

יְהוֹשֻׁעַ YEHOSHUA

Chapter 9

& Yitro

In this chapter we read about how the Gibeonites (Hivites), residents of an area about 6 miles from Ai, deceive the Israelites into cutting a covenant with them after recognizing that they are doomed if they don't. The Israelites cut the covenant with them before realizing the deception, and commit to honoring their word anyway—something the Hivites were counting on, and so their scheme pays off. However, the Hivites aren't simply spared, but become perpetual servants to Israel and to God.

Joshua Discussion Questions:

1. Review the account of Rahab in chapter 2 and compare the similarities and differences between her and the Hivites.
2. How could the Hivites have achieved their objective of being spared without the use of deception?
3. How have you deceived yourself (or others) in the past in order to succeed? What was the outcome?
4. How faithful to your word do you tend to be? Do you say you'll do something knowing that you might not? Was there a time in your life when you kept your word even when you shouldn't have given it?
5. How has God brought you closer in service to Him after your missteps?

Bo Discussion Questions:

6. How do you think most Gentile Believers feel about Israel being the chosen people, the nation of priests? Is there a difference in how we handle this idea now versus previous centuries? What thoughts or feelings arise in you, personally, when you think of this?
7. What is good about the interaction between Jethro and Moses? What can we see to emulate in both of these men? What can you do better to be a "master of time"?
8. Compare the Jewish acceptance of Torah at Sinai to their faithfulness to the covenant at Purim, particularly looking for signs of greater maturity at Purim.

