



JOSHUA CHAPTER 9 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- What is the best prank someone has ever done to you? What is the best prank that you have ever done to someone else?

Opening Prayer

- Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you must get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of, and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Read the Story (Joshua 9:1-27)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Joshua 9:1-8

- Notice that the victories of that God gave Israel over Jericho and Ai were noticed by the surrounding peoples and nations, but those surrounding peoples and nations had very different reactions to what they had witnessed. Many of the nations gathered to fight against Israel but the Gibeonites chose another way. Considering these things, consider the following questions.
 - How do you usually respond when you witness God's goodness?
 - How do you usually respond when God defeats your plans?

- How do you usually respond when you encounter resistance and opposition because you have chosen to follow God?
- How do you usually respond when people expect you to do one thing, but you know that God desires you to do something else?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Joshua 9:9-15

- How is what Joshua did in verse 15 in direct violation of what God desired and commanded in Exodus 23:23-24?

- God didn't desire that Israel make covenants with the peoples around them nor did He command it. It was the exact opposite. God desired that the Israelites be a set apart people from the ways of the people around them and God understood that this wasn't going to happen with Israel making covenants with the nations around them.

- Reread Joshua 9:14 and consider some of the following questions.

- What does it mean to seek or ask the counsel of God?
- How have you gotten into trouble when you haven't sought or asked the counsel of God?
- Why is it easier at times and in the short term to follow your own ways and agendas rather than seeking and asking the counsel of God?
- How are you currently making compromises that God doesn't desire that you make because you haven't sought or asked His counsel?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Joshua 9:16-21

- In what ways did the leaders of Israel exercise a wisdom from the Lord in how they treated the Gibeonites that they did not exercise in making a covenant with them?

- The leaders of Israel didn't attempt to commit another sin by breaking their oath and covenant to rectify or make right their first sins of not seeking the counsel of God and entering into a covenant with the

Gibeonites. Rather, they sought to honor and carry out what they had committed themselves to before the Lord, before their own people, and to the Gibeonites. They did this during public pressure from their own people to do something different.

- In what ways do you need to hold to what God and His word say more fully rather than succumbing to the preferences and opinions of those around you who are encouraging you to do what they want you to do?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Joshua 9:22-27

□ While the Gibeonites certainly were liars and came to the Israelites under false pretenses, notice that they are incorporated into the nation of Israel albeit having to do menial tasks. However, notice how they respond. What does their response indicate about them?

- Their response indicates that they are willing to submit and surrender to what God desires and what He wants although this isn't how they initially "came to" the Israelites and "came to" God.
- Consider some of the things below that God did through the Gibeonites. What does this indicate about God and about the Gibeonites?
 - The Gibeonites became servants at the tabernacle, just as Joshua had commanded.
 - Gibeon becomes a priestly city; the Ark of the Covenant stayed at Gibeon often in the days of David and Solomon (1 Chronicles 16:39-40 and 21:29).
 - At least one of David's *mighty men* was a Gibeonite (1 Chronicles 12:4).
 - God spoke to Solomon at Gibeon (1 Kings 3:4).
 - Gibeonites were among those who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem with Nehemiah (Nehemiah 3:7 and 7:25).
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Joshua chapter 10)

JOSHUA CHAPTER 9 (STUDENT)

Joshua 9:1-8

- Notice that the victories of that God gave Israel over Jericho and Ai were noticed by the surrounding peoples and nations, but those surrounding peoples and nations had very different reactions to what they had witnessed. Many of the nations gathered to fight against Israel but the Gibeonites chose another way. Considering these things, consider the following questions.
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