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Adopted by the Enemy

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



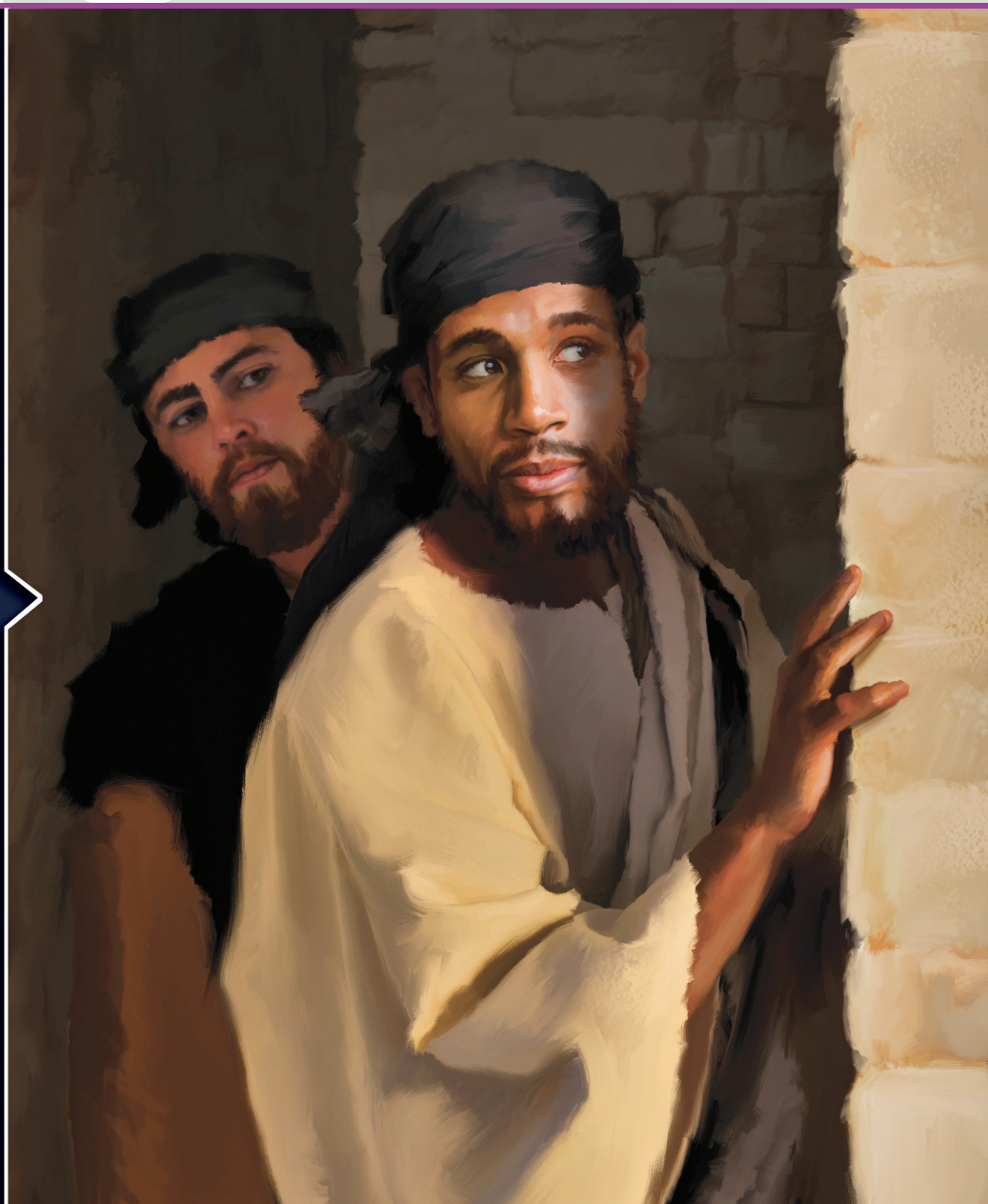












power**text**

"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.

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.

Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 75.

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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.

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."



10

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.

