Pearl in the Sand by Tessa Afshar and the Bible verses for this story

Opening Prayer

**Discussion Questions:**

What was your overall impression of Pearl in the Sand?

What brought this Bible story to life? ie..”the walls of Jericho were a marvel. They said he was built like the wall of Jericho” Other examples?

What did you like about Rahab?

In what ways, do you relate to Rahab?

What are some of God’s qualities in this story that touched your heart?

What did we learn about how people relate to God in this story such as Salmone’s thoughts here:

Salmon page 79 “God appears to have a particular purpose for choosing such an unlikely season for our crossing, He wants to teach us about His power and glory. He wanted to part the waters in order that He might part their hearts and make sufficient room for Himself.”

There is a recounting of many battles that the Israelites won that included the killing of all inhabitants of a city. What are your thoughts about why God wanted this to happen?

How does Rahab start and continue a personal relationship to God?

How does this book emphasize that our faith is in God not in ourselves? What other examples? Do you relate to these and how do we emphasize our faith today?

Moses Death (pg. 54), parents that lost faith (pg. 53) the water at flood level...pg. (55)

What were your thoughts about Joshua’s encounter when he met the Commander of the Army of the Lord?

What did you think about the discussion with Joshua and Salmone pages 100-101. Do we sometimes grow judgmental in or attempts to be righteous?

What are your thoughts about Rahab’s hearing: “You only need to please Me. And I am satisfied. Leave your vindication in My hands. I have called you and I am faithful.”

“But I pray also from my heart as if I were speaking to a friend as if I was speaking to a father. I believe God desires to hear from us” How do you pray?

When Miriam offers a cushion to Rabab after she was hit by a stone, she says she can’t take it..Salmone’s vexes about it and says you will take it.. Do we know how to take help?

What about the story of the snake and the child, with the mother who had not been kind to Rahab in the woman’s tent…..Salmone wanted to do something, revenge? but Miriam says let God handle this. Rahab also is angry with God why didn’t he kill the snake, she now acknowledges she is thankful for that snake. Has there been a time in your life that God surprised you?

The culmination of the story is the pearl in the sand and how it effects both Salmone and Rahab. “ I didn’t really believe God would ever be willing to pardon me.” Do we hold on to our wrongs and not feel forgiven and loved?

**Discussion for next book, date and time. Example below.**

**Closing prayer**

The Story of RAHAB in the Bible (NIV)

Joshua 2 Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. “Go, look over the land,” he said, “especially Jericho.” So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.

2The king of Jericho was told, “Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land.” 3So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: “Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.”

4But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. 5At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don’t know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them.” 6(But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) 7So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

8Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof 9and said to them, “I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. 10We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5880a)] for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5880b)] 11When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

12“Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign 13that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.”

14“Our lives for your lives!” the men assured her. “If you don’t tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the Lord gives us the land.”

15So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall. 16She said to them, “Go to the hills so the pursuers will not find you. Hide yourselves there three days until they return, and then go on your way.”

17Now the men had said to her, “This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us 18unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house. 19If any of them go outside your house into the street, their blood will be on their own heads; we will not be responsible. As for those who are in the house with you, their blood will be on our head if a hand is laid on them. 20But if you tell what we are doing, we will be released from the oath you made us swear.”

21“Agreed,” she replied. “Let it be as you say.”

So she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

22When they left, they went into the hills and stayed there three days, until the pursuers had searched all along the road and returned without finding them. 23Then the two men started back. They went down out of the hills, forded the river and came to Joshua son of Nun and told him everything that had happened to them. 24They said to Joshua, “The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us.”

22When they left, they went into the hills and stayed there three days, until the pursuers had searched all along the road and returned without finding them. 23Then the two men started back. They went down out of the hills, forded the river and came to Joshua son of Nun and told him everything that had happened to them. 24They said to Joshua, “The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us.”

### The Fall of Jericho

13Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”

14“Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord[[j](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+2-10&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5949j)] have for his servant?”

15The commander of the Lord’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

6 Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in.

2Then the Lord said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. 3March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. 4Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. 5When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in.”

6So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it.” 7And he ordered the army, “Advance! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the Lord.”

8When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the Lord went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the Lord’s covenant followed them. 9The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding. 10But Joshua had commanded the army, “Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!” 11So he had the ark of the Lord carried around the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent the night there.

12Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. 13The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the Lord and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the Lord, while the trumpets kept sounding. 14So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days.

15On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. 16The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, “Shout! For the Lord has given you the city! 17The city and all that is in it are to be devoted[[k](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+2-10&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5967k)] to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. 18But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. 19All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the Lord and must go into his treasury.”

20When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city. 21They devoted the city to the Lord and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys.

22Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, “Go into the prostitute’s house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her.” 23So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother, her brothers and sisters and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel.

24Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the Lord’s house. 25But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—and she lives among the Israelites to this day.

27So the Lord was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.

**Hebrews 11:30-32New International Version (NIV)**

30By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.

31By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+11:30-32&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30204a)]

**James 2:24-26New International Version (NIV)**

24You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

25In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? 26As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

**Mathew 1:5: Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse,**