

Sermon Study

Joshua 9 - Running ahead of God

vision

Eastview
Christian
Church is a
fearless church
of Christ
followers whose
ridiculous love
and dangerous
witness are
irresistible.



AUTHOR'S NOTE (summary of key points for this study)

In Joshua 9, the phrase that sums up the leaders' mistake is found in the second part of 9:14: "...but did not ask counsel from Lord." They made a covenant based on their own wisdom, but missed the fact that seeking God is the first rule of leadership. Although they display integrity in honoring their word, they lose respect of the people.

Gather (your group getting to know each other)

1. Have you ever made an impulsive decision you regretted later? Of course! Go around the room and have everyone name at least one instance of running ahead of God's wisdom in a decision.

2. Every human in the Bible (and not mentioned in the Bible) has made mistakes. Many came from not seeking God before acting. Even those commended in Hebrews 11 for their faith, ran ahead of God. Reflect on those in Hebrews 11 and discuss why and how they did not seek God's wisdom before acting at times. What were the results?

Go
(your group on mission)

After seeking the Lord, choose to “Go” as a group by inviting guests to the Easter services at Eastview.

Grow (your group growing as Christ-followers)

Discussion:

1. Read Joshua 9 out loud. How is the character of God reflected in this chapter?

2. Imagine leading the whole nation of Israel. It would have been a tiring and trying job of leadership. There would have been many decisions to make every day. Not knowing he was being presented a ruse, Joshua’s decision seemed reasonable, didn’t it? In your daily life, how do you find the discipline to rely on God’s wisdom versus your own?

3. God’s voice/action is not directly seen in this chapter, but the Gibeonites are aware of His power. Read verses 24-25. Does the Gibeonites surrender to the authority of the “LORD your God” remind you of Rehab’s confession of belief? – Why or why not?

4. What do you think God would have said to Joshua had he sought His wisdom?

5. What are the consequences of making commitments that you wish you hadn’t later? How does Joshua’s honoring of his oath impact his leadership of the Israelites – for good and not so good?

Give
(your group serving each other)

Give the gift of reminding one another to seek God’s wisdom before making commitments. As you share with one another concerning decisions in front of you, choose to seek the Lord together for wisdom and clarity.