

**Episode:** God and His Family No. 11

**Narrator:** Rahab's sister

**Primary Scriptures:** Joshua 2, 6

**Story Summary:** God's family is full of gratitude

**Location:** Israel

**Time:** circa 1500 BC

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** Joshua 6:25

While many of Jericho's residents relied on the power of Jericho's walls, Rahab understood the walls were powerless compared to God's might. Joshua 2:8-13 describes her wise interpretation that God had done more powerful things than destroy Jericho's walls, so he was sure to be victorious over Jericho.

Rahab was so sure of God's upcoming victory that she bargained away the safety of her city in return for the safety of her parents, brothers and sisters, and their families. Joshua 6:25 affirms that Joshua spared Rahab and her family because she hid the spies he had sent to Jericho. That same verse has a "date stamp" saying she still lived among the Israelites at the time *Joshua* was written. Some people believe the Rahab of Jericho is the same Rahab in Matthew 1:5, the ancestor of King David and Jesus.

Gratitude keeps our focus on God and his goodness rather than on ourselves. 1 Chronicles 16:34 says we are to give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

There are so many Bible verses about being thankful that it is difficult to know where to start. Some of the more well-known are:

- Psalm 7:1 has David saying that gives the Lord the thanks due to his righteousness
- Psalm 107:1 says to give thanks to the Lord for he is good
- Ephesians 5:20 says to give thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
- Philippians 4:6-7 where we are told to not be anxious about anything, but to supplement prayers with thanksgiving.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says to give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God.

From those verses and many others, there are some recurring themes about gratitude in the Bible. We are to be grateful to God because of who he is, not just for what he does. We are to be grateful to God regardless of our current circumstances. We are to be grateful for the small things in life as well as the big things. We are to be grateful to God in our prayers and praise to him. In fact, sometimes the words praise and thanks seems to be interchangeable.

Here are some occasions on which Jesus gave thanks to the Father: before feeding the 4,000 (Mat. 15:36, Mk. 8:6); before feeding the 5,000 (John 6:11); before raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11:41); and before sharing the wine and bread at the Last Supper (Luke 22:17-19).

Giving thanks to God continually and in all circumstances is part of the Christian life.