

YEAR C | QUARTER 3

10

Adopted by the Enemy

Grace
God offers Himself to us.

POWER TEXT

"I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are my servant'; I have chosen you and have not rejected you" (Isaiah 41:9).

KEY REFERENCES

- Joshua 2
- *Patriarchs and Prophets,* chap. 44, pp. 481-483; chap. 45, p. 491
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 3, pp. 74-77
- student story on page 112 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 10, The Experience of Salvation
- No. 3, The Father
- No. 4, The Son

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that God offers Himself to everyone to be their heavenly Father.
- **Feel** a desire to let God adopt them into His family.
- **Respond** by accepting God as their heavenly Father.

POWERPOINT

God is always looking for people to bring into His family.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Rahab and the people of Jericho have heard stories about God's working for the Israelites. Rahab declares and then demonstrates her faith in God by hiding two Israelite spies. She asks for their protection when they destroy her city. They promise their protection, asking her to seal the promise by hanging a scarlet cord from her window. That promise is kept when the Israelites capture the city.

This is a lesson about grace.

This touching story illustrates God's desire to save anybody who trusts His love. The red cord hanging out of Rahab's window reminds us of the blood of Jesus, which saves us. God honored the promise to save Rahab. And He honors His promise to save us.

Teacher Enrichment

"He is God. How Rahab had learned of the true God is not revealed. There had not been time for her to get much information from the two spies. Her chief knowledge had no doubt come from the reports of how Jehovah, the God of Israel, was working for them. . . . Surrendering her life to God, she received assurance that it would be preserved in the coming judgment of Jericho" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 2, p. 183).

"Flax was harvested in the fields and piled high on the rooftops to dry. It was then made into yarn which was used to make linen cloth. Flax grows to a height of three or four feet. Stacked on the roof, it made an excellent hiding place for the spies" (*Life Application Bible, Notes and Bible Helps* [Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1991], p. 336).

How do I receive assurance of God's salvation? Where do I gain knowledge of the true God? How has this knowledge changed my life?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Wanted Poster*	Bibles, newspapers/magazines, poster board/newsprint, tape/glue, scissors, markers, blank paper, camera (optional)
		B. Family Matters	Bibles, softball
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 107. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, offering plate/basket, world map, pushpins
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	
		Experiencing the Story	modern paraphrase of the Bible, paper, pens or pencils
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, paper, pens or pencils
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*You Choose*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Red-Ribbon Messages*	red ribbon/cord, preprinted message cards, pens or pencils
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ poster board/newsprint
- ☐ newspapers/magazines
- ☐ markers
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ tape/glue
- ☐ blank paper
- ☐ camera (optional)

Wanted Poster

Provide a sheet of poster board or newsprint (banner paper), newspapers and magazines as available, markers, scissors, and glue. Write in big, bold letters WANTED across the top of the paper. At the bottom of the paper write "to be a part of God's family." Cover up the words at the bottom until debriefing time. Tape the poster board/newsprint to the wall along with the following directions: *If you go past a police station or into a post office, you sometimes see a poster that says "wanted" and has a picture of someone and a description of what they have done. On our "wanted" poster we want pictures and names of people representing different ethnic groups, age groups, and work situations. You may cut and paste from the magazines or you can draw a picture and paste it on the poster. Keep working until the space is filled.*

Alternative: provide a Polaroid or digital camera to take pictures of the students to add to the poster.

Debriefing

Read aloud Galatians 3:26. Ask: **How do you feel knowing that all people are God's children?** Now read aloud Isaiah 41:9.

"I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are my servant'; I have chosen you and have not rejected you" (Isaiah 41:9).

Ask: **What does this text tell you about God?** (He knows me; He knows and wants to save each person, etc.) Uncover the words at the bottom of the poster, "to be part of God's family" and say: **Remember that:**

God is always looking for people to bring into His family.

