

Note to Leaders: Every Small Group is Different. Don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group

INTRODUCTION

All of us have labels. Every single day, millions of people live below par — physically, emotionally, spiritually, even Christians are plagued with self-esteem, confidence issues, bad habits, all because of labels. In fact, some of us we got so many labels we don't know how we can get rid of them all: fat, ugly, slow, poor, insecure, depressed, good for nothing, loser, etc.

In Joshua chapter 2, there is an obscure story about a person named Rahab who knows all about labels. She carried these labels all her life that you'd forgive her for thinking that she had no future, that her life wouldn't amount to much. But God had other plans for her life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why are labels so difficult to shake off?
2. Read Rahab's story in Joshua chapter 2:1-21.
 - What impresses you the most about Rahab?
 - Rahab uses the personal name LORD (Yahweh as opposed to God or Elohim) and she also uses the word "kindness" which in Hebrew language is the word "Hesed" often translated as "loving-kindness," a term for God's covering or convantal love. What does this tell you about Rahab's faith in God? How do you think she came to believe in God as she was not a Jew?
3. Read Hebrews 11:31. Hebrews 11 is known as the Hall of Faith. What does that tell you that Rahab's name is mentioned together with all the great heroes of the faith?
4. Matthew chapter 1 lists the genealogy of Jesus. Read Matthew 1:5. Who's name is written there? What does that mean? What does that tell you about the kind of people God uses?
5. More important than "who you are?" is the question "whose you are?" Do you know that you belong to God? Read Ephesians 1:5. What does it mean to you that despite all the labels you believe you have, God adopted you into his family?
6. Rahab is not only in the hall of faith but she is used by James as an example of faith in action (James 2:25-26). Your simple faith in Jesus Christ as your saviour will secure you eternal life. But only when you exercise your faith in obedience can you leave a legacy here on earth. How are you exercising your faith to make a difference in this world? How can this group help you?

MOVING FORWARD

Faith is demonstrated by your action, not by your discussion; it's demonstrated by your walk, not by your talk.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Say the following out loud as a group and mean it:

I am not who people say I am. I am not who I say I am. I am who God says I am. And I belong to God.