

The Book of Joshua

Session 6: Joshua 9:1 – 10:15

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Be Strong and Courageous

Key Scripture for this Year

First Chronicles 28:20

Be strong and courageous and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God is with you.

”Do the work” is a call to action, urging us to be faithful and obedient to God's call, trusting in His presence and provision.

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The Gibeonite Deception

- All the kings west of the Jordan have heard about what Joshua had done at Ai; they came together to fight Joshua and Israel.
- But the people of Gibeon had a different idea. They discussed themselves as having traveled a long way, not neighbors, which they in fact were.
- So, Joshua had some of his men check them out and they decided they were telling the truth, and they made a treaty with them.
- **Note: They didn't ask God before entering into this treaty!**
- Just three days later the Israelites learn the Gibeonite's are in fact neighbors. If they had followed God's instructions, they wouldn't have made a treaty with them. They would have killed them as God commanded.
- Then the five Amorite kings joined forces to attack Gibeon. So, the Gibeonites appeal to Joshua to defend them.

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The Gibeonite Deception

Before we see the video

1. Look for whom Joshua entered a treaty with
2. What were the two problems with Israel's treaty?
3. What did Joshua pray for as he and the Israelites were fighting for Gibeon?

Let's watch the Video

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Session 1 Table Discussion

- How is it possible that Joshua could so quickly disobey God's command after having just reaffirmed his commitment to it. (See Deuteronomy 7:2)
- What does it look like to seek the Lord in your decisions? (Doing our due diligences)
- What are the dangers of relying on our own abilities to make decisions? In what ways could God's insight help us avoid making a poor decision?
- What does it tell us about Israel's regard for oath keeping that they didn't see Gibeon's deception as an excuse for breaking the treat

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Session 2 Table Discussion

- Was it right for Joshua to show mercy to the Gibeonites? Why or why not?
- What does it say about Joshua's faith that he believed God could and would make the sun stand still in the middle of the day?
- Do you pray audacious prayers like the one Joshua prayed for the sun to halt its journey in the middle of the day? If not, why not?