

THE BOOK OF
JOSHUA

STENGTH. COURAGE. LEADERSHIP. FAITH.

6. Joshua 9 Do we leave God out?

Small group questions

Leaders: choose some, but do not attempt all of the following questions. Email me with any questions. Mark.

When was the last time you had a 'mountain top' experience as a Christian, where you felt all was so good between you and God and that nothing would ever bring that to an end?

How did you feel when reality hit and things went back to normal? What were some challenges you faced?

What events in Chapter 8 led to Israel's mountain top experience?

1. The charge: they did not enquire of the Lord

- a. Why did the Gibeonite people want this treaty with Israel and why did they go to so much trouble to convince the Israelites that they were came from a place far away?
- b. Israel made a classic error of judgement - see v14. What ought to have been their approach? (Refer Numbers 27:18-21).
- c. Why are we also inclined to leave God out of our plans and decisions? See James 4:13-15 as a corrective to this! How can we help and encourage one another to more consistently seek the Lord's counsel and wisdom in our plans and activities?
- d. How do you think God makes his will known to us today? (Refer to the sermon, just prior to the second heading.) Has there been a time you could share with the group, when you felt the Lord's will for you was made very clear?

2. The consequence: a commitment they have to live with

In v16 the Israelites discover that they have been completely taken in. While some want to attack the Gibeonites, the oath they have made to them keeps them from so doing. Instead, Israel appoint the Gibeonites as their woodcutters and water carriers.

- a. It was now a messy situation. But also a merciful situation. What are the aspects of mercy we see in this account?
- b. Has there been a messy situation in which you have found yourself because of sin or failing where:
 - i. You have seen God's mercy
 - ii. You have had to seek grace to be faithful even in the mess?
- c. We see that if Israel is to inherit the land, it will be because God is gracious, not because they are competent! This is precisely the same for us. We will receive our eternal inheritance because God is gracious, not because we are competent. Take heart. Look to God. Trust him! Discuss.
- d. What are the take home points for you from this passage and message?

Take some time to pray that we will be people who never leave God out, and who seek to live faithfully in the mess of our lives. Pray for grace to see God's mercy at work all through our lives.