Accommodation for students with special needs:
Have pictures ready for students with special needs and have them pick the pictures that they prefer to put on the board instead of searching for the pictures. Display a sample. Allow students with special needs to work with a partner who can assist them in this activity.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ small softball

Family Matters

Hand out a soft ball. Before students start tossing it into the air, tell them to see how long they can keep it up. Every time someone touches the ball, that person must say one kind thing that family members do for each other. (Examples: listens, accepts, makes me feel loved.)

OR have students form pairs and share one thing with their partner that family members do for each other. Allow 10 seconds, give a signal, and have everyone switch partners. Repeat several times.

Debriefing

Ask: **What makes it great to belong to a family? What would you be missing if you didn't belong to a family?** The students can repeat benefits already stated during the activity. Be sensitive to students whose family makeup is different. Include discussion of extended families and church family. Tell the students that this week's lesson is about Rahab, a foreigner from an enemy people, who was accepted into God's family. Ask a student to read aloud Joshua 6:25.

Ask: **How do you think Rahab felt when the Israelites accepted her? We are going to discuss more about this in our lesson today. Do you know anyone who has been adopted into a family?**

Read aloud Isaiah 41:9:

"I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are my servant'; I have chosen you and have not rejected you" (Isaiah 41:9).

Ask: **What does this verse tell us about God?** (God wants all kinds of people in His family. We all have been adopted into God's family.) **Remember that:**

God is always looking for people to bring into His family.

Prayer and Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows that they shared with you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"It's About Grace" (see p. 148)
"Family" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 119)
"Do, Lord" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 107)
"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 45)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. You may use a map of the world where the students can identify and mark with pushpins the location of the mission story.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Say: **As members of God's family, we are asked to share with the world His message of acceptance. One way that we share God's message is by giving offerings to help spread the good news about Him.**

Prayer

Ask students to form a circle. Allow students one minute to pray silently thanking God for their family and for including them in His family. Close by asking God to give each of them an assurance and greater understanding of what it means to be accepted into His family.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Say: **The Israelites were just beginning to conquer the land of Canaan, as God had instructed. God had given the Canaanites many opportunities to be a part of His family, but most had rejected God. When the Israelites sent two men to spy on Jericho, only one woman was brave enough to admit that she believed in the God the Israelites worshipped.**

Rahab was a foreigner—her people were Israel's enemy.

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles (modern paraphrase)
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pens/pencils

Experiencing the Story

Divide the students into groups of three. Have each group:

1. Read the story from Joshua 2:1-19.

2. Have students divide their piece of paper into two columns. They will write on the top left side of the paper God and on the top right side of the paper Rahab. Have them list everything that they know about them based on the story.

Have students regroup to debrief.

Ask: **What do you think verses 9-11 say about God?** (God's power was recognized by the nations; God was getting things ready for His victory.) **What do these verses say about Rahab?** (She knows about God; she is more concerned with God's power than with Israel's; she believes in God.)

How do you think Rahab knew about God? (Probably by hearing reports and rumors.) **What do you think she had that would make God want her in His family?** (Nothing special. We probably wouldn't want her in our families; God wants to include everyone. She seemed to sense that and believed it. God could only have adopted her if she wanted to be.)

Say: **Let's read our power text together:**

"I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are my servant'; I have chosen you and have not rejected you" (Isaiah 41:9).

Ask: **How does this apply to us?** (God wants to include everyone.) **For what was Rahab chosen?** (To be saved; to live forever with God.) **For what are you chosen?**

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pens/pencils

Exploring the Bible

Form the same small groups as in last activity. Have each read Matthew 1:1-16, Jesus' family tree or genealogical line, doing the following:

1. List people they recognize (Abraham, etc.).
2. List women (Tamar, verse 3; Rahab, verse 5; Ruth, verse 5; Solomon's mother [Bathsheba], verse 6).
3. Trace Rahab's descendants to Jesus, beginning with verse 5.

Debriefing

Ask: **Who were some well-known descendants of Rahab?** (David, Solomon, etc.) **Some women in Jesus' family tree had a problematic past, yet all were included. Who were foreigners, adopted into God's family?** (Tamar [probably a Canaanite], Rahab, Ruth [a Moabite])

Ask: **What do you think God is trying to say to us by this account of Rahab's descendants?** (God loves us no matter who we are. God's grace is for everyone. God finds us wherever we are and accepts us into His family.)

