

September 13, 2026-LESSON 1

### RAHAB AND THE SPIES

#### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Prepares the Way

**SCRIPTURE:** [Joshua 2](#)

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** A woman named Rahab hides two Israelite spies as God prepares the way for His people to live in the land He promised them.

**WORD OF WONDER:** He remembers his covenant forever, the promise he made, for a thousand generations. —[1 Chronicles 16:15](#)

#### CURIOSITY Large Group or Small Group

Hands-on activities to spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God

- Welcome Questions: What place would be extra exciting for you to visit? What's the first thing you would do when you got there?
- Curiosity Questions
- Curiosity Activity: The Maze
- Declaring God's Wonder



#### BELIEF Large Group

An interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder

- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Word of Wonder: [From 1 Chronicles 16:15](#)

#### FAITH Small Group

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own

- Discussion Questions
- Game: Find the Spies

#### IDENTITY Large Group or Small Group

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids that they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder

- Responding in Worship:
- Blessing Your Kids

# Wonder Ink

## Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more! [WONDER@HOME \(PDF\)](#)

### INVITATION

**We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...**

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Prepares the Way

**SCRIPTURE:** [Joshua 2](#)

**WORD OF WONDER:** [From 1 Chronicles 16:15](#)

When my infant son was in the hospital with seizures, fear overwhelmed me. On a day when I was especially low, I received a large cash gift from an acquaintance. “I thought you could fly your mom out,” he suggested. I was floored by God’s provision from an unexpected source.

When the Israelite spies went to stake out Jericho, God prepared the way through a young woman of ill repute who hid them. All Rahab asked for in return was her life and the lives of her family members. Not only would Israel overtake Jericho, but also Rahab would become part of the lineage of Christ.

Read [Joshua 2:8–14](#). Imagine being an Israelite—one of God’s chosen people—and making a deal with a prostitute. I wonder if they ever doubted whether this was truly God’s provision. And yet, Rahab would become part of the fulfillment of God’s greatest promise—a Savior for the world.

- In what ways have you seen God keep His promises to you?
- Is there a particular area in your life where God has prepared the way?
- How have God’s methods of provision been different from those you would have chosen?

Like the Israelites, we sometimes face big obstacles. These challenges may tempt us to lose heart. But as we trust in God and follow Him, we’ll discover that God prepares the way for us.

**—Suzanne Gosselin**

Children’s Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

**DID YOU KNOW?****FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS****WHO?**

The focus of this story is on the Israelite spies and the Canaanite Rahab. Rahab lived in Jericho and had a morally objectionable job, but she was willing to protect the spies and serve the God of Israel.

**WHAT?**

[Joshua 2](#) is about the adventure that two Israelite spies went on when scouting out the city of Jericho to check out its defenses. The spies discover just how God prepared the way for Israel's victory.

**WHERE?**

The story is set in the famous walled city of Jericho. After Jericho's destruction, it would not be rebuilt for over 500 years. Jericho is also where Jesus met the tax collector, Zacchaeus ([Luke 19:1–10](#)).

**WHEN?**

This story takes place shortly after the death of the prophet Moses. Joshua became the leader of the Israelites, and he told them to prepare to enter the promised land of Canaan. He sent spies to Jericho as part of that preparation.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

Because Rahab showed trust in God by helping the Israelite spies, [Hebrews 11:31](#) lists her among the people of great faith. Her faith was ultimately rewarded when God made her one of the ancestors of Jesus Christ ([Matthew 1:5](#)).



## Curiosity

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

### Welcome Question

**SUPPLIES:** paper, coloring utensils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

Write the following questions on a whiteboard: “What place would be extra exciting for you to visit? What’s the first thing you would do when you got there?” Set out paper and coloring utensils.

#### As kids arrive ...

Welcome kids warmly by inviting them into your group and giving them high fives. Show kids the Welcome Questions and encourage them to share their answers with a friend. For younger kids, read the questions to them. Share your response as well. If time permits, kids can draw a picture to illustrate their response.

#### At your start time ...

Call on several kids to share their answers to the Welcome Questions: **What place would be extra exciting for you to visit? What’s the first thing you would do when you got there?**

**Today in God’s big story, we’ll see how God prepared the way for two spies and sent them help along the way as they checked out a place the Israelites couldn’t wait to reach. But first, it’s time to be curious.**

### Curiosity Questions

Ask the following “I’m curious” questions. Say, “I’m curious ...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one.

