



Joshua: Are We There Yet? | Avoid Deception | Joshua 9

1. Share how you're feeling about the season of 'permacrisis' we've been through? Are you wrestling with anxiety, uncertainty or a sense of gloom? Which themes are troubling you most, if at all...? Why?
2. From your recollections of our teaching series so far, what factors have contributed towards Israel's sense of permacrisis? What were the causes of each factor shared?
3. Can you think of an occasion in your own journey of faith when a lack of obedience (and/or listening) has been the cause for 'the wheels falling off' in your journey of faith?
4. Put yourself in the shoes of the Gibeonites. Would you have joined the alliance of the other kings or pursued the ruse against the Israelites?
5. Discuss the Gibeonite ruse. Why is it so clever and how does their flattery stroke the egos of God's people? Discuss why flattery was a danger to God's people in these moments.
6. *'Pride comes before a fall.'* How have you seen this to be true in your own life or perhaps in the world of a well-known personality?
7. Look at Proverbs 9:10 and James 1:5. Share how a Christian can best apply these Biblical truths to their lives. Can you think of an occasion when you earnestly sought the wisdom of God? How did His wisdom differ from your good idea, if at all?
8. *'Pride makes God's people prayerless. Self-sufficiency is death to the prayer life.'* Discuss.
9. When have you been a recipient of God's grace when you perhaps deserved the opposite? Share stories of your ashes to beauty, curse to blessing, brokenness into purpose, stories.
10. Who can you relate to in the story? Why? How are you like (a) God's people and (b) like the Gibeonites?