

**April 19, 2026**

**Joshua: Strength and Courage**

**Failure and Grace**

**Joshua 9**

Joshua 9 is a story about lack of discernment and deception. It is also a story about God's redeeming grace. Joshua made a prohibited covenant with the Gibeonites. Instead of cancelling the treaty, Joshua upholds the treaty, because he does not want to bring dishonor on God. God then brings the Gibeonites near to Him so they God be exposed to the one true living God and become part of the covenant community.

**Additional Verses:**

Genesis 50:20

1 Kings 3:1-15

John 3:16-17

Psalm 15

Nehemiah 3:7

2 Peter 3:9

**Outline:**

1. Man's foolishness.

2. God's honor.

3. God's grace.

**Study Questions:**

1. Why did Joshua make the decision to enter into a covenant with the Gibeonites? How was Joshua deceived?

2. What comment does the text make about Joshua's decision? How is that comment critical of Joshua? Why is it important to consult God in the decision-making process?

3. How is this decision different than the decision made about Ai?

4. Where have you seen the sin snowball in effect? Is there a time when you did this? What lesson did God teach you in that situation?

5. What does Psalm 15:4 teach us about avoiding the sin snowball? How can you practice this in your life?

6. Where is God's grace in this story? Why did God bring the Gibeonites near to Him? How does this point to the gospel message of salvation?

7. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to respond to God today?