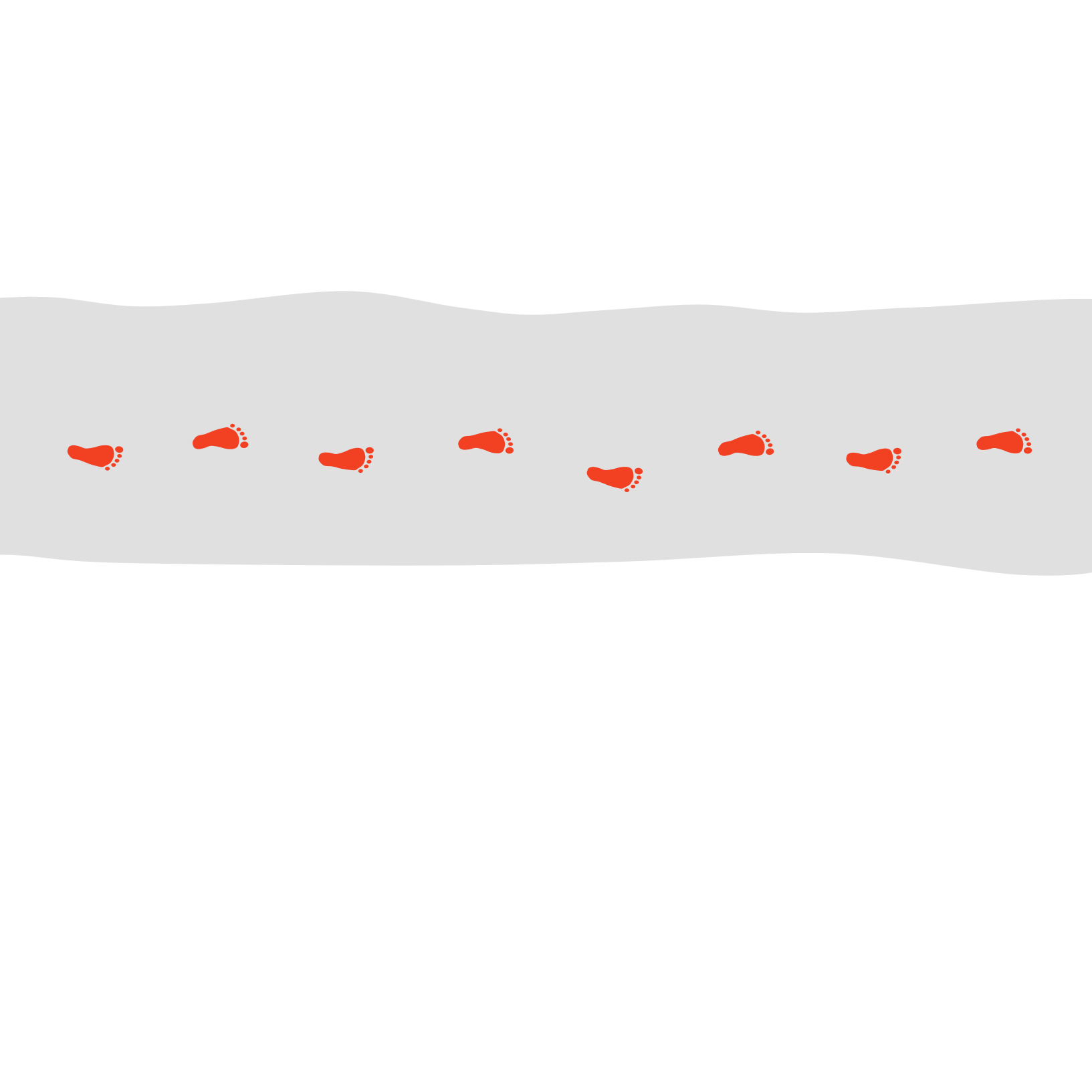




راحاب

امراة إيمان





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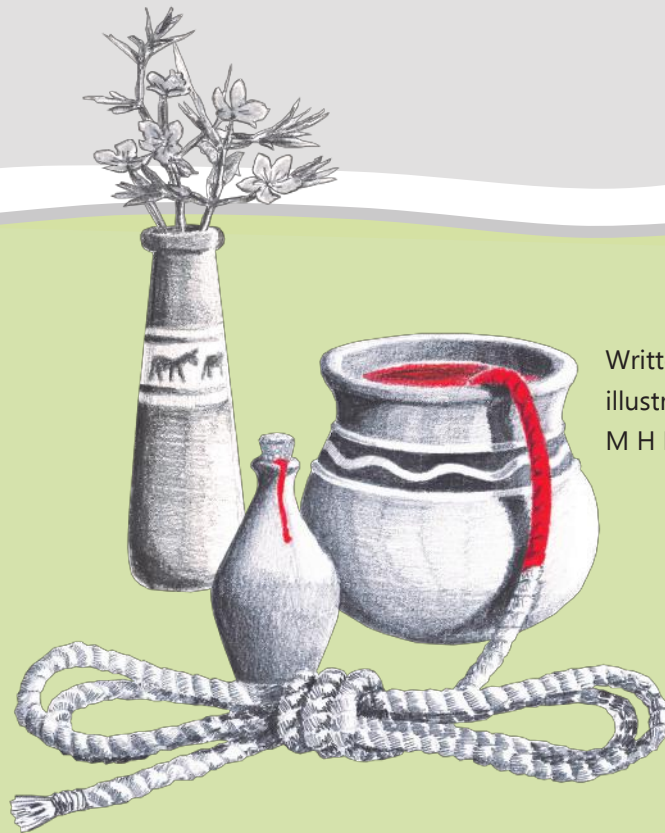
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Rahab

Woman of Faith



Written and
illustrated by
M H Philpott

Where?

Can you find where these stories took place?



Look on the story pages for the question mark

... and then look for the places on this map.

The children of Israel were attacked by the Amorite kings Sihon and Og. God gave them their land too.



Map

The Great Sea
(Mediterranean Sea)

CANAAN
the Promised
Land

Sea of
Galilee

Mt.
Carmel

Jezreel

Abel-meholah

Shechem

Gilgal?

Jericho

Jerusalem

Bethlehem

Dead
Sea

MOAB

Route taken by the
Children of Israel to
reach Jericho

PHOENICIA

Cherith

Amorites
(Og)

Ramoth Gilead

Tishbe

AMMON

Amorites
(Sihon)

EDOM

Who was Rahab?

Rahab was a woman of Canaan who lived in her home built against the wall of Jericho.

When she lived in Jericho, she was not married but did have a father, mother, brothers and sisters who lived somewhere else in Jericho.

She was a wicked woman before God gave her faith.

Fact file

DID YOU KNOW?

Canaan would come to be known as Israel

What the New Testament says

Rahab is said to be a woman of faith. In *Hebrews* it says this because she welcomed the Israelite spies into her home. *James* says that her faith was shown because she did not betray the spies but rather helped them escape. Although the New Testament says that Rahab was a sinner, Jesus made it clear that sinners (like her) are welcomed into the kingdom of God.

The Promised Land

The story of Rahab and why Jericho had to be destroyed can only be understood by knowing that God had planned to overthrow Jericho and the other cities of Canaan. God gave the land to the Children of Israel, the nation descended from Abraham.

DID YOU KNOW?

In Jericho, Jesus went to the house of Zacchaeus, the hated tax collector

This story happened here

History Timeline

Adam,
Noah,
Babel

Abraham,
Moses,
Joshua

Judges,
David,
Solomon

Kings of
Israel and
Judah

Daniel,
Esther,
Nehemiah

The Lord
Jesus
Christ

The Promised Land

The story of Rahab starts hundreds of years before she was born, many miles away, in a city called Ur. Here lived a man called Abraham. One day the LORD—the God who made heaven and earth—spoke to Abraham. He told Abraham to leave Ur, and He would show him where to go. God also promised that Abraham's family would grow so large it would become a nation. He packed up and went where God told him. Abraham believed God and he did what God said. This believing in God is called having faith.

When Abraham came to the land called Canaan, God spoke to him again and made another promise. He said that Abraham's family would suffer in another country for many years, but afterwards they would come out and have all the land that Abraham could see—the land where the people called the Canaanites lived. This land was the Promised Land.

Abraham has died and hundreds of years have passed. His family has grown into a nation known as the Children of Israel. They had been slaves in Egypt, but when the time was right, God told them to leave and go to Canaan, the Promised Land. Pharaoh, the King of Egypt, didn't want to let them go and he chased after the Israelites.



*On the map, can you find: **CANAAN***



He had them trapped at the Red Sea. They did not have boats. How could they escape?

