

# EVERGREEN | WITHERED

DECEMBER 16, 2018

## SERMON STUDY

*Dive deeper into this week's message and passages from the Bible. Here are some questions to help you guide your group discussion.*

People often misunderstand God's desires. He did not send Jesus into the world to turn bad people into good people; he came to turn dead people into alive people through courageous faith in him!

Read Matthew 1:5. Rahab was a prostitute, and yet, God included her in Jesus' family tree because he was proud of her courageous faith in him! Rahab's occupation says less about God's view of morality and more about God's view of status.

- Is societal status (high or low) a more significant part of your sense of identity than God's unconditional love for you? How would believing what God says about you change that?
- A nobody in the eyes of the world is a somebody in the eyes of God. Your current status does not determine your potential impact. How does this statement speak to you?
- Rahab lived on the fringes, but God used her to change an entire city. Are you willing to be used by God for your city? What ideas do you have for joining the redeeming work God is doing in and around Indianapolis?

Read Joshua 2:1-15 and 6:25. Rahab believed big things about God, and she was compelled to take big actions. Her beliefs informed her actions.

- What risks have you taken to be an ambassador of godly love and hope? When was the last time you stepped into an unsafe situation for his mission? If you never have or it's been a while, what's stopping you?

Read Hebrews 11:1, Hebrews 11:6, and John 10:10. Faith is proof that you trust God—that you believe he is real and his promises are true. Faith is evidence of things we cannot see.

- How are you living or not living out courageous faith? Do your actions line up with your beliefs about who God is? Why or why not?
- God often prompts us to do things outside our comfort zone so that our faith in him can grow. Are fears of failure or rejection keeping you from obeying God's nudge to action in your life? What is he nudging you to do?

## REFLECT

What is God saying to you through his word? How and when will you respond?

## DAILY BIBLE READING

Need a review of what we're reading in Daily Bible Reading? Here's a glance at how we're being challenged this week. (Subscribe at: [tpcc.org/dailybiblereading](http://tpcc.org/dailybiblereading))

Day One: Joshua 2:1-15 | Courageous faith and a prostitute.

Day Two: Joshua 6:25 | Courageous action, powerful results.

Day Three: Matthew 1:5 | Part of the family.

Day Four: Hebrews 11:1 and Hebrews 11:6 | What God wants.

Day Five: John 10:10 | What God gives.