

PROMISES & POWER

Deception
Message 8

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2. Admit _____.
(Joshua 9:16-27. C/R: Deuteronomy 23:22-23;
2 Samuel 21:1-2; Proverbs 28:13; Romans 2:1)

► Outline

... the people of Gibeon ... resorted to deception to save themselves.

Joshua 9:3-4 (NLT)

A. Introduction (Joshua 1:6-9)

3. Accept _____.
(Joshua 10:1-15. C/R: Numbers 30:1-2; Jeremiah 32:17;
1 Corinthians 7:12-16; 1 John 5:4)

B. Dealing with deception. (Joshua 9:1-10:15)

1. Ask _____.
(Joshua 9:1-14. C/R: Deuteronomy 7:1-6; Romans 12:2;
2 Corinthians 6:14-15; James 1:5-8)

Answers: 1. God 2. mistakes 3. responsibility

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► Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself or with friends to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. To connect with others, visit brookwoodchurch.org/adults.

Conversation Starter

Describe a time you asked God for discernment and direction before making a big decision.

Begin your study with prayer.

Pause for a few minutes to quiet your heart and mind. Then ask God for insight and direction as you study and reflect on this week's lesson.

Bible Study and Group Discussion

Read Joshua 9:1-15.

1. Joshua and the other leaders fell for the Gibeonites' trick because *they did not consult the LORD* (vs. 14). If God knows everything and is the source of all wisdom, why do we sometimes forge ahead without seeking God's direction? Share an example with your group.
2. Describe a time God gave you discernment about someone's motives? How did that affect the way you treated them?
3. The Gibeonites operated from a place of fear. Describe a time you were afraid to tell the truth.

Read Joshua 9:16-27.

4. The Gibeonites explained why they lied. Do you think they confessed because they knew they'd done wrong or because they got caught? What leads you to believe that?
5. What does a sincere apology look like?
6. Why do you think Joshua was faithful in keeping his promise? For God's views on oaths and vows, read Deuteronomy 23:22-23; Leviticus 6:1-5 and James 5:12. Pause and thank God for keeping His promise by sending Jesus. See Hebrews 6:16-20.

Read Joshua 10:1-15.

7. Can you think of a time someone lied to you? How did you respond when you discovered the truth? What was the long-term impact on your relationship with them?
8. What's it like to have a relationship with someone who rarely takes responsibility for their actions?
9. Despite their deception, the Gibeonites received grace, and their lives were spared. Describe a time you received grace from God or someone else, even in your failure.

Spiritual Practice

A spiritual practice is something we can do to help us live in and enjoy God's grace. We hope these will become a regular part of your life, so that walking and talking with God is the most natural thing you do.

This week, reaffirm a promise you've made to someone. Reaffirm your commitment to be genuine and truthful. Thank God for the great relationship you have with this person. If you've deceived or lied to someone, or if someone has deceived or lied to you, ask God for discernment in taking steps toward restoration. For further reflection, read 1 John 1:1-10.

Memory Verse

What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever?

2 Corinthians 6:15 (NLT)

Daily Reading

- Day 1: James 1:5-8 Day 4: Numbers 30:1-2
Day 2: 2 Corinthians 6:14-15 Day 5: Jeremiah 32:17
Day 3: Proverbs 28:13

Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, March 5, we'll continue the series in Joshua, *Promises and Power*. To prepare, read **Joshua 23**.

