

GIRLS GONE WILD—1

“RAGAB: BREAKING THE LABELS THAT BIND”

The discussion questions provided are only suggestions and can be tailored to fit the specific needs of your group. Prayerfully choose four or five questions and then, if time allows, you can follow up with more.

KEY POINTS:

1. Rahab's Three Strikes

- She was a woman.
- She was a Canaanite, not a Jew.
- She was a prostitute.

2. Rahab's Story:

- Part One: The Faith Risk
- Part Two: The Faith Result

It's not who we were
that matters,
but what we can
become!

LAUNCH IT

- Growing up, what nickname did you have? How did you feel when you were called by this name?
- What are some of the cruel names children sometimes call each other?

EXPLORE IT

The name **Rahab** means *proud, boisterous one*. Sometimes it is used metaphorically to describe Egypt.

1. Read Deuteronomy 7:1-10. **A)** Why did the Lord command the Israelites to completely destroy the idolatrous nations as they took possession of the land God had promised them? **B)** What reason does God give for choosing the Israelites as His people?
2. Read Rahab's story in Joshua 2:1-16. **A)** What caused the citizens of Jericho to fear the Israelites? **B)** Why did Rahab risk her own safety to protect two men she barely knew? **C)** What did Rahab sense was about to happen to Jericho and thus motivated Rahab to side with the Israelites (vv. 9-11)? **D)** How many times does Rahab refer to the Lord in verses 8-13? What evidence of true faith in God do you find? **E)** Besides her bad girl reputation and her lying about the spies' whereabouts, what can we discern about her heart and her beliefs about God (v.11)? **F)** Why do you think God chose to save Rahab? Why did He save her whole family?
3. Read Joshua 6:14-23. **A)** What did the spies require of Rahab to insure her safety? **B)** How many times did Rahab obey their commands? **C)** The Hebrew word for "scarlet cord" is *tiqvah* and is sometimes translated *hope*. Where did Rahab place her hope? **D)** How did Rahab's faith and obedience benefit her family?
4. Read Joshua 6:25 and Matthew 1:1,5. **A)** What significance do you think it holds that Rahab is mentioned in Matthew's genealogy of Christ? **B)** What other woman is mentioned in this list? What was her nationality (Ruth 1:9)? **C)** What is the happy ending to this wild girl's story? What does this demonstrate to us about God's grace? **D)** What does Rahab's story say to you about God's ability to redeem our worst mistakes and use us for His glory? **E)** How should Rahab's story motivate us to take faith risks with God?

5. Read Romans 10:9-10 and Joshua 2:11. **A)** How is Rahab's declaration of faith similar to our salvation faith described in Romans 10:10? **B)** What is our part in receiving salvation?
6. Read Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:24-25. **A)** Why do you suppose Rahab is still identified by her old lifestyle? **B)** How were people in the Old Testament saved? (see Romans 4:1-4) **C)** How did Rahab's faith save her? What works did her faith produce? **D)** Why is it important to remember our past and what God has saved us from?
7. Read Matthew 7:1-5. and James 4:11-12. **A)** What do these verses tell us about judging others? **B)** Why is it dangerous to judge people by their behavior? (see 2 Corinthians 5:16-17) **C)** What is the difference between judging sin and judging a person?
8. Read 2 Corinthians 6:9-11. **A)** Why are the unrighteous defined by their behavior but the righteous are not? **B)** What does it mean to be sanctified and justified? **C)** What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our sanctification and justification?
9. Read Ephesians 5: 7-10. **A)** What is meant by, "You were once darkness?" (see Colossians 1:13-14) **B)** What makes us children of light? **C)** How does believing that we have been changed, on the inside, transform our walk or lifestyle, on the outside?

SHARE IT

1. Share the negative label that follows your name? I am _____ the _____. How did you come by this label? Now that you are in Christ, how should the label read?
2. Share a time when you took a faith risk because you trusted God more than what you could see with your eyes? What was the result? If you had been in Rahab's situation, would you have risked your life for the sake of others?
3. Who have you unfairly judged because of their behavior or their past? How do you feel when someone judges you by your performance or by your past? In what way can you identify with Rahab's lifestyle or immoral behavior? Have you ever felt like you had three strikes against you? What were they?
4. Share what kind of life God has saved you from. Can those who know you best see a difference in your life? What positive label would you like to have follow your name? Example: My name is _____ the _____ and I am going to _____.
5. Ultimately, Rahab turned from worshipping false gods to trusting in the One True God. What idols in your life do you still need to turn from (materialism, worldly pleasures, self-destructive behaviors, immorality, etc.)?

APPLY IT

1. Rahab's faith resulted in her obedience. What steps of obedience is the Lord asking you to take? What false gods do you need to let go of?
2. What beliefs (labels) or behaviors do you need to break free from? What new beliefs and behaviors do you need to put on? What faith risk do you need to take this week?
3. Rahab's faith risk resulted in her salvation and that of her family. How can you make your faith in Christ more evident to your lost family members? What can you do to influence them to trust in Christ?