

**Episode 9:** The Gibeonite Deception

Joshua 9

March 9 and 10

1. How did the people of the land react when they heard about Joshua’s victory at Ai? (9:1-2)
2. What did the kings plan to do upon hearing this news?
3. How did the people of Gibeon respond differently? (9:3-4)
4. What did the Gibeonites do? (9:4-6)
   1. How did they dress?
   2. What lies did they tell?
5. Why did the Gibeonites go to such lengths to make a treaty with Israel? (9:6, 24)
6. How did Joshua and the leaders respond? (9:14-15)
7. Was Israel supposed to make peace treaties with any of the tribes of Canaan? (See Exodus 23:23-24)
8. How should they have responded?
9. What mistake did the leaders of Israel make in dealing with the Gibeonites? (9:14)
10. What does it mean to “inquire of the Lord”?
11. How do you think Joshua felt when he discovered his mistake?
12. What did the Israelite rulers do when they discovered that the Gibeonites had deceived them? (9:16-18)
13. How did the rest of the Israelites respond to the leaders’ decision? (9:18)
14. How would you have felt if you were one of the rulers? How would you have felt as one of the greater assembly of Israelites?
15. Why did the leaders stand by the oath they made to the Gibeonites even though the Gibeonites deceived them? (9:16-20)
16. What did the rulers end up doing with the Gibeonites? (9:21-23)
17. How did the Gibeonites respond? (9:24-25)
18. Why did the Gibeonites accept this role as servants without complaining?
19. Why do you think God sometimes allows the plans of deceitful people to succeed?
20. What does this passage teach us about the consequences of sin?
21. Compare Rahab (Joshua 2) and the Gibeonites (Joshua 9).
    1. How are their stories of coming to find salvation in the God of Israel similar?
    2. What were they both willing to risk to be counted among God’s people?