DID YOU KNOW?
'Israelites' is another name for the Children of Israel

Then God did something wonderful—he parted the Red Sea. He made the sea like dry land, so that the people could go across without even getting wet. As they walked, the sea towered above them like big walls on the left hand and on the right.

Pharaoh sent his army into the sea after them, but when the Israelites were safely across, God made the sea return, and all the Egyptian army was drowned.

The Israelites came towards Canaan. It wasn't easy, because many nations came out to fight them, even though the Israelites didn't want any trouble. But God helped the Children of Israel defeat their enemies. They have just beaten Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites.

God has just chosen someone called Joshua to be the leader of the Children of Israel. God has spoken very kindly to him, and said that He will be with him to defeat the Canaanites. So now Joshua is looking across the River Jordan towards Jericho, planning what to do next. He must decide how to capture the city. Wisely, he chooses two men to be spies, and tells them to go to Jericho and find out as much as they can.

The people of Jericho, like all the people in the land of Canaan, worshipped false gods. They did the most wicked things which God hated. They even killed their little children, thinking that it would please their false gods. The LORD was going to destroy them for being so wicked, and the Israelites would live in the land instead.



*On the map, can you find: the land of the **AMORITES***



At last, hundreds of years after God spoke to Abraham, Joshua is about to lead the Israelites into Canaan, the Promised Land. God's promise to Abraham is coming true.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

The name
'Jesus' is the
Greek version
of 'Joshua'

You can read about this in Genesis chapter 12, Exodus chapter 14, Deuteronomy chapter 31, and Joshua chapter 1.

Fear in Jericho

It was harvest time and the city of Jericho was surrounded by lush green fields and palm trees. The River Jordan, just a few miles away, was overflowing its banks and watering the land, as it did every year.

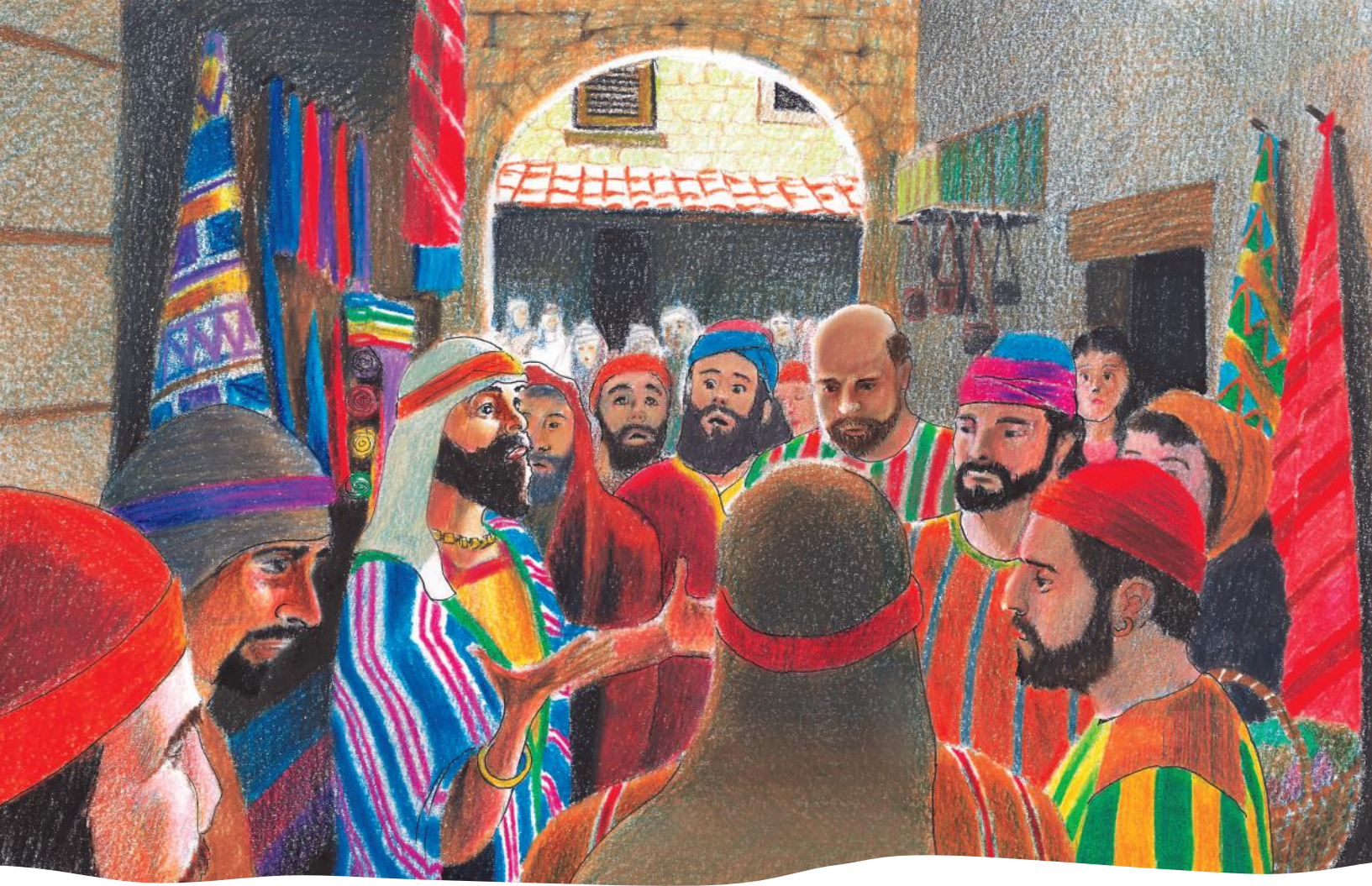
Jericho was a strong city protected by massive stone and brick walls. It was like a very big castle, and the King of Jericho had an army to fight their enemies. Every night the city gates were locked shut. All the people must have felt very safe inside. They seemed to have everything going for them. But all this was about to change!

Lots of people are crowding around in the street to hear some news. Someone is talking about a group of people called the Children of Israel. This man has heard that they had escaped from Egypt—the mightiest country in the world—and they did it by walking through the Red Sea, which the LORD God had dried up for them. Now the Children of Israel have been in battle with the Amorites on the other side of the Jordan, a few miles away, and they have completely destroyed them.

But the worst news of all was still to come—Jericho and all the land of



*On the map, can you find: the River **JORDAN***



Canaan had been given to the Children of Israel by the LORD—He had promised it to them. Jericho is in danger! The people were terrified.

They realised that the God of the Children of Israel was a very powerful God, and not like their gods of stone, wood and metal. They must have thought, “Surely nothing can stop them, and Jericho will be next!”

You can read about this in Joshua chapter 2 verses 9 to 11.

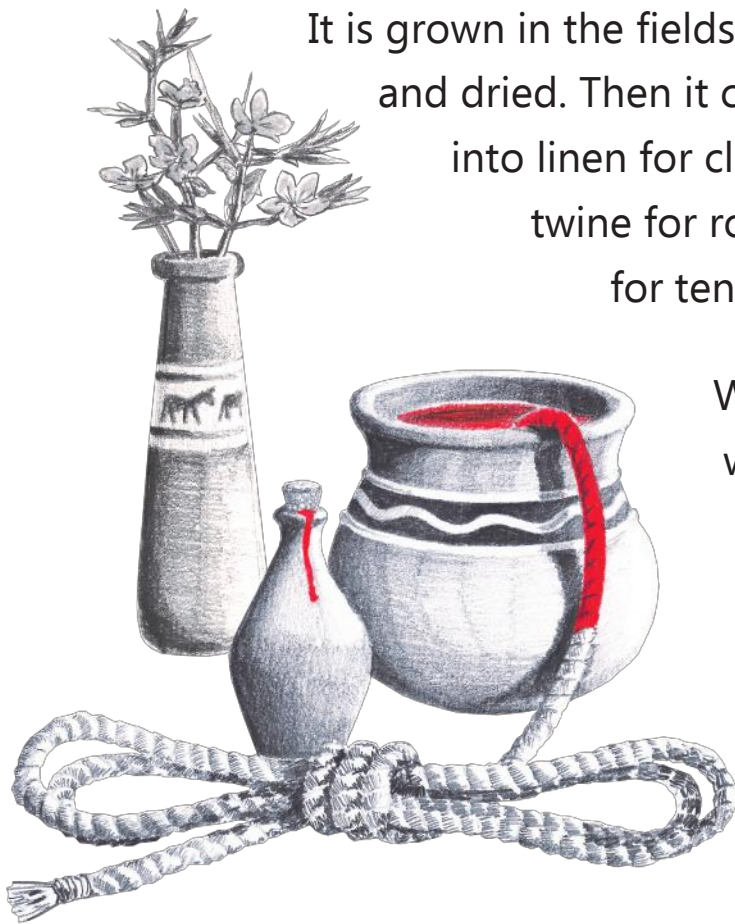
The Woman Who Believed

Here is a woman called Rahab. She is carrying some bundles of flax to her home in Jericho. Perhaps she has just bought them at the market.