#### I’m curious ...

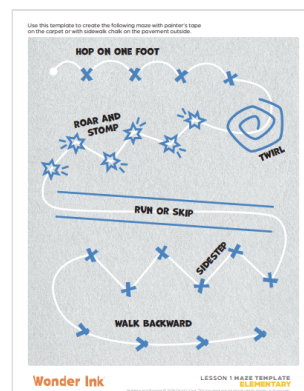
- **What would you do to prepare for your trip to this exciting place?**
- **Do you think God prepares exciting places for us? Tell about it.**

### Elementary Interactive Activity: The Maze

**SUPPLIES:** cardstock, painter's tape, laminator (optional), sidewalk chalk (optional), stopwatch (optional), blindfolds (1 per kid, optional)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Maze Template](#), [Maze Instruction Sheets](#), [The Maze Slide](#)

Ahead of time, print one [Maze Template](#). Also, print the [Maze Instruction Sheets](#) onto cardstock. Consider laminating each Maze Instruction Sheet, if a laminator is available. Using painter's tape, create a life-size maze that mimics the maze illustrated on the [Maze Template](#). Tape each [Maze Instruction Sheet](#) to the floor in its respective location on the maze. If your group is large, consider creating multiple mazes (each one can follow the same template) to allow more kids to go through the maze at one time.



If the weather is nice, consider playing the game outside, using sidewalk chalk to create the maze and writing out the maze instructions on the pavement.

**Today we're going to play a game called The Maze. I've prepared the maze in advance with the directions you need. Let me show you how it's done!** Demonstrate how to go through the maze or ask a volunteer to do so. **Now, let's have fun and play a few rounds!**

Give your kids instructions for each round that work well for your group and setting. Here are some ideas:

- Kids go through the maze as fast as possible. Consider using a stopwatch to time the older kids.
- Kids go through the maze with a partner.
- Form two teams, then select a volunteer from each team. One at a time, volunteers will race to complete the maze—but while blindfolded! Teammates can shout out instructions to the volunteers as they go through the maze.

**Make It Inclusive:** If any kids have physical limitations, invite them to think of a sound or animal noise (such as cluck like a chicken). The kids who are going through the maze must then make this sound as they complete the next section of the maze.

Gather the kids together to talk about the game. **How difficult was the maze? Show me with your bodies: Crouch down on the ground if you think it was easy. Stand up high on your tippy-toes if you think it was really hard. Or if you think it was somewhere in the middle, stand normally.**

If you have kids who are unable to do this, consider asking them to answer you with the volume of their voices instead: Have them say, "This is how the maze was," really softly if it was easy or really loudly if it was difficult. Which round was the hardest? Why?

**Which round was the easiest? What made it easier?** Allow kids to answer.

**Even when we had instructions, the maze still felt difficult at times. In today's part of God's big story, we're going to see that no matter what we face, God always prepares the way for us. Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD PREPARES THE WAY.****

## Declaring God's Wonder

Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

**Thank You, God, that You are good!** (Kids repeat.)

**You made me on purpose, for a purpose.** (Kids repeat.)

**And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat.)

**You know me, love me, and lead me.** (Kids repeat.)

**You prepare the way for me.** (Kids repeat.)

**You are always faithful.** (Kids repeat.)

**My life can tell of Your wonder!** (Kids repeat.)



## Belief

Large Group

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

### Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, thank You for Your love. Thank You for being there for us when times are easy and when times are hard. As we learn about Your Word today, we invite Your Holy Spirit to teach us and speak to us. Remind us how You always go ahead of us to prepare the way. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

### God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid)

Tell kids today's story comes directly from the Bible, God's Word. Show them how to find Joshua 2 in the Old Testament in their Bibles. Remind kids that the book is Joshua and the chapter is number two.

Read [Joshua 2:1, 8–9, 12–14, 22–24](#) aloud.

### Small Group

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

## Discussion Questions

### SUPPLIES: jump ropes (2)

Before the game, lay two jump ropes on the floor a few inches apart, parallel to each other.

Gather the kids and have them stand in a circle. **In our story, we heard about some people who were in a difficult situation. What happened to them?** Allow the kids to respond. **The enemies were looking for them! They needed help, and God provided help in an unexpected way. But it wasn't a surprise for God! He had a plan all along to help His people. God led a woman named Rahab to help God's people. God prepared a way out for them. Even when we face problems or scary situations, God helps us too!**

Invite kids to line up behind one rope and jump across the other, trying not to touch either rope with their feet. After each round, ask a discussion question and have the kids answer. Then move the ropes farther apart and repeat the game. Each time the jump will get harder.

