

When finished with activities, return all necessary items to bag and place in the hallway for pick-up.

Program C-2

Joshua is Tricked

Joshua 9:1-26

Joshua Series: Lesson #3

Bible Verse: Seek the LORD and His strength. Psalm 105:4
Obey the LORD God. Deut. 27:10
The LORD will do wonders among you. Joshua 3:5

Bible Story for children:

Focus on: Looking to God before making decisions & promises.
Prop ideas: Old clothes, worn-out travel bags, moldy or stale bread

SAMPLE STORY

After Joshua and the Israelites defeated Jericho, they again followed God's instructions and they easily defeated the city of Ai. God was giving the enemies into the hands of the Israelites just as He had promised. The people living in the Promised Land heard about how God was giving victories to His people. They had heard about all the miracles God had done in Egypt, especially the Passover and parting the Red Sea. They had heard how God had taken care of the people in the desert with manna and quail. They had heard about how He had stopped the Jordan River from flowing, so that they could cross over into the Promised Land. They also had heard how God promised to wipe out all the people living there and give the land to His people.

The Gibeonites were some of these people. They knew that God was helping the Israelites and that they had no chance of winning against them. They came up with a plan to trick them instead. Some of the men dressed up in old, worn-out clothes. They packed moldy and stale bread in old bags. They picked their oldest donkeys to look tired and worn-out from a long trip. When these men arrived at the Israelite camp, they lied and said that they had come from a distant country. They wanted to be friends and make a treaty with the Israelites. They really lived very close by.

The Israelites were not supposed to make treaties with anyone in the Promised Land. (A treaty is a promise to not fight each other, but to be friends). God had told them that they should drive everyone out of the land and not be friends with any of the people. Joshua and the leaders had been tricked. They believed the Gibeonites. When they saw the worn-out clothes and moldy bread and tired donkeys, they believed that the men had

traveled a long way. These people could not live in the Promised Land, the land that God was giving to them. So, they saw no harm in agreeing to a treaty. BUT, they did not consult God. If they had, God would have forbidden it.

Three days later, Joshua found out that the Gibeonites were close neighbors. He was mad that he had been tricked. But because he had promised to not harm them, he did not fight them. Joshua did tell them that the Gibeonites must become servants to the Israelites. They would be woodcutters and water carriers for all the people of Israel. The Gibeonites became servants to God's people in exchange for being allowed to remain living among them in the Promised Land.

FYI

First Session Classes will be:

- Eating a Stale Bread Snack (Croutons)
- Playing Water Carriers
- Seeking God (Find the Bible)

SHELL GAME

Materials: Three Foam or plastic cups (not see-through)
Ping Pong Ball

Do: This is the classic shell game.
Place ball under one cup and then move them around quickly.
Let everyone guess where the ball is. (See if you can keep up as well).

Talk About: A good shell game player can trick you and make you think you know where the ball is...but you will be wrong. The Gibeonites tricked Joshua. He thought they did not live in the Promised Land...but they did!

JOSHUA IS TRICKED COLORING PAGE

Materials: Coloring Page
Bible Verse Stickers*
Crayons/markers (In room)

Do: Give every child a page to color. Help them write their names.
Add a Bible verse sticker when finished.

Talk About: These men looked like they had traveled a long way. They looked tired. Have you ever been tired after a long trip?
They made their clothes look old by wearing patches on them and their sandals.

*Seek the LORD and His strength. Psalm 105:4

TRUTH OR LIES

Materials: None

Do: Tell everyone that you are going to say something and they must guess if it is the truth or a lie. (I rode a bike to church. I had pizza for breakfast. My dog is yellow, etc.)
Let them take turns as well. You may need to whisper ideas to younger children.

Talk About: God wants us to always tell the truth. We should not try to mislead people or trick them. The Gibeonites lied to Joshua and tricked him. They told him that they lived far away. They really lived close by. They did not tell the truth.