You may not have heard of flax before.

It is grown in the fields, cut down,
and dried. Then it can be made
into linen for clothes, or
twine for rope, or canvas
for tents.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**
Twine is strong
string made by
twisting thread
together



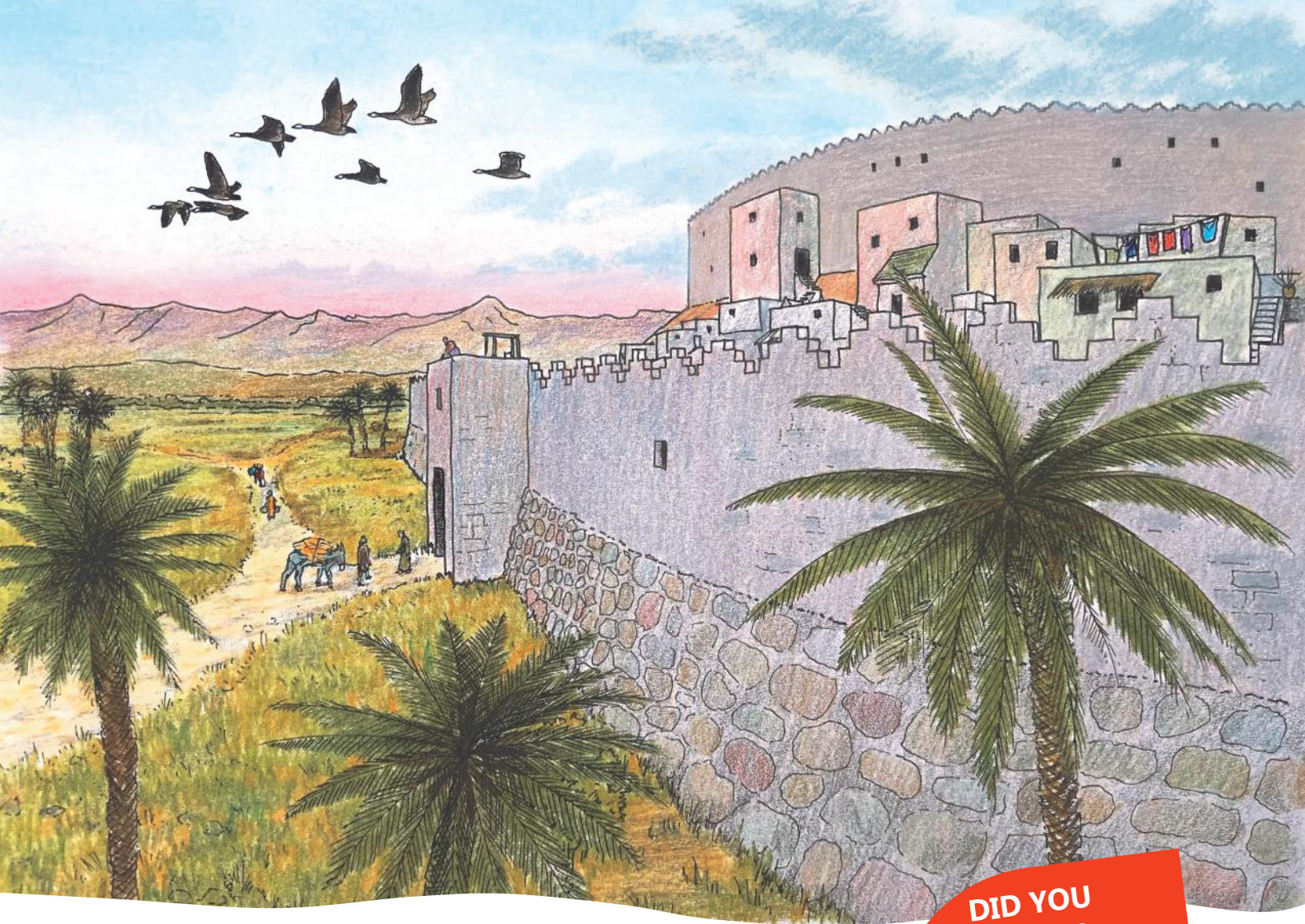
We do not know what Rahab did with all of the flax, but she had a lot of it, and she almost certainly made coloured rope with some of it. Perhaps she used to make lots of different things from the flax and then sell them to earn money.



*On the map, can you find: **JERICO***



The flax had to be left out in the sun to dry for some time so that it would be ready to use. She has to work hard, carrying the bundles up the steps onto the roof of her house so they can be laid out.



Rahab's house was built against the high outer wall of Jericho, with a window built into the wall. What a view she must have had looking out across the green fields of the Jordan valley.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

Years later, the prophet Elisha lived in Jericho for a while

Like all the people of Jericho, Rahab had been a wicked person, who did not know or love God. In fact, Rahab had been a *very* wicked woman. If she lived today in a house near you, I think your parents would tell you to stay away from her!

But something is happening to Rahab. Something you can't see and I can't see. Although she was scared like everyone else, when she heard the news about the Children of Israel, now God is working in her heart to change her. Instead of being filled with panic, and worshipping the false gods of Canaan, we find her thinking about the LORD. She has heard how He is the God who is all powerful. She listened to the story about the parting of the Red Sea, and how God has given the Children of Israel this land. She now wants to be with the Israelites, and not with the wicked people of Jericho.

Rahab hadn't heard a preacher or seen a Bible, as Bibles didn't exist in those days. But even so, she believed what she had heard about God and His people. What a blessed thing to believe in God. Faith in the LORD was changing Rahab. God still changes lives today when He gives faith to believe what the Bible says about the Lord Jesus Christ.

You can find out about this in Joshua chapter 2 verses 6, 9, 10 and 11 and Hebrews chapter 11 verse 31.

Two Special Visitors

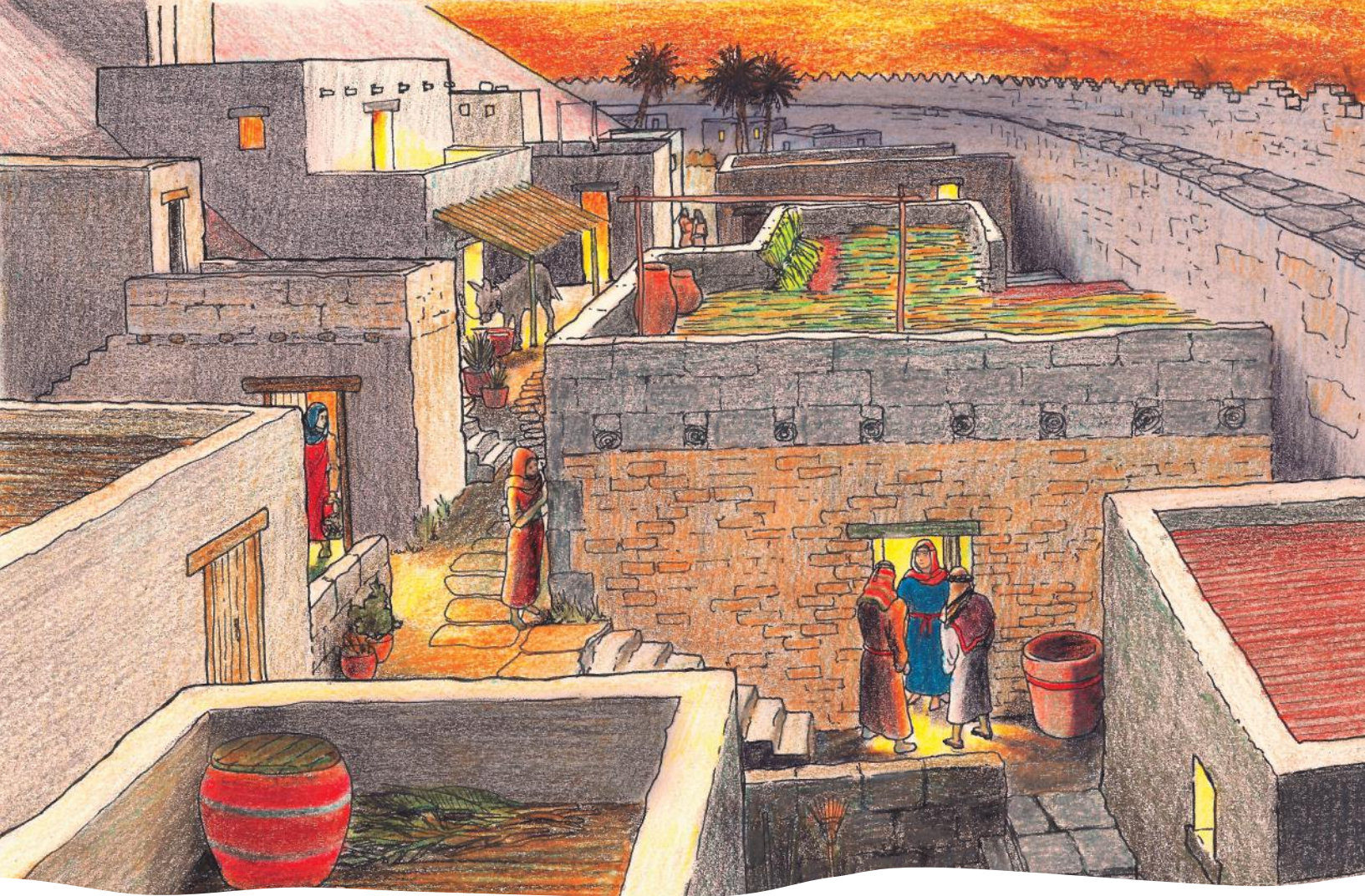
Rahab must have thought a lot about the coming of the Children of Israel. Perhaps she prayed a lot about it too. Even so, maybe she was still very afraid. After all, she didn't know any of the Israelites and they didn't know her, so she would be in danger like everyone else in Jericho. There seemed no way she was going to be spared, and live with the Children of Israel.

