



## *An Unexpected Christmas #3 :: The Label Makers* {Andy Stanley}

### INTRODUCTION

Some labels withstand the test of time: *Conan the Barbarian*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. But your nickname in grade school? Probably not. Some labels are honoring: *Alexander the Great*. Others aren't as flattering: *Rahab the Harlot*. But is God able to do something through us regardless of what our labels, our pasts, or our reputations might suggest? You bet.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What nicknames did you have growing up? Among your friends and family, do you have any infamous labels or titles (e.g., Conan the Barbarian, Alexander the Great, Buffy the Vampire Slayer)?
2. If you could give yourself a label, what would it be?
3. Read Joshua 2. Is there anything you find surprising about this story?
4. In Joshua 6, the Israelites conquer Jericho and Rahab is protected. In what ways do you connect with Rahab's circumstances?
5. Given Rahab's label, why is it so remarkable for her to be included in Jesus' ancestry?
6. What excuses have you used to spurn God's grace? What is keeping you from moving in God's direction?

### MOVING FORWARD

On the one hand, Rahab does not deserve to be in Jesus' ancestry. Her reputation is questionable. Her profession is condemnable. She has no platform of personal righteousness. But her past is no match for God's grace. While her lifestyle should have brought judgment, her faith brought forgiveness. And God ended up using her life in his larger story.

Rahab's life reminds us of who we are and what we need—a savior from our sin. And the incredible news is, we are relentlessly invited into a relationship with the only one who can do anything about it—Jesus.

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

*But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—and she lives among the Israelites to this day.*

**-Joshua 6:25**