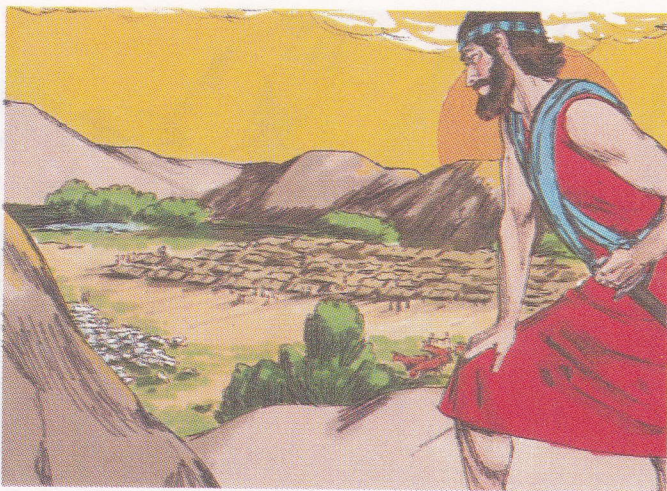


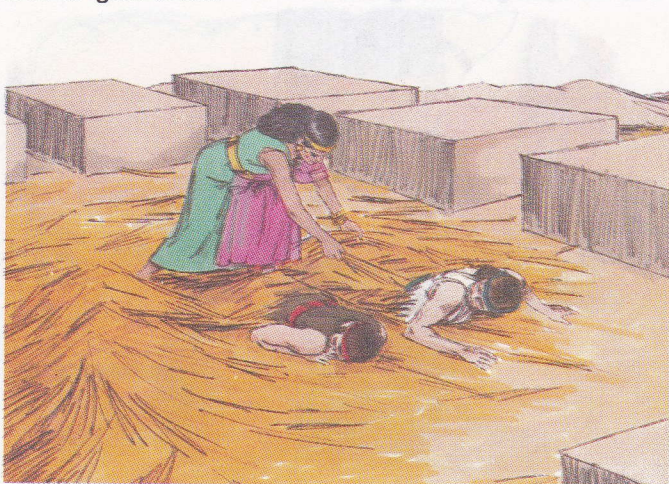
Joshua Sends Out Spies



1 After the death of Moses, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, "Get ready to lead the people of Israel across the Jordan into the land that I have promised to give them."



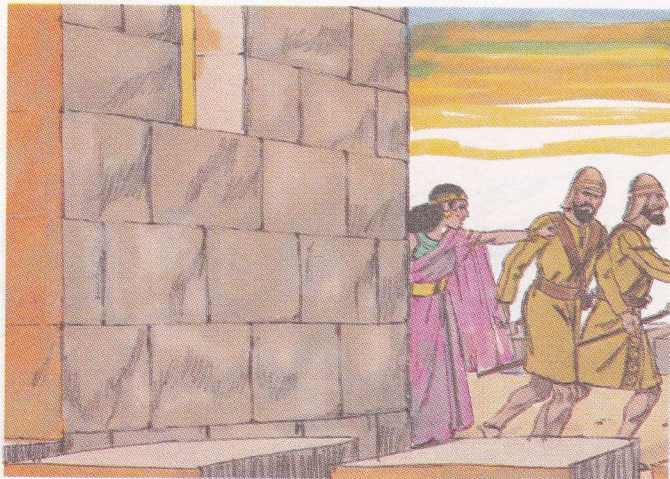
2 So Joshua sent two spies from the camp with orders to secretly explore the land of Canaan, especially the city of Jericho.



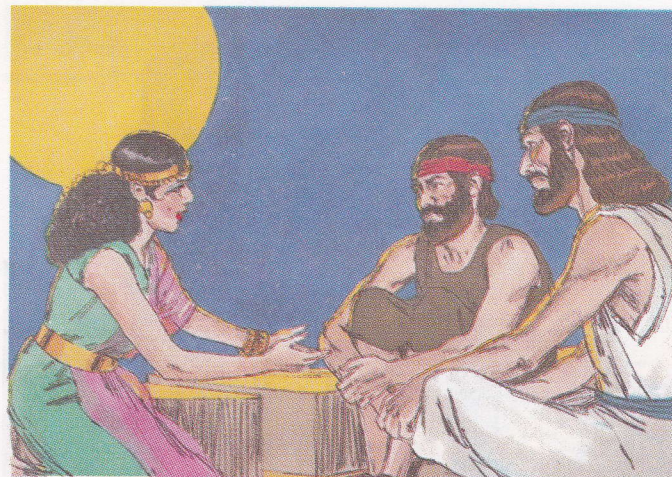
3 When the spies got to Jericho, they stayed the night in the house of a woman named Rahab. She took them up on her roof and hid them under stalks of flax that she had put there to dry.