It is starting to get dark. Two strangers have just entered Rahab's house and they are wanting to stay for the night.

But these men are no ordinary men. Surely, it can't be true, can it? Yes! They are Israelites! These are the spies who had been sent by Joshua.

How Rahab must have been amazed! Of all the places to stay for the night, how is it that these two men ended up at *her* house? They certainly didn't know about Rahab and how she had come to have faith in God.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**
A spy obtains
information
about the
enemy



Well, it was God who had planned it! He guided them, making sure they went to her house, and nowhere else. Nothing happens by chance.

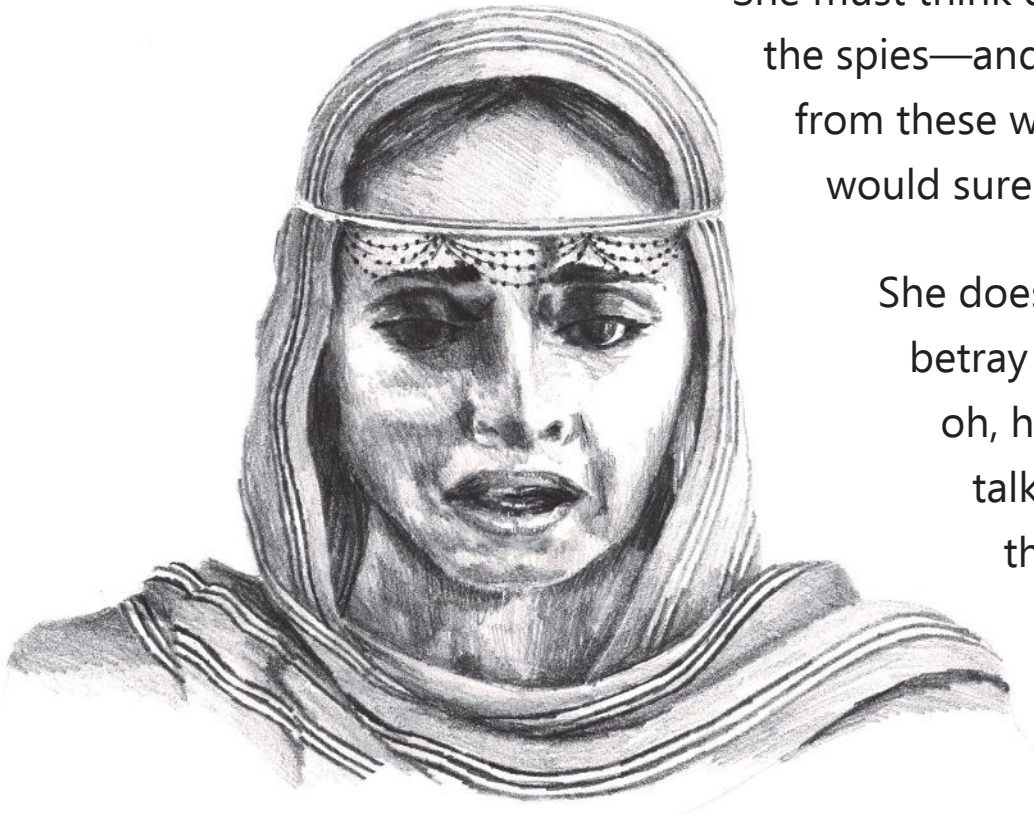
We wonder if she was thinking, "What should I say? I must tell them that I don't want to die with the rest of Jericho, and I realise how great God is." She must speak with them, but would they listen, or believe her?

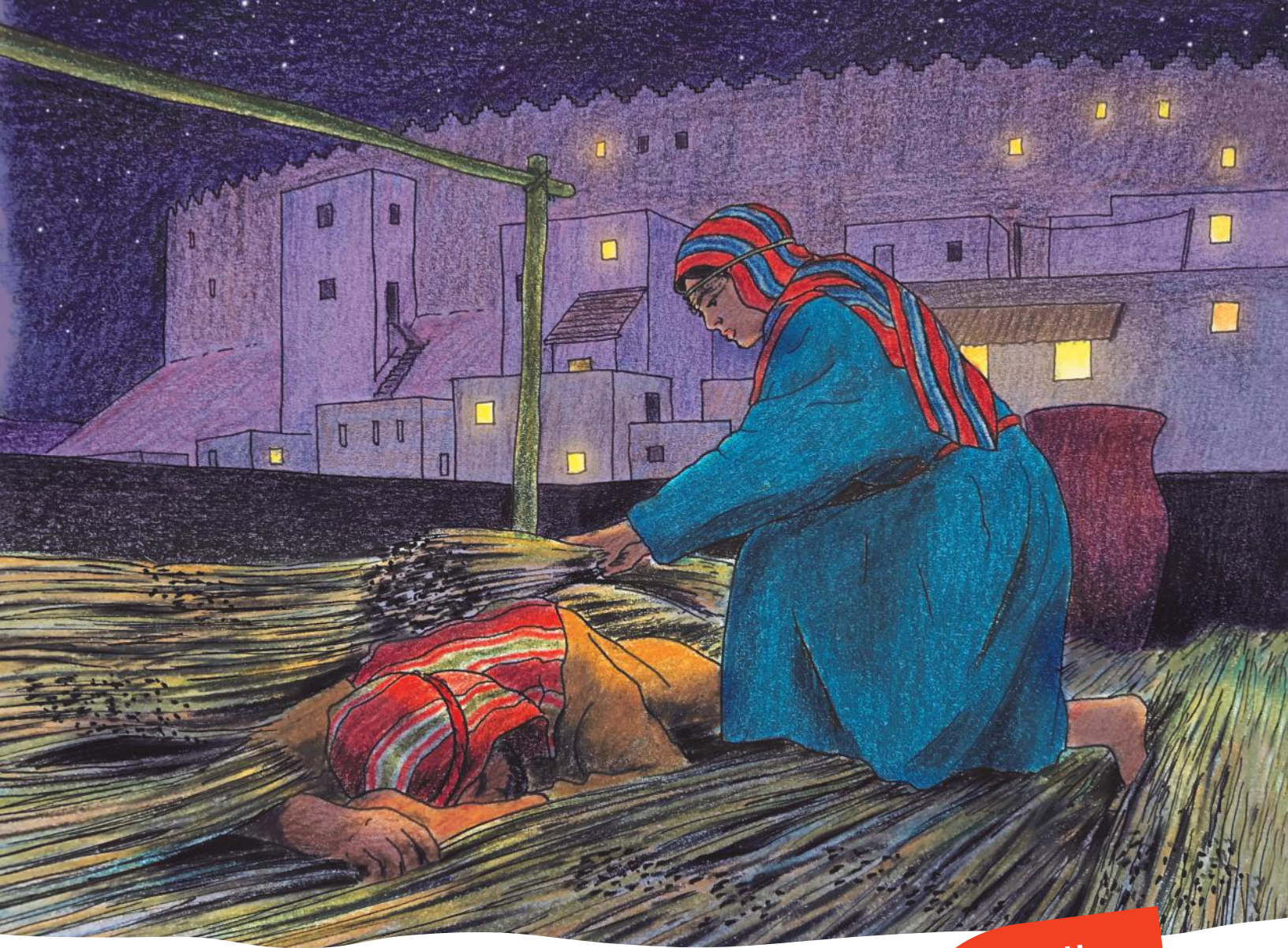
But then, without warning, there was a thump, thump, thump!
Someone was banging hard on the door, shouting, "Bring out the men that have come into your house—they are spies!" Someone else, who had seen the men, realised they were Israelites, and told the king.

