Part #2 SURPRISED BY GRACE

Scripture Song: Be strong and of good courage – Deut. 31:6

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series of studies on Lessons of Faith from Joshua. Today's topic: SURPRISED BY GRACE.

1) Exploring the land of Canaan a second time

a. Joshua 2:1a Why did Joshua only send two spies rather than twelve to explore Canaan, especially Jericho? (see also Numbers 13:1-2,25-33)
b. What happened the last time the children of Israel were camped at Acacia Grove? Numbers 25:1-3
c. Who is thankful that the LORD doesn't abandon us when we stumble and fall?

2) Mercy and grace for Rahab and her family

a. What can we learn about Rahab from the story recorded in Joshua 2:1-13?
b. Who showed mercy and grace to Rahab in response to her confession of faith and request? Joshua 2:14-21, 6:17, Psalm 116:5, Luke 6:36
c. What is the significance of the scarlet chord Rahab hung in her window? (Exodus 12:7,13, Romans 10:13)
d. What remarkable revelation is given about Rahab's life after her deliverance from Jericho? Joshua 6:25, Matthew 1:5 (great grandmother of King David!)
e. What encouragement do you find in the story of Rahab?

3) Deception by the Gibeonites

a. Joshua 9:3-13 What are your thoughts about the deceptive conduct of the Gibeonites? What alternative course of action might they have taken?
b. While Rahab also used deception (Joshua 2:3-6), how did her conduct differ from the Gibeonites?
c. What serious mistakes did Joshua and the elders of Israel make in their negotiations with the Gibeonites? Joshua 9:14-15,19
d. What wise counsel did King Solomon give regarding hasty oaths to the LORD? Ecclesiastes 5:2-5
e. Share a time when you made a serious mistake because you failed to seek counsel from the LORD.

4) Mercy and grace for the undeserving

a. How did the LORD show mercy and grace to the Gibeonites despite their deceptive conduct? Joshua 9:22-27
b. Why is it important to remember that while there is forgiveness if we confess our sins (1 John 1:9), there may still be negative consequences when we sin?
c. What can we learn about the LORD from the mercy and grace He also showed to Joshua and the elders of Israel? Psalm 116:5
d. Share a time when you became deeply aware of God's mercy and grace.