



Welcome

SERIES: THE MATRIARCHS OF CHRISTMAS

Message: It All Worked Out in the End

Dr. Lance Watson, Senior Pastor

PRAYER: O Lord, as we continue in this season of Advent, we thank you for the remarkable faith and resilience of the women you chose to include in the lineage of your Son, Jesus Christ. We honor the tenacity of Tamar, the courage of Rahab, the loyalty of Ruth, the wisdom of Bathsheba, and the “yes” of Mary, all who navigated complex circumstances to play their part in your divine plan. May we draw strength from their stories of courage and perseverance as we await the arrival of the promised King. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: Do you know any courageous women? Share one name. Share one story.

INTRODUCTION: In Joshua 2, we are introduced to Rahab, a Canaanite woman and resident of Jericho who played a pivotal role in the Israelite conquest of the Promised Land. Before the main assault, Joshua sent two spies to scout the heavily fortified city of Jericho, and Rahab, who was a prostitute by trade, sheltered them from the city's search party on her rooftop. Her importance stems from her extraordinary act of faith; she confessed to the spies that she knew the God of Israel was the true and powerful God who had delivered them from Egypt, and in exchange for saving their lives, she secured a promise that she and her family would be spared during the city's imminent destruction, identifying her house by a scarlet cord tied in the window. Despite how the story began, it all worked out in the end.

BIBLE STUDY: Read **Matthew 1:5a (NLT)**: Salmon was the father of Boaz (*whose mother was Rahab*).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **What was your biggest takeaway from the message?** What’s one thing you learned? What questions came to mind as you listened to the message? What points did you find most insightful?
2. In Joshua 2, Rahab chose to protect the spies, which put her life and the lives of her family at significant risk, demonstrating moral courage against the established order of her city. In what ways has the African American experience required similar acts of moral courage (e.g., in civil rights protests, whistleblowing, or simply living authentically in a hostile environment), and what is the personal cost of such courage?
3. Rahab, an outsider and a marginalized person in Jericho, recognized the power and purpose of God before many in Israel did (Joshua 2:9-11) and acted on that faith immediately. Considering the historical and ongoing struggle for justice, how have seemingly unexpected or marginalized allies (like Rahab) within the African American community—or from outside it—shown extraordinary faith and foresight to drive progress and ensure survival?

GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study.

Previous GPS Guides are available online at www.myspbc.org.

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4. The spies made a covenant to protect Rahab and her family in return for her help, symbolized by the scarlet cord (Joshua 2:18). Discuss instances in African American history where an essential element of courage was not solitary action, but collective commitment and mutual protection (e.g., the Underground Railroad, community defense organizations, or mutual aid societies). What does this reciprocal commitment teach us about true courage?
5. What hope does Rahab's inclusion in the genealogy of Jesus provide for us today?

CHALLENGE: What area do you need to trust God to work things out right now?

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at www.myspbc.org. You can also “find, follow and like” our Facebook page at facebook.com/myspbc. Turn on your notifications.

CELEBRATIONS: Take this time to share praise reports (e.g. answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAYER: Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

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We Care!

NOTICE: As a small group leader, we depend on you to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472

EMAIL: prayer@myspbc.org.

FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: care@myspbc.org

TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: care@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000

EMAIL: emergencyassistance@myspbc.org.

TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR:

CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial By Name Directory

EMAIL:

- Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams: Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org
- SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith: Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org
- Dreamchasers (20-29): Juan Shackelford: juan.shackelford@myspbc.org
- Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr.: lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org
- Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend: michelle.townsend@myspbc.org
- Encore (50-59): Lisa Johnson: lisa.johnson@myspbc.org.
- Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman: maceo.freeman@myspbc.org
- Refiners (70+): Roscoe Jones: roscoe.jones@myspbc.org

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Small Group Leader Guide

Would you like to START or JOIN a Small Group at Saint Paul's?

Most existing groups are open to new group members, and new groups begin on a regular basis. If you have friends in a small group, ask about joining their group. If you are new to Saint Paul's and are looking for a place to connect, please feel free to contact us and we will do our best to help you find the right group.

Leader Tips:

The GPS document is a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you must use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through while others will be over in a few seconds!

1. Don't teach the lesson. The lesson was taught on the weekend. Just ask questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our small groups. So, have fun with the people in your group.

Agenda for a Small Group Gathering

Gathering Time

Take 5-10 minutes to welcome everyone, catch up and if planned, share some food!

Discussion Time

Here's a suggested format:

1. **Ice Breaker** – Lighthearted icebreaker question (5-10 min.)
2. **Discussion** - Discussion time, Bible study, application challenge (30-40 min.)
3. **Prayer** – Prayer requests and praying for one another (10-20 min.)
4. **Planning** – Remind the group of how we serve together (e.g. usher, sing, greet, pray, etc.)