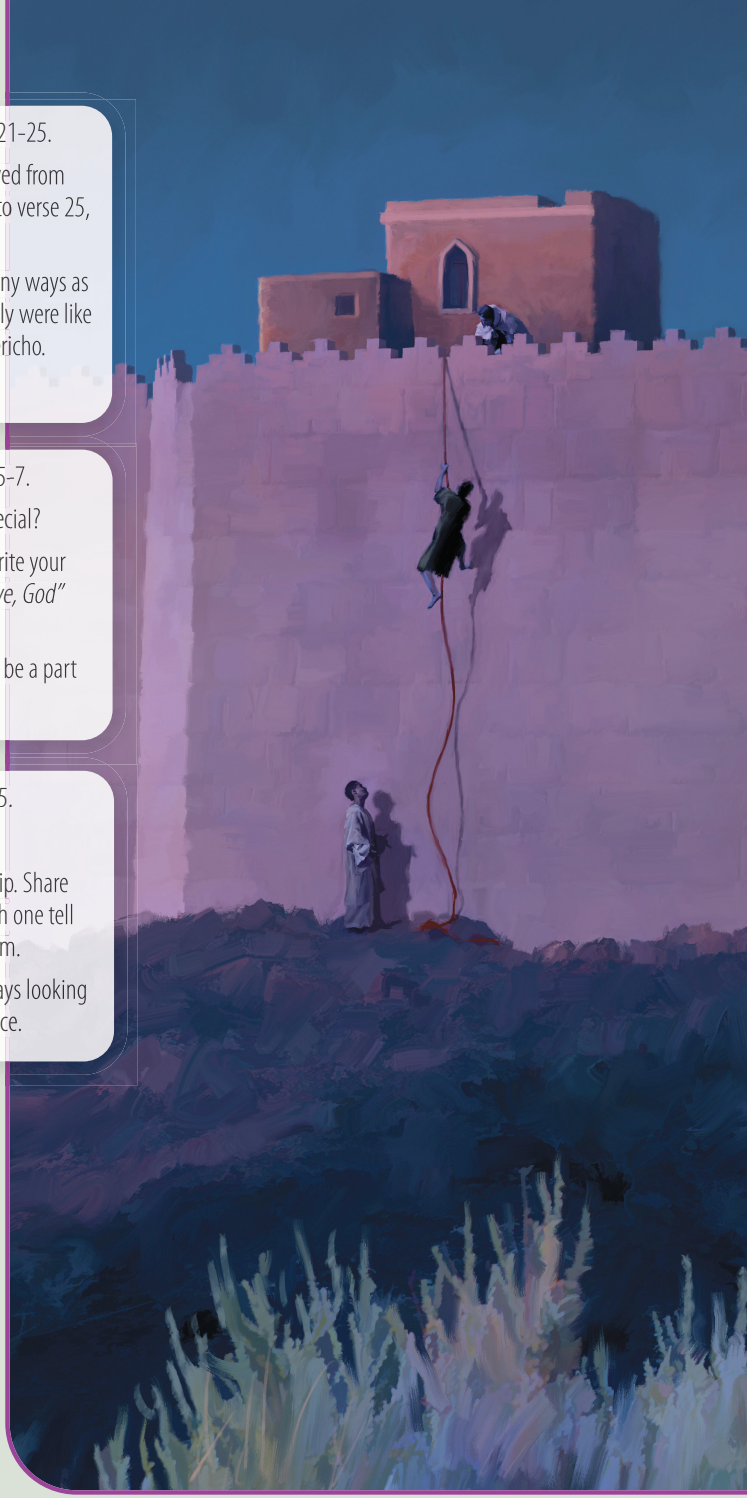
Friday

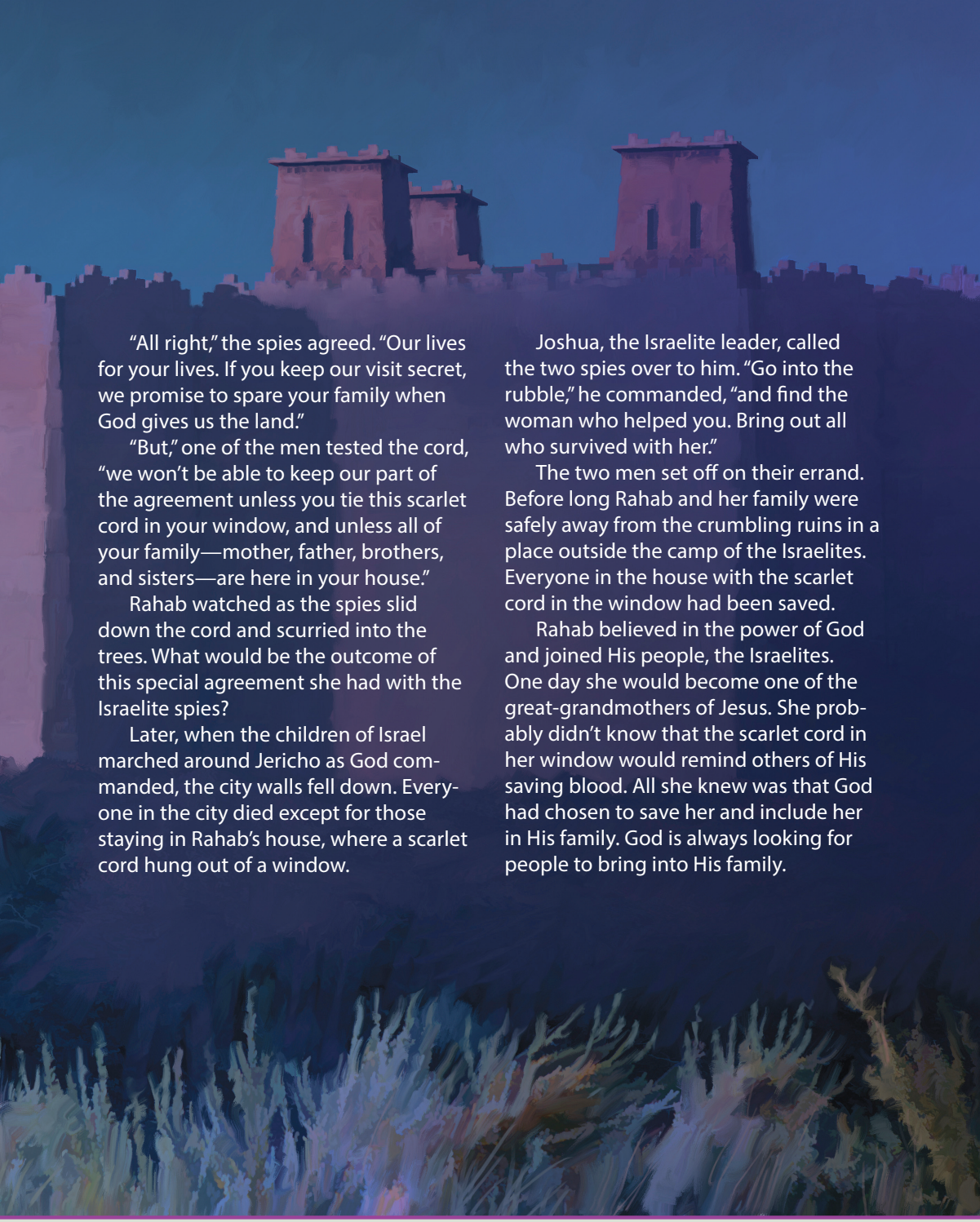
READ Read Hebrews 11:31 and Matthew 1:5.

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.





"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.

GOD'S INVITATION

Instructions: Here are two promises (of many) Jesus makes. Each one starts with a boldfaced word, follows either up or down or side ways (but not diagonally), and ends with a word in italics. Use each word just once. As God makes an invitation, will you accept? Hint: One of the promises can be found in either Matthew 11 or John 14.

Come	and	them	to	come	will
to	make	give	you	*rest.*	we
me,	our	will	teaching.	My	and
all	home	I	my	Father	them,
you	with	and	obey	will	love
who	*them.*	burdened,	will	he	**Anyone**
are	weary	and	me	loves	who