



## A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: Joshua 2

Message for the Week: The Scarlet Rope

Sunday, May 14, 2023

### Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

Were you ever surprised by someone's confession of their belief in the one true God? Share the story.

### Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

### Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Joshua 2](#) out loud.

[Clicking this link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

## **Respond / Reflect:**

What is Rahab's confession?

What do you think the scarlet cord represents?

Who is protecting Rahab in this story? Who is protecting you?

Why do you think Rahab shows up in Joshua 2, Psalm 87, Matthew 1, Hebrews 11, and James 2?

What places, people, or things have you looked to for security? Where or to whom are we looking for security?

## **Try It:**

What do the marginalized and outsiders have to say to us that we need to hear?

How can we have a posture of listening to those who are marginalized and on the outside? Take time to listen to marginalized or outsider voice this week. Take note of what you hear.

## **Prayer:**

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Pray this prayer together:

Father, forgive us when we are too blind to see what you are doing. Open our eyes, ears, minds and spirit to see what you are doing. Teach us to listen and discern what you are doing. Open our community to those who love you that we do not yet know. AMEN

## **Missional/Spiritual Practice: Hospitality**

During the months of April and May, you are invited and encouraged to engage in the missional practice of [Hospitality](#). Hospitality is about creating welcoming space for the other. The practice of hospitality originated in the ancient world and was expected as travelers would seek shelter and food after traveling great distances. This practice is about living a life of hospitality. Henri Nouwen writes, "Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines."