

## Battles for God



MEMORY VERSE: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.”  
Proverbs 3:5-6

### DAY 1 JOSHUA 9:1-15 — Israelites Are Deceived by the Gibeonites

1. Read verses 1-13. How did the Gibeonites trick Joshua and Israel?
2. Read verses 14-15. How did Joshua and the leaders respond? How should they have responded?
3. What can we learn from this passage? How can you know when to believe people and when not to? What does asking counsel from the Lord look like today?

### DAY 2 JOSHUA 9:16-27 — Israelites Realize Their Mistake

4. Why do the Israelites keep their promise to not attack? What was the Gibeonites' punishment?
5. What lessons can you learn from how the Israelites handled this?
6. Why do you think the story of Gibeon is included in detail in the book of Joshua?

**DAY 3****JOSHUA 10:1-27 — The Southern Kings Conquered**

The people of Canaan were a threat to the purposes God had for His chosen people. Three Points: 1. The people in Canaan were unspeakably wicked. 2. The land rightfully belonged to the Israelites. God had promised it to them. Israelites were actually driving other people out of their own land. 3. The people had been given plenty of opportunity to turn to God, just as Rahab did.

7. Gibeon was a strong and important city. Five kings joined together to attack it. The odds were not good – 5 kingdoms to 2. How does verse 8 change the odds?

8. Read verses 9-11. What do you think this battle shows about God?

9. Read verses 12-14. What do you learn from this miracle about the power of God and the power of prayer?

10. Read verses 16-27. When Israel returned safely, what did Joshua do with the five kings? What do you think Joshua wanted to teach the people?

**DAY 4****JOSHUA 11-12 — The Northern Kings Conquered**

11. Joshua 11 & 12 tells about the battles to conquer more of the land. Israel was fighting for over 7 years. What does verse 11:23 say?

(Not every small town and village had been conquered and occupied. That was up to each individual tribe to do in the land that was assigned to them.)

12. Numbers 33:56 says, "But if you fail to drive out the people who live in the land, those who remain will be like splinters in your eyes and thorns in your sides." God is against whatever takes His place in your heart/life. What tries to take the place of God in your life?
13. Chapter 12 shows God delivering on His promise to reclaim the land for His people. Why do you think a whole chapter was dedicated to listing every king the Israelites defeated in battle? How does this encourage you when you face problems in your life?

## DAY 5 JOSHUA 9-12 — Wrap Up

14. What do we learn about Joshua's character from these chapters? How can you imitate these character qualities in your life?
15. What do we learn about God's character from these chapters? How does this affect your relationship with Him?

### TAKE AWAY

We need to rely on the Lord and His grace each moment. We should pray and think carefully before making a promise, a commitment, a decision or a deal. Once you make it, keep it.

### BLESSING

Victory is from the Lord. We may face obstacles and difficulties, even enemies, just as the Israelites did. But if we rely on the Lord, we will be victorious.

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Joshua makes peace with the Gibeonites because he fails to seek God's guidance. Like Joshua, we tend to make wrong decisions and move away from God's plan when we don't ask for His direction. Let's ask God to forgive us, allow Him to direct us, and accept His perfect will for our lives.

God planned that the Israelites would triumph over their enemies and settle all the territory in the Promised Land. He called His people to trust and obey Him as He prepared the way of victory before them. He caused the Canaanites to fight against Israel, bringing about the Canaanites' destruction. He confused Israel's enemy, commanded

the forces of nature to help His people, and honored Joshua in a special way when He ordered the sun to stand still.

The One who led the Israelites and fought their battles prepares the way of victory before us each day. As we trust and obey Him, He guides us through difficult, sometimes dangerous, situations. If we have a relationship with Jesus, the same power witnessed by Joshua and the Israelites is available to us today (John 15:4-7). The One in whom we believe has been given "all authority in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18). He is Lord of all and Lord forever. Will you rely on Him to fulfill His perfect plan for you?

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