

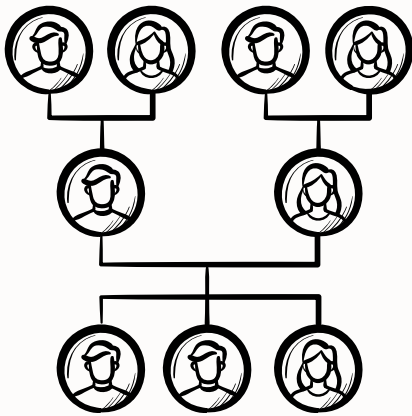
# UNEXPECTED

THE SURPRISING **GIFT** THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

## WEEK 3

### Where the story begins

### 1 min recap



In the book of Matthew, the Christmas story begins with a genealogy that includes all kinds of characters. This week, we focused on Rahab, who was a prostitute who helped save two Israelite spies and became the wife of an Israelite named Salmon. Jesus came from her family line.

Rahab was invited into the family of God before Jesus made that possible for all of us. Rahab is a testament that God has had a heart for the outsider and the failures since the beginning.

### Work it out.

Hebrews  
11:31

- **When has someone invited you into something you felt you didn't deserve? What was the result of that?**
- **Why do you think God tells this story repeatedly of people like Rahab, who have rough and broken pasts but have places of honor and purpose in his story?**

# UNEXPECTED

THE SURPRISING **GIFT** THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

**WEEK 3**

**LEARN**

**read  
outloud**

**Hebrews  
+ James**

*“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith, we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so what is seen was not made out of what was visible.” (Heb 11:1-3.)*

- God puts so much more emphasis on the depth of one’s faith (confidence in what we do not see) than on a person’s clean track record. **What stands out to you in this passage?**
- **Faith isn’t just belief; it's also an action.**

*“In 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? As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.” (James 2:25-26)*

---

**Talk  
about it.**

God keeps his promises to us no matter what we do or don’t do. However, faith isn’t static. We can’t follow Jesus by standing in one place.

**What do you think active faith looks like?** (Read Heb. 11 for examples)

# UNEXPECTED

THE SURPRISING **GIFT** THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

## WEEK 3



### FOLLOW

Put a chair in the middle of the room. Ask the room if they think that chair can hold the person about to sit in it. Before they do, ask:

What you'll need:

- a chair
- a willing volunteer
- faith

- **How do you know this chair will hold \_\_\_\_\_'s body weight?**
- **What would cause you to doubt that it could?**

Have someone sit in the chair.

Then, remove the chair from sight, and ask:

- **Can that chair still hold a person's body weight even though you can't see it?**
- **If you could see God, would you believe in Him more or less than you do right now?**

### PRACTICE RE-LABELING

Rahab was labeled "Rahab the Prostitute," and Matthew? "Matthew, the tax collector."

- What label or labels have you had in your life? Good and not so good? What would you prefer to be labeled or called instead?
- What label has God given you? (Read 2 Cor. 6:18)

# UNEXPECTED

THE SURPRISING **GIFT** THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

**WEEK 3**



## ENGAGE



Be sure to stay in step with our L.I.F.E. rhythms as a Group.

We've added new ways you can serve our community this month!

We have several new causes you can give to this month.

Check it out on the app!