**Make It Inclusive:** For kids who can't jump, let them walk across the ropes (or toss a beanbag across).

**Leader Tip:** If space allows, let kids take a running start for this jumping game! They'll love running fast and jumping far!

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Notice (allow the kids to process what they heard):

- **What do you see in the passage? What stands out?**
- **Who went to check out the city of Jericho?** (*two spies*)
- **Where did the spies hide?** (*in Rahab's house*)

### Wonder (FIRST allow kids to ask questions of the passage):

- **How do you think the spies felt when they were hiding?**
- **How did God prepare the way for the spies?** (*He led them to Rahab's house; Rahab's house had a window in the city wall so the spies could escape; Rahab sent the soldiers away so they wouldn't find the spies.*)

### Connecting (kids need to make connection)

- What does this show us about God?
- Can you think of a time when God helped you?
- How does God prepare the way for us? What plans do you think He has for your life?

**God prepared the way for the spies and for Rahab. He prepared the way for the spies to see the city and escape, and He prepared the way for Rahab and her family to be kept safe. No matter how big or small our problems are, God knows all about them. We can trust God, and we know that He'll always prepare the way for us! Let's talk with God now in prayer and thank Him for guiding and helping us.**

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for guiding us. God hears all our prayers!

## Word of Wonder

### WORD OF WONDER

**He remembers his covenant forever, the promise he made, for a thousand generations.**

—1 Chronicles 16:15 (NIV)

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

**The Word of Wonder for the Problems and Promises series is 1 Chronicles 16:15. Today we learned that God kept His promise to the Israelites and brought them to the edge of the promised land after 40 years in the wilderness. God prepared the way for them to enter the land and defeat their enemies because, like this verse tells us, God always keeps His promises. Let's read the Word of Wonder together.**

Open your Bible to 1 Chronicles 16:15. Encourage the kids to sit in a circle, open their Bibles to 1 Chronicles 16:15, and read the verse together. Then teach kids the following verse motions to help them commit it to memory or have them split up into partners and come up with their own motions.

NIV

**He remembers** (*Point to head.*)

**his covenant** (*Hands together, palms up, like a book.*)

**forever,** (*Arms open wide out to sides.*)

**the promise** (*Hands together, palms up, like a book.*)

**he made,** (*Point up.*)

**for a thousand generations.** (*Point quickly to all the people in the room.*)

**1 Chronicles 16:15** (*Shout out the passage.*)

Continue repeating the verse and, in between each repetition, encourage a kid to jump up and give thanks to God for a meaningful promise He has kept in her life. Repeat the verse until several kids have shared.

## Game: Find the Spies

**SUPPLIES:** disposable opaque cups (6), small bouncy balls (2), table

Show kids the cups and bouncy balls. **Let's pretend that these two bouncy balls are the two spies from our story today. We're going to hide them under two of these cups. Do you think you can find them?**

Turn the cups upside down on a table and hide the two spies under two of the cups. Shuffle the cups around and see if kids can guess where the spies are hiding. Play the game until both spies are found. Repeat the game, if time allows. You can also allow kids to shuffle the cups.

**Leader Tip:** Encourage kids to close their eyes as you hide the balls under the cups.

**Today we learned that God kept the spies safe and didn't let the soldiers find them. He prepared the way for them to escape the city and report to Joshua all they had seen. God prepared the way for Rahab and her family to stay safe too! God knows what we need, and He promises to always be with us and help us.**



## Identity

### Small Group

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

## Responding in Worship: Group Poster Prayers

**SUPPLIES:** posterboard or butcher paper (2 large sheets), painter's tape, marker, coloring utensils (optional)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Group Poster Prayers Slide](#), "How Great Is Our God" from the [Problems and Promises Elementary Spotify Playlist](#)

Ahead of time, tape the two large posters, using posterboard or butcher paper, onto the wall where kids will be able to see them. At the top of one poster, use a marker to write "Thank You, God." At the top of the other poster, write "We Need Your Help."