God is always looking for people to bring into His family.

You Choose

Read aloud the following scenario: **Shamir and his family are refugees. They have been in a transit camp in your country for three years. Now the government has told them that they must go back to their country. Shamir and his wife have three small children. Shamir deserted from the army, and you know that other army deserters who have been sent back have been given a choice: rejoin the army or be shot. It is the middle of winter, and there are two or three feet of snow. Shamir comes to you and asks for help.**

Debriefing

Say: **Considering the experience of Rahab and the Israelite spies, tell what you would do.** (Encourage a variety of responses.) **How could knowing about God's promise of salvation help Shamir and his family?**

God is always looking for people to bring into His family.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ red ribbon/cord
- ☐ message cards
- ☐ pens/pencils

Red-Ribbon Messages

Provide for each student eight-inch (approximately 20 cm) lengths of red ribbon/cord and preprinted message cards with a blank line for a name followed by: "I have chosen you and have not rejected you."—God (Isaiah 41:9).

Ask each student to think of someone in the church or outside the church who needs to know about being a part of God's family. Encourage them to write the name of that person on the message paper, attach the red ribbon/cord and plan to share it with the person during the week.

Debriefing

Ask: **How do you feel about sharing today's message?**

God is always looking for people to bring into His family.

What Bible text could you quote in support of this message?

Say: **Let's say our power text together once again:**

"I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are my servant'; I have chosen you and have not rejected you" (Isaiah 41:9).

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Pray that God's grace will remain with each student all week and that they will know they are chosen to be a part of God's family.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Joshua receives the battle plan for taking Jericho. God fights the battle with evil for us.**

Notes

Student lesson

Adopted by the Enemy

Have you ever watched the winning team at school and wished you could be a part of it? Did you feel as if you just weren't special enough to be on it? Can you imagine the feeling of having the captain come up to you and say, "Hey, I want you on my team"?

Two bearded men crept toward a big wooden door in the shadows. Quietly they entered. They needed something to eat. But more than that, they wanted to listen to what the local people were saying. The two men were spies sent to Jericho by Joshua, the Israelite leader. They were on a secret mission to find out about the city before Israel attacked at God's command.

Rahab recognized the two strangers and said urgently, "Go up the stairs and onto the roof quickly. Hide under the flax and wait for me. The king already knows you are in the city. He's looking for you."

Rahab had heard rumors about the Israelites and their God. She knew that everyone was looking for spies.

The two men rapidly climbed the stairs to the roof. They knew that if they were caught by the king of Jericho they would be killed. They waited quietly under the pile of itchy stalks of flax, trusting that God would continue to protect them.

Suddenly they heard loud banging on the heavy wooden door downstairs. Angry voices burst inside. "Where are the two strangers?" the soldiers shouted. "We have a report that they were seen here!" Rahab's heart thumped.

"Yes," she answered, trying to be calm, "the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them."

Muttering angrily, the soldiers left. Rahab bolted the heavy door behind them. Quickly she ran up the stairs to the roof and quietly called to the hidden spies.

"The soldiers have gone out to the city gate. Try to sleep now. I will figure out how to get you out of here. You won't be safe until you get back to your camp." She turned and left them.

The spies had no choice but to trust her. They lay still and listened. Taking turns, they slept.

Later Rahab returned carrying a red cord coiled around her shoulder. The men sat up and brushed the flax from their robes. "Look," Rahab knelt nearby to explain, "my house is right on the wall. If we lower this rope over the wall, you will be able to climb down to the outside. If you leave now before it is light, you should make it to the woods to hide. If the search party gets back, it will be too late."

The men looked at each other in relief. "Why are you helping us like this?"

Rahab replied immediately, "I know that God has given this whole country to your people. Everyone here in Jericho is scared to death of you. We are melting in fear. We've all heard about the amazing things God has done for you since you left Egypt.