Poor Rahab! Whatever will she do?

She must think quickly to keep the spies—and herself—safe from these wicked men, who would surely kill them all.

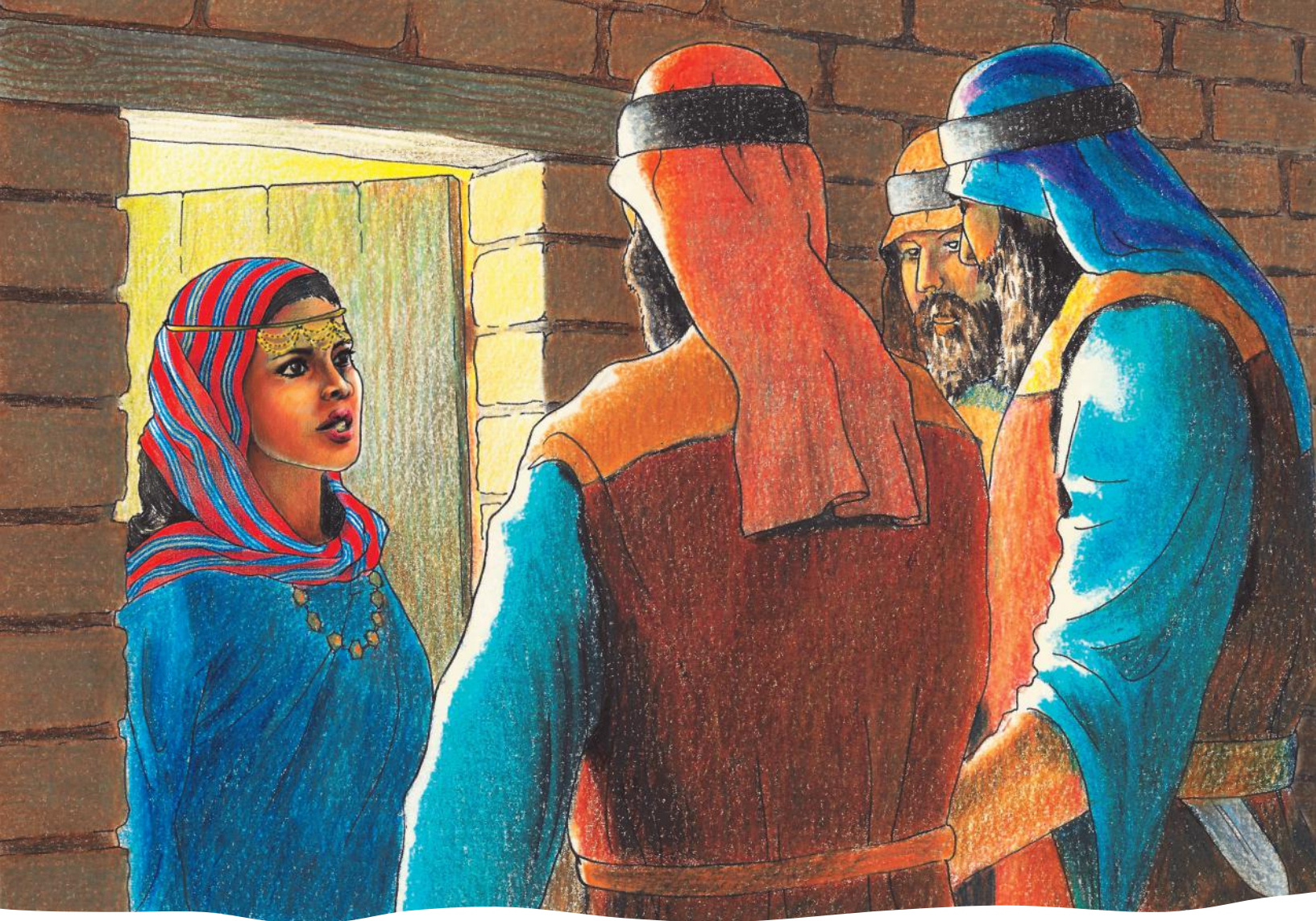
She doesn't want to betray the spies and, oh, how she wants to talk to them before they leave!





So Rahab decides what to do. She quietly leads the spies up on to the roof of her house and hides them with the stalks of flax.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**
In Bible times
most houses
had a flat
roof



She hurries back to the door. Whatever is she going to say to the king's men? She replies, "Men did come in here, but I didn't know who they were. When it became dark the men left, but where they went I don't know. Hurry after them, and you will catch them!"

The king's men rushed off towards the River Jordan to try and catch the spies. As soon as they had left the city, the guards closed the gates and locked them shut. The king's men wouldn't be back tonight.



Rahab and the spies must have been very relieved. For the moment they were safe. But for how long? Would other men come in and search the house? Although Rahab didn't know it, God was watching over her and the spies. God still watches over His people to keep them from danger.

You can read about this in Joshua chapter 2 verses 1 to 11, Hebrews chapter 11 verse 31 and James chapter 2 verse 25.

The Scarlet Rope

The king's men disappeared into the darkness. Rahab waited for a while to make sure it was clear. Then she went up to the roof, where she had hidden the spies. Now is her opportunity. She must speak with them.

Rahab poured out her heart to these two young men, about how she wanted to be spared. But do you know what the first thing was that she said? "I know that the LORD has given you this land." Yes, Rahab made it clear that she knew about the LORD God, and His promise to give the land to the Israelites. Perhaps the young men were very surprised to hear such a thing from someone in the ungodly city of Jericho! When they heard that, they must have listened very, very carefully to what Rahab said next.

"We are all terrified of your people, and everyone who lives here is full of panic because of you. We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you, when you came out of Egypt. And we have heard how you destroyed the two kings of the Amorites. As soon as we heard this, our hearts melted in fear, and no-one has any courage left, because the LORD, He is the God of all power."



Not long before, God had told the Israelites that the Canaanites would be terrified of them, just as Rahab had said. This must have strengthened the spies' faith to believe what God had spoken.

Rahab hadn't finished speaking. She had the most important thing to say yet. "Now, please, please, promise me, that as I have been kind to you, you will also show kindness to my family. Please, save alive my father, and mother, my brothers, and my sisters, and all their dear ones!"



They had to think quickly how they were going to answer this most surprising request, from this woman they didn't know. She had saved their lives, so it seemed a fair thing for her to ask.

The men answered, "You can trust us. We promise that, when God has given us the land, we will be kind to you, but you must not tell anyone of this! It must be a secret!"

Then Rahab took a rope, one which she had made and dyed scarlet, and let it down out of her

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

The scarlet rope is somewhat like the blood on the doorway in the Passover

window, high on the city wall. The men climbed down the rope. This was the only way out because the city gates were still shut. Rahab leaned out and watched them. When they got to the bottom, Rahab called quietly after them and said, "Get to the mountain and hide there three days, until the men chasing you have come back to Jericho. Then you can go in safety."

The men replied, "When we come into the land, tie this scarlet rope in the window." This was so that the Israelites would know which house was Rahab's, so they could find her again. The men added, "And make sure you bring all your family into your home. If not, we won't be able to rescue them!" The spies disappeared into the darkness. Rahab was alone again.

Rahab didn't know when the Children of Israel would come, but she wanted to be ready. So she tied the rope in the window straight away. The Bible says that people who love Jesus should likewise be ready for when *He* will come again, because no-one knows when that will be.