Display the [Group Poster Prayers Slide](#) and gather the kids. **In God's big story today, we learned that God deeply loves His people and has good things in mind for them, and He prepares the way for them. The same is true for us. God has good things in mind for us, and He loves us more than we can imagine. Sometimes life feels easy, and sometimes we face really hard things. But no matter what we face, God is always with us, and He will make a way for us to get through it.**



**We're going to spend some time thinking about the times God has made a way for us and thank Him for what He has done. Can you think of some ways God has been there for you? What would you like to thank Him for today?**

Allow the kids time to reflect. Then invite them to share ways they have seen God working in their lives and things they would like to thank Him for. As each answer is shared, write it on the "Thank You, God" poster.

**Those are some awesome things God has done! Let's take a moment to thank Him for all the ways He has been with us and made a way for us.**

Lead the kids in a prayer of thanks for all the things that have been written on the poster or invite several kids to choose one and pray a prayer of thanks over it aloud. Then direct the kids' attention to the "We Need Your Help" poster.

**Now that we've remembered some ways God has been there for us in the past and thanked Him for those things, let's think about some things we want to ask His help for. He loves us, and He loves to hear what's on our minds.**

Invite kids to share things they would like to ask God for or things they are concerned about. As each request is shared, write it on the "We Need Your Help" poster.

**Thank you all for sharing. Let's pray for those things and ask for God's help.** Lead the kids in a prayer for all the things that have been written on the poster or invite several kids to choose one and pray over it aloud.

If time allows, invite kids to illustrate each poster by drawing pictures of things they're thankful for (on the "Thank You, God" poster) and things or situations they need God's help with (on the "We Need Your Help" poster). As kids are drawing, play the song "How Great Is Our God" from the [Problems and Promises Elementary Spotify playlist](#).

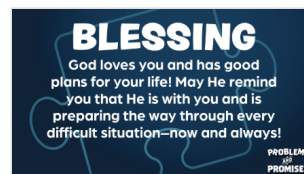
Close with a prayer thanking God that He hears our prayers and is with us always, no matter what we face, and that He will make a way for us to get through all of the hard things in our lives.

**Make It Inclusive:** Some kids struggle to focus while remaining still. Have fidget objects and paper/coloring utensils available for kids to use during group discussion and prayer.

## Blessing Your Kids

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Rahab Blessing Slide](#)

Display the [Rahab Blessing Slide](#). Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.



**Blessing:** God loves you and has good plans for your life! May He remind you that He is with you and is preparing the way through every difficult situation—now and always!

# GAME 1: WHO HAS IT?

**SUPPLIES:** small object (such as a toy, coin, paper clip, or magnet)

Invite the kids to sit in a circle with their hands behind their backs.

**For this game, you'll need to begin with your hands open behind your back and your eyes closed. I'm going to place a** (name small object) **in someone's hand. If you get it, stay quiet so you don't let anyone know you're the one with the object. Everyone will sit in a circle and pretend to pass the object from person to person with your hands behind your backs. After about a minute of that, I'll call out, "Freeze," and everyone will stop. Then we'll take turns guessing who has the object.**

**Works well with the  
Rahab and the Spies  
lesson!**

Invite the kids to close their eyes. Walk around the outside of the circle, pause occasionally, and then place the object in someone's hand. If your group wants to move around (and you have space), the kids can walk around while passing (or pretending the pass) the object. **Now everyone should close your hands and keep your eyes closed until I tell you to open them. If you're the one who has the small item, try to keep a straight face. Don't give it away!** Place the small object in one person's hands.

**Now you can all open your eyes and everyone pretend to pass the object while the person who really has the object is actually going to pass it. You have to be careful so we don't know who really has it. You can change the direction you're passing it, too, by passing it back to the person who passed it to you.** Encourage the kids to all pretend to pass the object behind their backs. After about a minute, call out, "Freeze."

Choose someone to guess first. Go around the circle, allowing each kid to guess who has the item, including the one who has it. If anyone guesses correctly, he wins that round. If it makes it around the circle without anyone guessing correctly, the kid with the object wins that round. Whoever wins the round gets to pass the item on to another kid.

**Could you tell when someone was hiding the object? What gave it away?** Give kids a chance to answer. **In today's story, when God's people were in danger, God protected them as they hid in the home of a woman named Rahab! Rahab and God's people may have had to be sneaky when hiding so they didn't get caught, kind of like we were hiding something in the game. We're learning how God prepared the way for His people in our story today!**

**Make It Inclusive:** Some kids may not have the ability to pretend to pass something if they don't actually have an object. You can give them a small object to hold in their hands so they can have something to hold.