

STORY 2: KINDNESS

After Moses died, Joshua became the new leader of the Israelites. He sent two men as spies across the river into the land of Canaan to spy out the city of Jericho. The men went and entered into the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.

But someone found out about them and told the king of Jericho that some spies had come that night to spy out the land. So he sent some soldiers to Rahab's house, who demanded, "Let us have the men who are staying at your house. They are spies."

But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them on the roof. She told the soldiers, "Yes, the men came to me but I did not know where they came from. At sunset, when it was time to close the city gate, the men left. I don't know which way they went. If you hurry, you might be able to catch them."

After the soldiers had left, Rahab went back up to the roof and told the spies, "I know that the Lord has given this land to you. Great fear of your people has fallen over us, so that everyone here is melting in fear because of you. We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the sea when you came out of Egypt, and how the Lord helped you defeat the peoples living east of the river. When we heard of it, our hearts sank and everyone's courage failed. For the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below. Now please show kindness to my family because I have shown kindness to you. Please give me a sign that when you return you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and their families."

"Our lives for your lives!" the men assured her. "If you keep quiet about what we are doing, we promise to be kind to you when the Lord gives us the land."

So the woman let the men down safely by a rope through the window, since her house was part of the city wall. The men told her, "Take this red cord and tie it to your window when we attack and make sure your entire family is in the house. If they are not in the house, we will not be responsible."

"I'll do exactly what you said," Rahab replied.

Later when Joshua led the Israelites to attack the city of Jericho he said to the two men who had spied out the land, "Go into the prostitute's house and bring her and all her family out, just like you promised her." So the young men brought out Rahab, her father and mother, her brothers and all their families. Then they destroyed the city and all who lived in it.

Afterward, one of the Israelites named Salmon married Rahab and they had a son named Boaz.