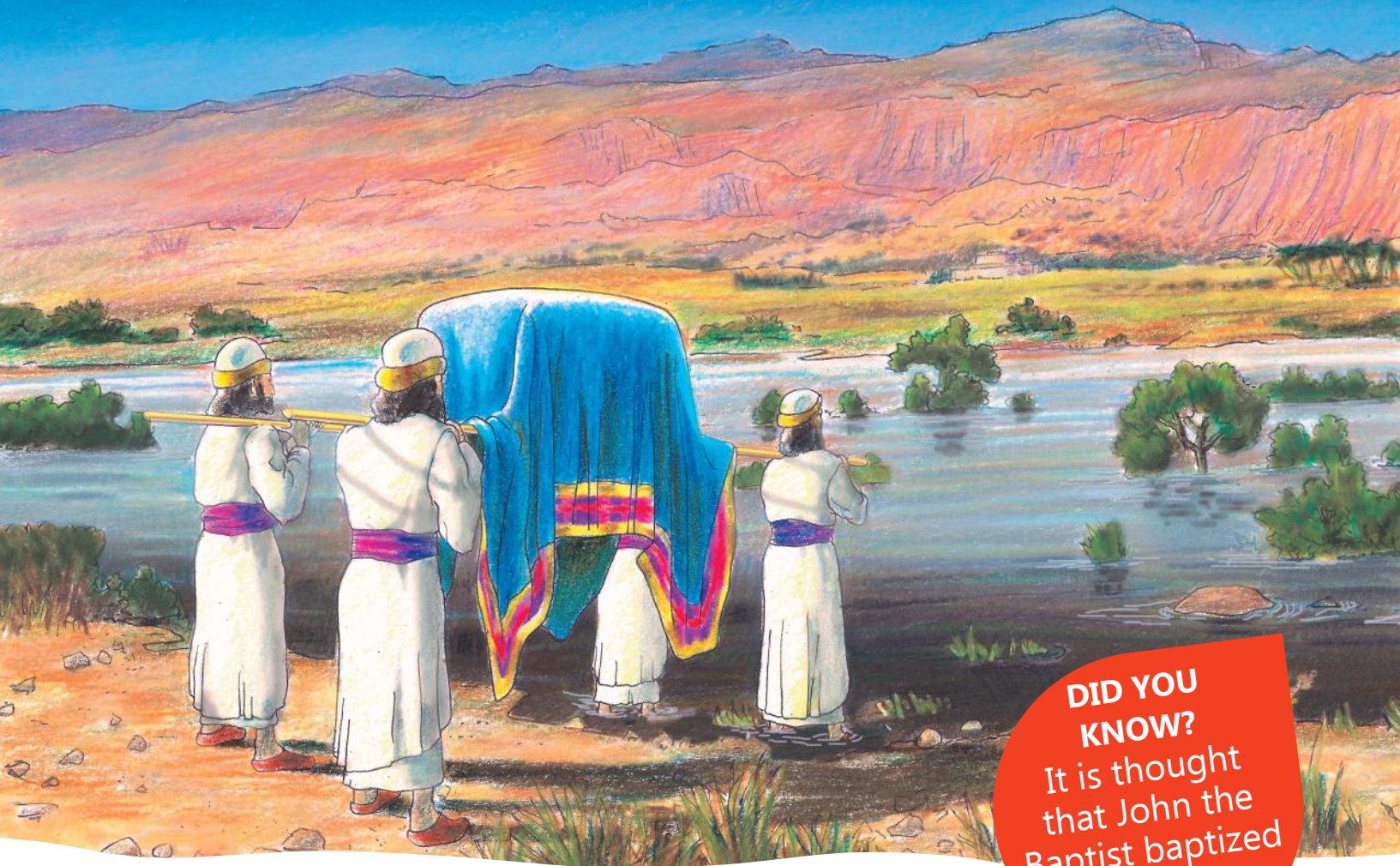
You can read about this in Joshua chapter 2 verses 8 to 21.

Crossing the Jordan

The spies hid in the mountains as Rahab had told them to. Then after three days they returned safely back to their camp on the other side of the Jordan. They told Joshua everything that had happened. Now that they had spoken with Rahab, Joshua knew that the LORD had delivered all the land of Canaan into their hands as He had said. How he must have been thankful to God for this good news.

So Joshua got up very early the next morning, and told everyone to move camp, and go right next to the Jordan. But how would they all cross the river? Remember, the Jordan was much wider and deeper than normal because of the spring floods, and it wasn't possible for all of them and their animals to swim across. But Joshua had faith. He said to the people, "Tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you." He knew God was going to do something very special.

In fear, the people in Jericho were looking out for the Israelites. Rahab must have been looking out too—but in faith. The people knew about the LORD parting the Red Sea, and perhaps they were thinking, "Maybe God will part the Jordan too."



**DID YOU
KNOW?**
It is thought
that John the
Baptist baptized
Jesus in this
area

Well, that is what God did! When the priests stepped into the river, the water stopped flowing, and it piled up in a big heap! The river dried up completely. All the people and their animals passed safely over and into the plains of Jordan near Jericho. Finally, the Israelites were in the Promised Land.

You can read about this in Joshua chapter 2 verse 22 to chapter 3 verse 17.

Rahab and Her Family

Terrible news has reached the King of Jericho. The LORD has performed another miracle to bring the Children of Israel across the Jordan, and now they are camped nearby. The king orders the city gates to be locked shut, so that no-one can go out or come in. The people are terrified, but they will not surrender.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**
The Israelites
camped at
Gilgal

Rahab must have been amazed and excited, but also nervous. The time is coming closer. Will she be saved when Jericho is attacked, as the spies had promised? And what will happen to her father and mother, her brothers and sisters, and their families?

Rahab loved her family dearly, and if they were to be kept safe, they must come into her house, and stay there, as the spies had said.

We don't know what she said to her family, to persuade them to join her. If you remember, she wasn't allowed to tell anyone about her time with the spies. But she did persuade them, and they came into her home. How she must have been so thankful.



*On the map, can you find: **GILGAL***



Perhaps you have a mum, or dad, or other people in your family, who love the Lord Jesus. Like Rahab, they love everyone in their family, and that includes you. They pray for you, and do what they can to keep you safe, and tell you all about the Lord Jesus, the Saviour. It is a great blessing to be loved, and to be in a family like that.

You can read about this in Joshua chapter 4 verse 19 to chapter 5 verse 1, and in chapter 6 verse 1.

The Walls of Jericho

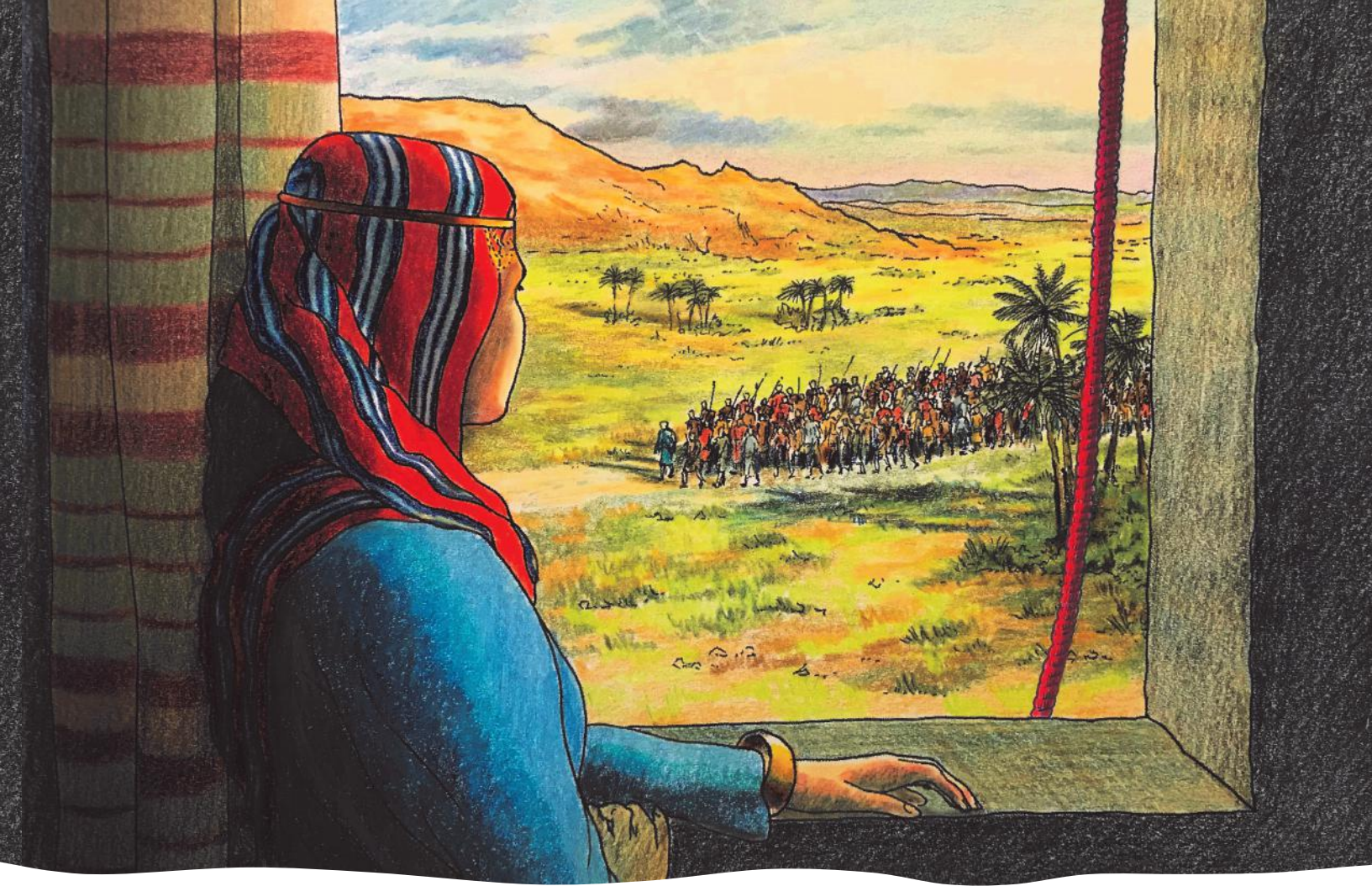
A few days have passed and it is very early one morning. Something has woken up the people of Jericho. They can hear the sound of some trumpets being blown. We can imagine that whoever could, took a look out of a window, or from the top of the city wall, to see what this noise was all about. Rahab must have known who it was, and looked down from her house too. It was the Children of Israel.

