

Joshua 9

³ But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, ⁴ they on their part acted with cunning and went and made ready provisions and took worn-out sacks for their donkeys, and wineskins, worn-out and torn and mended, ⁵ with worn-out, patched sandals on their feet, and worn-out clothes. And all their provisions were dry and crumbly. ⁶ And they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a distant country, so now make a covenant with us."

⁷ But the men of Israel said to the Hivites, "Perhaps you live among us; then how can we make a covenant with you?" ⁸ They said to Joshua, "We are your servants." And Joshua said to them, "Who are you? And where do you come from?"

⁹ They said to him, "From a very distant country your servants have come, because of the name of the LORD your God. For we have heard a report of him, and all that he did in Egypt, ¹⁰ and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites..."

¹⁴ So the men took some of their provisions, but did not ask counsel from the LORD. ¹⁵ And Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them, to let them live, and the leaders of the congregation swore to them.

²² Joshua summoned them, and he said to them, "Why did you deceive us, saying, 'We are very far from you,' when you dwell among us? ²³ Now therefore you are cursed, and some of you shall never be anything but servants, cutters of wood and drawers of water for the house of my God."

²⁴ They answered Joshua, "Because it was told to your servants for a certainty that the LORD your God had commanded his servant Moses to give you all the land and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you—so we feared greatly for our lives because of you and did this thing. ²⁵ And now, behold, we are in your hand. Whatever seems good and right in your sight to do to us, do it." ²⁶ So he did this to them and delivered them out of the hand of the people of Israel, and they did not kill them. ²⁷ But Joshua made them that day cutters of wood and drawers of water for the congregation and for the altar of the LORD, to this day, in the place that he should choose.

Series: God's Story: Finding Our Place in His Unfolding Plan

Apr. 30, 2017 – Gibeon: What Does Faith Look Like?

Remember the Plan: Making a People of Faith

*What is your initial reaction to the story of conquest in Joshua?
What reactions have you seen from others?*

Did God show favoritism to Israel? What was His greater purpose in working specially through them? (Genesis 12:3, Exodus 7:5, 12:48, 19:6, Joshua 4:24, 8:35)

Who Was Faithful?

*Joshua 9: What did the nation of Gibeon do, and why? (9-10, 24-25)
What commands were Israel aware of? How did they handle the situation? What was the result?*

Which group showed faith in God – and why do you say this?

Audacious Faith...that Works

What is faith? What does it look like? (Hebrews 11:1-19)

*What was God's purpose for working in relationship with Israel?
How can we see it being accomplished in Gibeon (26-27)?*

How did Gibeon respond to God differently than Israel? What is the basis for inclusion in God's people (Romans 4:12, 16)?

Including those of Faith

Where have you observed or experienced groups being exclusive toward others? What was the reason for division? Culture? Status? Wealth? Seniority? Appearance?

How does Jesus decide who belongs with Him? (Luke 14:15-24; 18:9-14; Matthew 18:1-4; 22:1-13)

How do we decide who belongs with us? What makes you feel welcome? What are ways to make others feel welcome?