

Joshua and Judges



Daily Life
Five Oaks Church

Week 2: October 10–16, 2015

Day 1

October 11



Pray | Ask God for understanding of his Word, the Bible

JOSHUA, CHAPTER 7, demonstrates some important aspects of sin as it relates to its seriousness, accountability, consequences, and God's will.

It is not unreasonable to say that many Christians take sin lightly and do not realize its true power. Achan was in clear violation of law, as set forth in the time of Moses. Still, he committed the sin of taking devoted things for himself and his household, knowing the consequences. With the new covenant, Jesus Christ covers our sins through God's grace.

Achan's sin was so severe and abominable toward God that the entire nation of Israel felt the effects of the consequences as indicated in the first battle for Ai and verses 10–13.



Read | Joshua 7



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following questions for reflection.

The temptation to sin is, and has always been, extremely powerful. Consider that in Achan's instance, the blood of Jesus Christ had not yet solidified a new covenant, and Achan most likely knew the extent of the calamity his actions might bring on others (he hid the devoted things, and he was possibly alive when the laws in Deuteronomy were given). Why do you think Achan still went through with his actions, and how does this compare to the reasons for sin today?

God held the entire nation of Israel accountable for Achan's sin. In verse 11, God said, "Israel has sinned." He did not mention Achan by name. Why do you think God acted in this way?

How is sin dealt with in your life?

Day 2

October 12



Pray / Thank God for keeping his promises.

GOD'S DIRECTION SHOULD not be taken lightly. He desires renewal.

Chapter 8 is a demonstration of God working in an ironic way. In verse 2, God commands the Israelites to plunder the city of Ai after the battle. This comes after God commanded Achan's entire family to be put to death for taking the plunder of Jericho in the previous chapter.

God made it immediately clear to Joshua that the battle for Ai was a sure victory as long as Joshua followed all of God's instructions. There was no ambiguity as to what the outcome of the battle would be. This had to have been welcome reassurance to Israelites in light of their recent transgressions. Renewal can be a very powerful tool in growing closer in your relationship with God.



Read / Joshua 8



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following questions for reflection.

With Joshua 7 in mind, what might God's message to the Israelites be in commanding them to take the plunder in chapter 8? What is God's message to you?

Why do you think God made it so seemingly easy for the Israelites to win the battle for Ai this time?

In verses 30–35, Joshua renewed God's covenant promises. He made sure everyone was present and that everyone received the word. What are some ways you could renew your relationship to God or your devotion to Jesus Christ? What would the reasons be for taking these actions?

Day 3

October 13



Pray / Praise God for His redemptive ways.

BEING FOOLED, TRICKED, or deceived into making a deal or keeping a promise can feel frustrating, unfair, or humiliating.

The reason the Israelites had to honor the promise they made to the Gibeonites is because they were following the Law of Moses. As you read Joshua 9, try to focus on the situation from the viewpoint of the Gibeonites instead of from the confounding situation this put the Israelites in.

In the end, the Israelites took a position that honored God. They had to set an example of God's glory to a foreign nation. It is also important to follow Christ in your daily life, taking positions that honor God and set an example to others.



Read / Joshua 9



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following questions for reflection.

There are several possible reasons as to why the Gibeonites sought out the Israelites: fear, safety, or protection. Another reason could have been that some of the Gibeonites may have seen how God was working on behalf of Israel and wanted to draw nearer to those experiences. Keep in mind that ultimately, they were made to serve for the Lord's sanctuary. Have you ever been drawn to another person because of how he or she was living?

In the book of Genesis, we have the story of when Jacob stole Esau's birthright. How is that situation similar to the Gibeonite deception, and how is it different?

In what ways do you intentionally live out your life to set an example of Christ to others?

Day 4
October 14



Pray / Ask God for clarity and understanding of his Word, the Bible.

God is involved in what is going on in our world, and our obedience will often show us his power.

Joshua 10 is a chapter full of Joshua's military conquests, destruction of other nations, and obedience to God. Verses 10–11 are very unique in that they describe how God took a direct hand in the battle itself, assisting his chosen people. God's direct actions in the battle were followed by a clear and direct answer to Joshua's prayer in verse 12.

Whether or not one interprets verses 12 and 13 to mean that the Earth physically stopped rotating should not be the main focus of today's reading. It is most important to realize that God answered Joshua's prayer, and it was because of God that the Israelites were conquering the Promised Land. This is confirmed in verses 40–43.



Read / Joshua 10



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following questions for reflection.

Why do you think God took part in the battle as indicated in verses 10–11?

Joshua's obedience to God's instructions is one of the main reasons for Israel's continued success in battle. The phrase, "as he had done to" is used several times in chapter 10. List each verse in which that phrase is used. What does this say about the importance of following God's instructions?

If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, God has promised you eternal salvation and eternal communion with him. With today's reading in mind, is there any doubt in your mind that God is capable of delivering you from your sins and iniquities?

Day 5

October 15



Pray / Ask God to better understand him as a God of justice and of mercy.

GOD IS PRESENT during times of struggle.

The end of chapter 10 hints that there might be some reprieve from all of the battle stories, but instead, chapter 11 immediately begins with more fighting and conflict. The theme of God's presence remains. He is giving Joshua direct instructions and encouragement. One might think that after all of these battles, the Israelite soldiers would be on the brink of complete exhaustion. This is probably why God is so present during these times.

“God keeps his promises” is not just a catchy phrase; it is a universal truth. When we consider the story of God, it is evident that God was working his covenant promise made to Abraham through individuals like Joshua.



Read / Joshua 11:1-15



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following questions for reflection.

Why do you think God worked so directly with Joshua during these times?

Joshua seemed to derive courage and perseverance through God's actions and God's encouragement. How does Joshua's relationship with God compare to a relationship that one might have with Jesus Christ?

What are some specific examples or instances where you have relied on God for encouragement? How did you demonstrate a reliance on God?

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