It is a very strange sight. There are lots of soldiers, but for some reason, they aren't attacking Jericho. They are marching around the city, followed by seven men—priests—who are blowing trumpets made of rams' horns.

The priests are followed by four more men, carrying a special box. This is the Ark of the Covenant, the sign of God being with the Israelites—although the people of Jericho didn't know that.

The parade marched once around the city and then went back to their camp.





How strange! The people in Jericho must have wondered what the point of it all was. But God had told Joshua this was what they were to do.

And they marched around the city the next day, and the day after that, for six days. Nothing seemed to be happening. Surely Rahab watched from her window each day. Perhaps she was confused too.

Sometimes God's ways look strange, but He always knows what He is doing. Rahab had faith to believe in the LORD, and she trusted the promise made by the spies, however strange this all looked.

On the seventh day, things were different. The soldiers and priests marched around the city once, then twice, three times, four times. Perhaps Rahab was looking out of the window and counting the number of times they went around.

After seven times around, the men stopped. Someone was talking to the soldiers. It was Joshua. He said loudly, "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city! The whole city will be destroyed. Only Rahab will live, and everyone who is with her in her house, because she hid the men that we sent." Joshua made sure that all the soldiers knew about Rahab and her family, so there would be no mistake.

Then the priests blew on their trumpets, and all the people shouted as loudly as they could. Immediately a most amazing thing happened. The massive city walls of Jericho fell down! It was another miracle. God had done it. Do you remember where Rahab's house was? Yes, it was built against the city wall. But that part of the wall didn't fall down. God knew where Rahab was and he made sure of it.



The Israelite soldiers rushed in to the city. Joshua told the men, who had been spies, to go to Rahab's house—the house with the scarlet rope hanging in the window. Then they brought out Rahab and her family and led them away from the battle, which was full of noise, and smoke, and shouting, and sorrow. But in all the chaos, she and her family were saved alive. God had heard and answered Rahab's prayers.

You can read about this in Joshua chapter 6 verses 1 to 23.

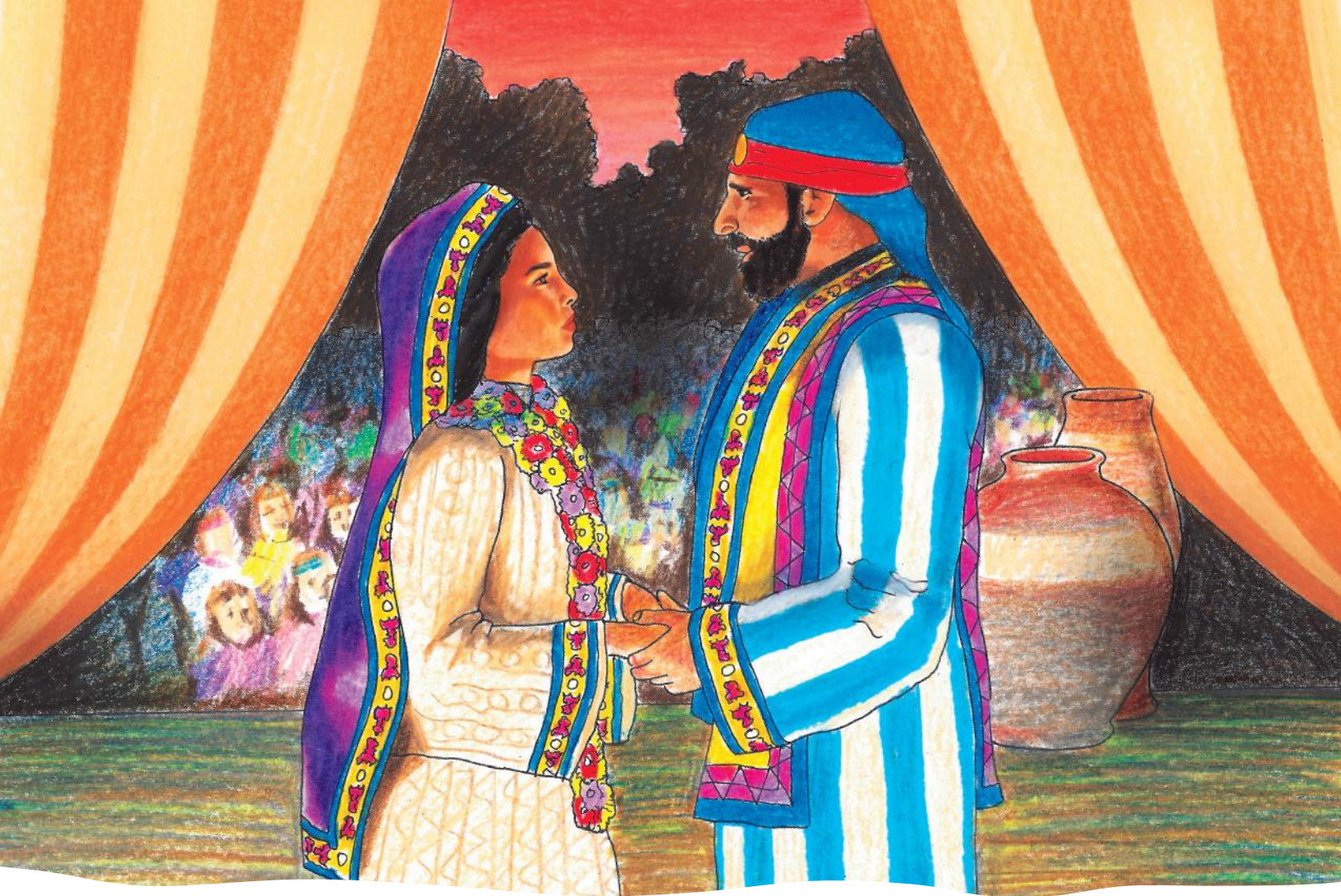
Rahab Gets Married

The Israelite soldiers burnt Jericho down. Rahab must have been very, very upset thinking about the death of the people who she had known in Jericho, as some of them were her neighbours and friends. But these people had not wanted anything to do with the Israelites and their God. She must also have been amazed and thankful that she, a sinful woman from Canaan, had been spared from certain death. Why was she saved? She was saved because God loved her.

Rahab and her family were now homeless. But it wasn't long before she was accepted as one of the Children of Israel, the people whom she loved. She even married one of the Israelites, called Salmon, who was a rich leader in the tribe of Judah. Rahab became one of the most well known people in Israel!

DID YOU KNOW?
The Israelites lived in tents until they moved into the cities of Canaan





Who would have thought it? Rahab, the wicked woman from Jericho—now a changed person, having left her bad ways, and now one of the people of God! How has this happened? Because the LORD God chose her and changed her life. He gave her faith to believe in Him.

You can read about this in Joshua chapter 6 verses 23 to 25, 1 Chronicles chapter 2 verses 10 and 11, and Matthew chapter 1 verse 5.

A Child is Born

That is not quite the end of the story of Rahab.

