

## A Surprising Future From a Sinful Past

Matthew 1:1-17 & Joshua: 2:1-13; 6:22-25

### Taking it Home:

1. Read Hebrews 2:8-13. How might this passage of Scripture be an encouragement for someone who sees themselves as “dirty” in God’s eyes? In what way does it encourage your own heart?
2. How can your family or circle of friends minister to ‘outsiders’ during this Christmas season?

### Prayer Concerns:

### The Story of Rahab

### Christmas Reflections from her story:

1. Everyone, \_\_\_\_\_, is welcomed into the kingdom of God regardless of their \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Anyone can be \_\_\_\_\_ by the grace of God and used for \_\_\_\_\_.
3. All are to receive Christ’s \_\_\_\_\_ through the \_\_\_\_\_.

## Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

### Getting Started:

1. Who are some of the heroes in your genealogy? Who would you rather not claim?

### Digging Deeper:

#### Read Matthew 1: 1-1-6; Joshua 2:1-13; 6:22-25

1. Why do you suppose Rahab felt safe harboring two spies? Why was she willing to put her trust in them, and risk being caught by her own people for protecting them?
2. Given her disreputable occupation and her obvious lie, what in the story builds Rahab's reputation as a woman of faith? (See also Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25)
3. The stories of Tamar, Ruth, Rahab, and Bathsheba – all part of Jesus' lineage – show us that Jesus is always bringing in the 'outsiders' those seen by religious institutions as too damaged by exploitation and sin. Who are some 'outsiders' that today's religious institutions might exclude? Who might you be tempted to exclude?
4. Has there ever been a time in your life when your sin or "label" made you feel God could not or would not accept you? What changed that?
5. What conditions do the spies and Rahab agree upon? What does this tell you about who she is as a person? How might this story shape the way that we see others?
6. What is the significance of Joshua 6:25? How did this help to transform Rahab's life and future? How is this instructive for the church community?