



## SDG Discussion Guide

Joshua 9

June 23, 2019

### For Starters:

What was your favorite costume as a child? Why that one?

Have you ever bought something that later turned out to be a lemon? How did you feel?

Guideline: The following is meant to provide an approach for further interaction with the respective sermon text and surrounding passage. Feel free to forward to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find this write up in print on that Sunday.

First, as you can, read aloud the selected passage in your group. If you have time, read it aloud a second time - from a different Bible translation.

Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together and prayed, what points and questions arise? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these points and questions. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions you may use to guide your interaction with the text.

1. How did the kings west of the Jordan react to Israel's conquest of Jericho? What about the people of Gibeon? How would you have reacted if you had been a ruler in that area?
2. What was the ruse or trick used by the people of Gibeon to trick Joshua and the people of God? Why do you suppose it worked? In this regard, what is the significance of the people of God sampling, but not inquiring?
3. What did the people of God do when they discovered they had been tricked by the people of Gibeon (vv 16-18)? How did that affect those responsible for the unpopular treaty?
4. How did Joshua finally deal with the people of Gibeon (vv 22-23)? What was their response to Joshua's curse?
5. Locate Gibeon on a map of Joshua's time. Why was its capture so strategic for the people of God?
6. The men "did not inquire of the Lord" (v 14), as they should have. Have you ever made an important decision in your life without inquiring of the Lord or wise counsel? What was the result?
7. Have you ever made a promise that later turned out to be difficult or unpopular to keep? What happened?
8. As a fearful and accursed person of Gibeon, would you have fought for your freedom or submitted to perpetual servitude? Why? What does that say about your fighting style in general? Do you usually accept, or usually resist, authority imposed on you? Does it depend on who is doing the imposing? How so?
9. Strategy was important to Joshua. What does that say about the use of strategy in planning your life? In doing God's work?

Spend plenty of time in prayer for one another. Inquire of the Lord about the problem(s) you face. Ask Him to help you to ask the right questions to ask both of Him and others. Ask Him to renew your dependence and delight in that inquiry of Him. Ask Him to speak to you about any blessing He may want to bring forth from this situation - and how you can participate. Trust that God hears your prayer and takes it very seriously. Go forth. And be expectant. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

\*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).