Rahab and her husband Salmon had a baby—a son called Boaz. You may remember hearing the name Boaz from the story of Ruth. Well, it is the same Boaz! And Boaz had a very famous great-grandson—David—who would become the King of Israel. So Rahab was King David's great-great-grandmother.

It may be easy to read the story of Rahab, and think, "That is very interesting, but why does it matter?"

It matters because God has given us the Old Testament part of the Bible to tell us how He was preparing the world for the coming of Jesus, the Saviour. This is the most special thing about this whole story. Remember that Jesus was called the Son of David, because He was born into David's family line, in the tribe of Judah, and Rahab was in that family line before David.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**
Rahab is
called Rachab
in the gospel
of Matthew



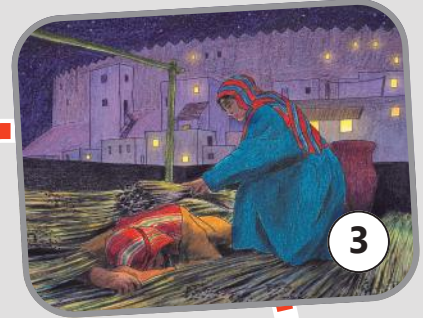
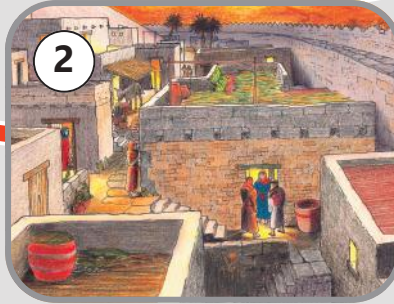
God so loved Rahab that He used her in His grand plan to send Jesus into the world to save His people from their sins. Jesus came to rescue sinners. No-one is too sinful to be saved, and to be used by God.

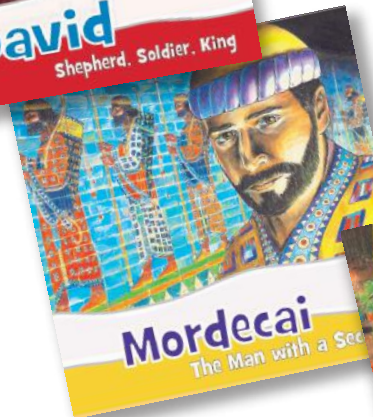
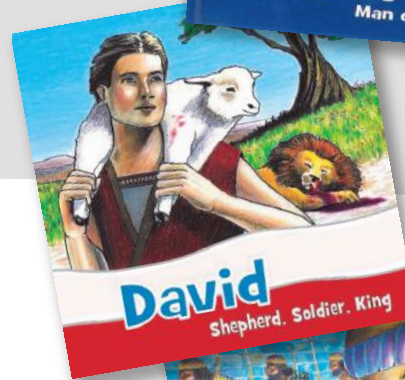
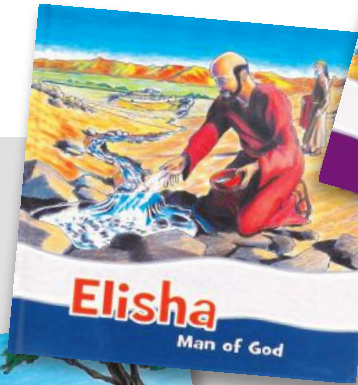
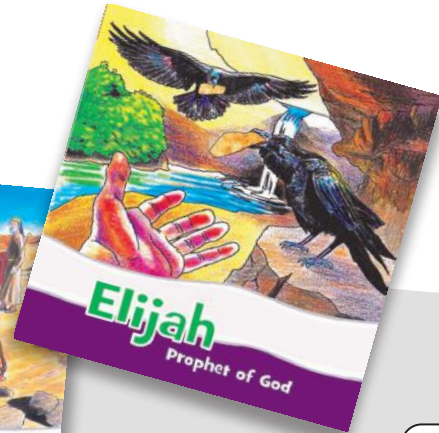
Next time you read of the Lord Jesus, remember that He was descended from Rahab.

You can read about this in Matthew chapter 1.

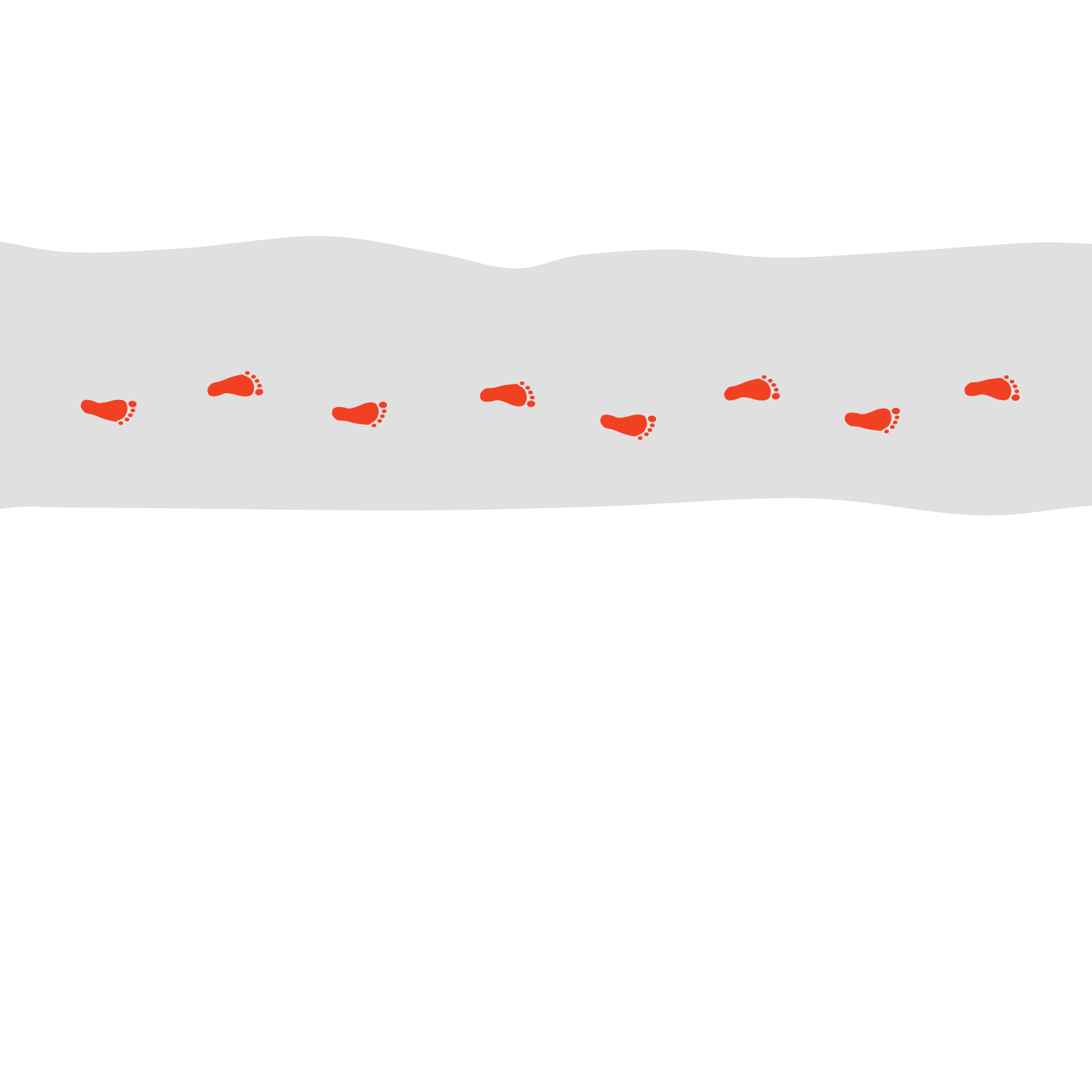
Can you remember?

Look at this page to help you remember the story of Rahab.





Collect all of the Faithful Footsteps series. Which title will be next?



راحاب – امرأة إيمان

تخيّل أنّ جيشًا ما يُهدّد مدينتك بتدمير وشيك، وقد جاء جاسوسين منهم للإقامة في منزلك. إلى أيّ جانب ستكون؟ هل ستخاطر بحياتك من أجل هذين الجاسوسين؟

تعرّف على هذه المرأة الشجاعة التي بإيمانها وثقت بالله وأنقذت عائلتها وبقوا على قيد الحياة.

سلسلة خطوات أمينة

تتبع هذه السلسلة حياة رجال ونساء مؤمنين من الكتاب المقدس، بأسلوبٍ يسهل على الأولاد الصغار فهمه. يمكن استخدام هذه الكتيّبات جنبًا إلى جنب مع الرسومات وكتب التلوين.

