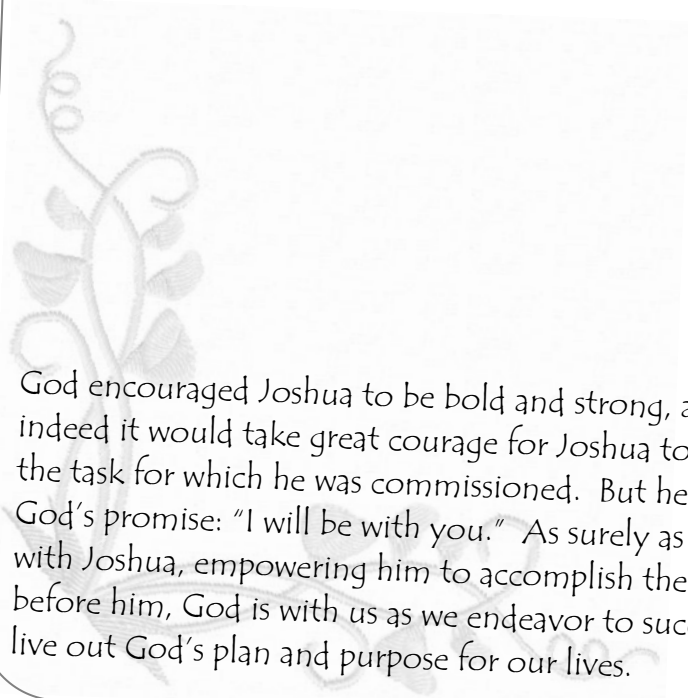
Go back to the time line you made from the last chapter. Put a star by the times that required YOU to take a special "leap of faith."



## My Prayer Journal: My Leaps of Faith

### Prayer Focus This Week

Lord God,  
you have called your servants  
to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,  
by paths as yet untrodden,  
through perils unknown.  
Give us faith to go out with good courage,  
not knowing where we go,  
but only that your hand is leading us  
and your love supporting us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.<sup>1</sup>



God encouraged Joshua to be bold and strong, and indeed it would take great courage for Joshua to complete the task for which he was commissioned. But he had God's promise: "I will be with you." As surely as God was with Joshua, empowering him to accomplish the task set before him, God is with us as we endeavor to successfully live out God's plan and purpose for our lives.