

Message: “JOSHUA: Dealing With Deception” by Pastor Jon Whisner, 3/13/22

Description: After Israel's victory over Ai, they are again confronted with another self-inflicted failure. They are deceived by a neighboring enemy, the Gibeonites.

Key Scripture: Joshua 9:1-27

Takeaway / Application: Being deceived is deeply hurtful. The pain is even worse when we are deceived because of our neglect in seeking God's wisdom—and instead we make decisions from our own perspective and knowledge. This story is a warning to God's people not to rush through decisions—but to wait for God's direction through prayer and seeking Him. This story is also a beautiful picture of Romans 8:28—and how God can take our blunders and turn them into blessings.

- Joshua 9:1-13 is a cunning display of deception by Israel's enemy the Gibeonites. They fool Joshua and Israel's leaders through their poor appearance and their convincing words. Share with your group a time when you've been deceived by someone who outfoxed you. What lessons did you learn from it?
- Joshua was tricked and duped because he did not take time to seek the Lord in prayer and ask for God's wisdom when addressing the Gibeonites (v14). All of us have been there many times! Read Proverbs 1:23-33 and see the heartache and pain that awaits those who neglect seeking God.
- Although the Gibeonites deceived the Israelites—through God's sovereign grace and mercy, He allowed the Gibeonites to live and become servants to the house of God as wood and water carriers—the wood for the offering of burnt sacrifices and the water for cleansing and washing (23-27). What Satan meant for evil, God used for good (Genesis 50:20). Lift up those in your group who are experiencing tests and trials—encourage them to endure, knowing that the Lord is writing the chapters of our lives, and He has a purpose for our pain.