



Leader's Guide for the Sermon, "Unprecedented: God Sees"

Joshua 2:1–13 | Pastor Dave Bennett | Series: Unprecedented | December 7, 2025

Session Overview

This week's message continues the Advent series *Unprecedented*, exploring the surprising, grace-filled ways God breaks patterns and works through the most unlikely people. In Joshua 2:1–13, the story of Rahab confronts our assumptions about who God chooses and why. Rahab enters Scripture with a label—*prostitute*—but God sees beyond her reputation to her awakening faith, her courage, and her potential to become part of His unfolding salvation story.

Just as Christmas highlights God choosing a teenage girl, a carpenter, and shepherds on the night shift, Rahab's inclusion reveals a God who looks deeper than status, history, or failure. This week's discussion invites your group to see how God's unprecedented grace moves through unexpected people in unexpected places—and how He still sees, calls, and redeems us today.

Session Flow (60–75 minutes)

1. Welcome and Icebreaker (10 min)

Example Question:

"Share a time when someone saw potential in you that you didn't yet see in yourself. How did it change you?"

Purpose:

To begin reflecting on the theme of being *seen* beyond labels, failures, or limitations—setting the tone for Rahab's story.

2. Scripture Reading (5 min)

Read **Joshua 2:1–13** aloud.

Optional: Read the passage again in a different translation (NLT or The Message) to hear the emotion and tension in Rahab’s words.

3. Discussion (40–50 min)

Use **6–8** of the following questions depending on time and group size.

Encourage honesty and space for personal reflection on how God sees beyond outward labels.

Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Dave contrasted human uses of “unprecedented” (storms, pile-ups, political upheaval) with God’s definition rooted in grace. How does Rahab’s story help reframe what unprecedented means spiritually?

Leader Note:

Help your group draw a line between unexpected grace and unexpected people—how God rewrites stories, not just circumstances.

2. Rahab is introduced with a label—“the prostitute”—yet God sees faith rising within her. Why is it surprising or unprecedented that God chooses someone with her background to advance His purposes?

Leader Note:

Invite the group to consider ancient cultural norms, moral expectations, and societal boundaries. Emphasize how shocking this would have been to Israel and how intentional it is on God’s part.

3. Everyone in Jericho had heard the same stories about Israel’s God, but only Rahab responded with faith (“I know the LORD has given you this land”). What does this teach us about how God sees and honors faith—especially imperfect or emerging faith?

Leader Note:

Guide the group toward the theme that faith, not perfection, is what God responds to. Even “mustard-seed faith” moves His heart.

4. Rahab lies to protect the spies, yet Scripture (Hebrews 11:31) highlights her faith, not her failure. Why do you think the Bible focuses on her faith instead of her mistakes?

Leader Note:

Create space to explore grace, the difference between descriptive and prescriptive narrative, and how God works through flawed people without celebrating the flaw itself.

5. What labels do people commonly carry today—given by others or themselves—that keep them from believing God could use them? Which of those labels did Pastor Dave mention that resonated with you?

Leader Note:

Encourage vulnerability but protect the room. Affirm that God sees who we can become even when we can't.

6. Rahab asked only for the survival of her family, but God wove her into the family line of Jesus. How does her story challenge the limits we often place on what God can do through us?

Leader Note:

Point out the movement from rescue → redemption → royalty (Matthew 1). God answers prayers in ways that exceed imagination.

7. Christmas shows God choosing unlikely people in unlikely places—Mary, Joseph, shepherds. How does Rahab's story help illuminate the heart of Christmas in a new way?

Leader Note:

Invite parallels. Help the group see that Christmas makes sense only when we understand how God sees and calls people.

8. What is one area of your life where you need God to help you say, like Rahab, "I know the Lord is God"?

Leader Note:

Use this as a transition into prayer. Encourage honest naming of fear, uncertainty, or the next step of obedience.

4. Application and Prayer (10–15 minutes)

Invite group members to reflect on one label, fear, or failure that God may be asking them to release so they can step into the identity He sees.

Ask:

“Where is God inviting you to rise—just like Rahab as the walls fell?”

Allow space for silent reflection before anyone prays aloud.

Closing Prayer Suggestion

Lord, thank You for seeing beyond our labels, failures, and past.

Thank You for Rahab’s story—

for the faith You awakened in her,

for the courage You gave her,

and for the redemption You brought through her life.

Help us believe that You see who we can become,

even when we only see what we’ve been.

Give us the faith to say, “I know the Lord is God,”

and the courage to take our next step of obedience.

As we continue this Advent season,

open our eyes to the unprecedented ways You are working in and through us.

Amen.