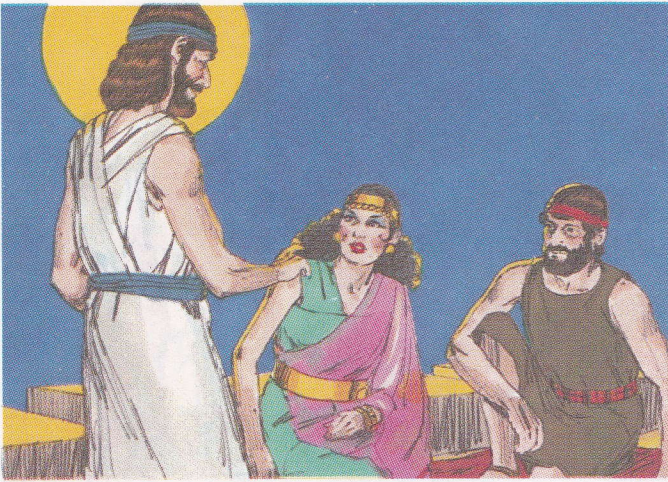
4 Word reached the king of Jericho that Israelite spies had entered Rahab's house. He sent a message to her: "The men in your house have come to spy on our country! Bring them out!"



5 Rahab replied, "Some men did come to my house, but I don't know where they have gone. They left at sundown—if you hurry you can catch them." So the king's men left to search for the spies.



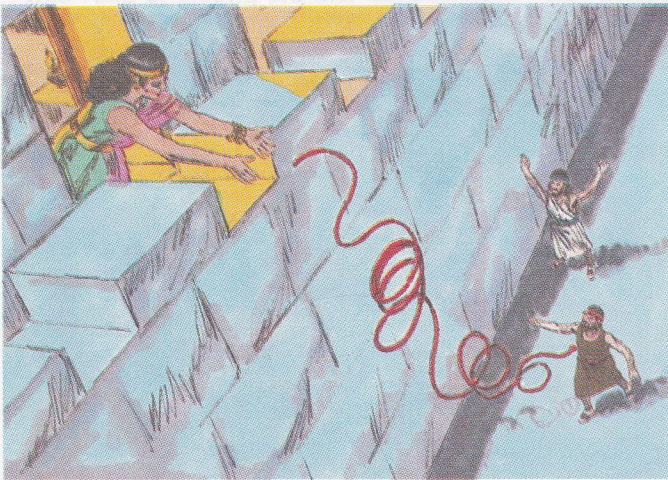
6 Before the spies went to sleep that night, Rahab said, "I know the Lord has given you this land. Now swear to me that you will treat my family as I have treated you. Don't let them be killed!"



7 The two men answered, "If you do not tell anyone what we have been doing, we promise you that when the Lord gives us this land, we will treat you well."



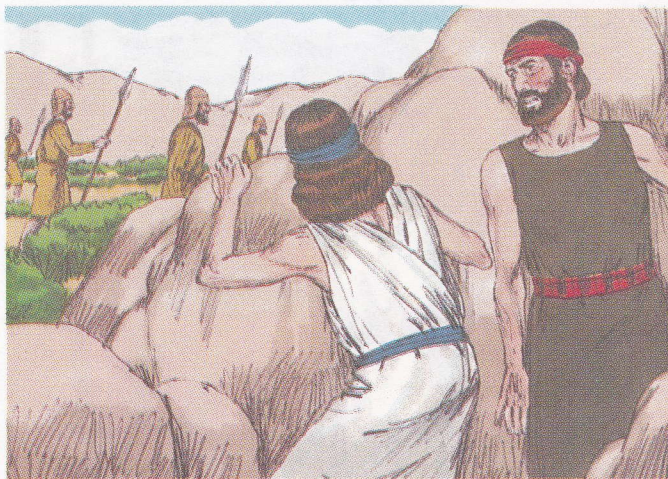
8 Rahab's house was built into the city wall, so she helped the spies escape by letting them down from the window by a rope. She also told the spies what to do so the king's men would not find them.



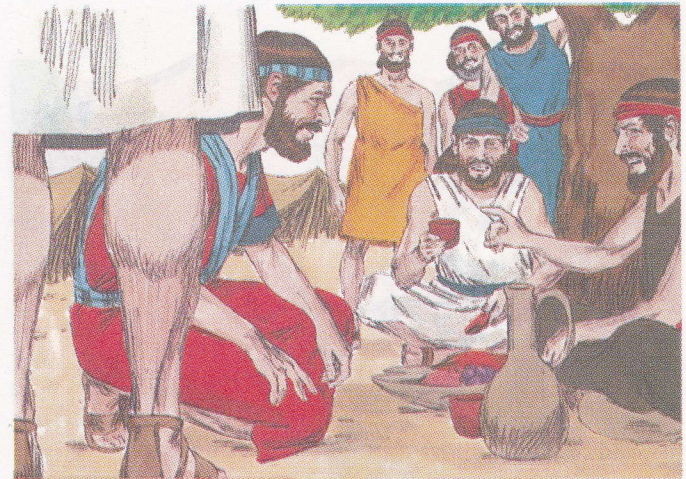
9 The two spies said to Rahab, "We will keep our promise to you. Tie this red cord to the window. Make sure that when we attack your relatives are all in your house; there they will be safe."



10 "But if you tell anyone what we have been doing," they added, "then we will not have to keep our promise." Rahab agreed, and after they left she tied the red cord to her window.



11 The two spies hid in the hills for three days, as Rahab had advised. The king's men looked all over the countryside for them but finally gave up and returned to Jericho.



12 Then the spies left the hills and crossed the Jordan to return to their camp. They told Joshua all that had happened and then said, "We are sure that the Lord has given us the entire country!"