"Please help me as I have helped you. I believe in your God. I believe in what He is doing with your people. Promise that you will save me and all my family when you and your army come to destroy this city. Give me a sign that you will not destroy us."

"All right," the spies agreed. "Our lives for your lives. If you keep our visit secret, we promise to spare your family when God gives us the land."

"But," one of the men tested the cord, "we won't be able to keep our part of the agreement unless you tie this scarlet cord in your window, and unless all of your family—mother, father, brothers, and sisters—are here in your house."

Rahab watched as the spies slid down the cord and scurried into the trees. What would be the outcome of this special agreement she had with the Israelite spies?

Later, when the children of Israel marched around Jericho as God commanded, the city walls fell down. Everyone in the city died except for those staying in Rahab's house, where a scarlet cord hung out of a window.

Joshua, the Israelite leader, called the two spies over to him. "Go into the rubble," he commanded, "and find the woman who helped you. Bring out all who survived with her." The two men set off on their errand. Before long Rahab and her family were safely away from the crumbling ruins in a place outside the camp of the Israelites. Everyone in the house with the scarlet cord in the window had been saved.

Rahab believed in the power of God and joined His people, the Israelites. One day she would become one of the great-grandmothers of Jesus. She probably didn't know that the scarlet cord in her window would remind others of His saving blood. All she knew was that God had chosen to save her and include her in His family. God is always looking for people to bring into His family.

KEY REFERENCES

- Joshua 2
- *Patriarchs and Prophets,* chap. 44, pp. 481-483; chap. 45, p. 491
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 3, pp. 74-77
- Our Beliefs, nos. 10, 3, 4

POWER TEXT

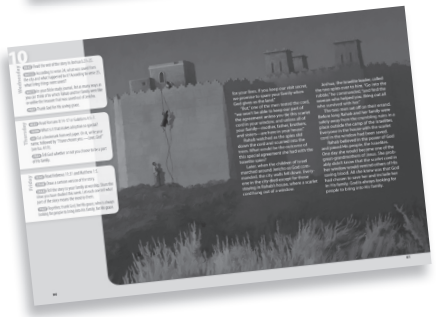
"I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are my servant'; I have chosen you and have not rejected you" (Isaiah 41:9).

POWER POINT

God is always looking for people to bring into His family.







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 75.

Sunday

READ Read Isaiah 41:9 and this week's story, "Adopted by the Enemy."

DRAW Write the power text, Isaiah 41:9, in red letters on a picture you draw of the wall of Jericho.

STUDY Begin to learn the power text; what does it say to you about God?

PRAY Thank God for wanting you to be a part of His family.

Monday

READ Read John 1:12 and 1 John 3:1, 2.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, paraphrase these verses as if they were being addressed to you.

PRAY Ask God to help you be grateful for being included in His family.

Tuesday

READ Read Joshua 2.

DO Pin a red string to your clothes to remind you that God has chosen you to be a part of His family.

SHARE When people ask you about the red string, tell them what it means.

PRAY Ask God for an opportunity and courage to share His grace with someone.

Wednesday

READ Read the rest of the story in Joshua 6:21–25.

NOTICE According to verse 24, what was saved from the city and what happened to it? According to verse 25, what living things were saved?

WRITE In your Bible study journal, list as many ways as you can think of in which Rahab and her family were like or unlike the treasure that was saved out of Jericho.

PRAY Thank God for His saving grace.

Thursday

READ Read Romans 8:14–17 or Galatians 4:5–7.

THINK What is it that makes adoption so special?

DO Cut a bookmark from red paper. On it, write your name, followed by "I have chosen you. —Love, God" (see Isa. 41:9).

PRAY Tell God whether or not you choose to be a part of His family.

Friday

READ Read Hebrews 11:31 and Matthew 1:5.

DRAW Draw a cartoon version of the story.

SHARE Tell the story to your family at worship. Share the ideas you have studied this week. Let each one tell what part of the story means the most to them.

PRAY Pray together, thank God (who is always looking for people to bring into His family) for His grace.