

# Lesson 9: Joshua is Deceived

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) Study an example of trickery and deceit
- 2) Understand that we can be prepared and avoid being tricked by others by going to God first
- 3) See the consequences of tricking others and the consequence of being tricked as well.

**Accommodations:** How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- See Lesson 1 for ideas

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## Supplies:

### Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart
- Stickers for Attendance
- Joshua is Deceived Color Page – one per student
- Break the Code Sheet – one per student
- Map of Conquered Places – one for class to share

### Optional:

#### Hangman Game

- Large writing surface – like easel with paper or chalkboard (to play hangman) or piece of paper to show children as you play hangman.
- Marker or pen
- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

### Snack:

- Pieces of fresh bread or buns \*Check for allergies first      1-2 pieces for each child
- Napkins for snack      one per child
- Water and cup      one per child

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## Lesson:

### 1) Introduction to Lesson

2-5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week.

Say to students:

**What book in the Old Testament are we studying now?** Joshua

**Does anyone remember what we studied last week?** We studied that Joshua and the Israelites tried to conquer Ai after conquering Jericho but because Achan had stolen some of the items from Jericho, the Israelites were defeated by the people of Ai and 36 men died. Because of that God told Joshua to destroy the person who stole and so they found out it was Achan and had him and his family stoned to death for stealing, lying and coveting what did not belong to him. We also learned that sins have consequences not only for the person who sins (like Achan) but for other people as well (the 36 men and Achan's family).

Say: **Today we will look at sin and the consequences of it again, only this time we will see what happens when someone tricks another.**

## 2) Joshua Deceived – Joshua 9

15-20 minutes

**Optional:** Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Ask students to turn to **Joshua 9:1-5**. Read or have a volunteer read **Joshua 9:1-5**.

**There are a few words we need to talk about before we discuss what has happened so far.**

**In verse 4 it says the Gibeonites worked craftily or resorted to a ruse.**

**What do those words mean?** Let students answer

Explain:

**Craftily means: skillful in underhand or evil schemes; cunning; deceitful; sly**

**Ruse means: an action intended to deceive someone; a trick**

**So what were the Gibeonites planning to do with the Israelites?** Trick or deceive them!

**Another word we see is ambassadors or delegation in verse 4. That means representatives or people from a nation sent to talk to another nation.**

**Let's look at a map of where the Israelites were at the time.** \*Show map to class

Ask:

**Where was Gibeon from Jericho and Ai the two places the Israelites just conquered?** Very close!

**Why would the Gibeonites be trying to come up with a trick or lie to tell the Israelites?** Because they knew they were next in line to be attacked and conquered!

**What did they use as part of their plan or scheme in verse 4 and 5?** They dressed themselves and their donkeys in old worn out clothes and took moldy bread and bad wine with them.

**What do you think they were planning to do?** Let students guess

**Now let's continue the story and read Joshua 9:6-13.** Have volunteers read

Joshua 9:6-13

\*Show map again to students and ask

Discussion Questions:

**Where did the Gibeonites say they were from?** A far away country

**Was that true?** No

**Where were they really from (see map)?** Next door!

**Why did they pretend to have old clothes and old moldy food?** To trick the Israelite's into thinking they actually were from a faraway country instead of the next town.

**What did they ask the Israelites for in verse 11?** To make an agreement or covenant with them for peace. They wanted a peace treaty so Israel would not fight and conquer them.

**Let's look at the Bible to see what God says about tricking or deceiving people**

**Turn to Mark 13:5-6. Here Jesus is talking to his disciples.**

### Mark 13:5-6

Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many.

**What does He warn against?** That no one deceives them into believing that someone else is Jesus.



**So can we be tricked today? Yes.**

**Now let's turn to Romans 16:18**

**Romans 16:18**

<sup>18</sup> For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

**What were people doing here?** Not serving the Lord but deceiving or tricking people with flattery and smooth talk – being a charmer.

**In a few minutes we will study how we can avoid being tricked but for now let's finish Joshua 9. Can I get some volunteers to read 4 verses each from Joshua 9:14-27? Read Joshua 9:14-27**

Discussion Questions:

**What did the Israelites do when the Gibeonites came to them in verse 14?** They did not ask God for help!

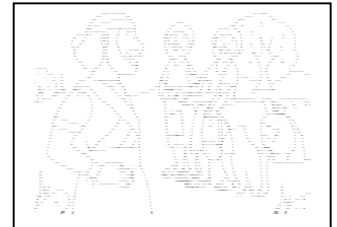
**What was the consequence of the Israelites not asking God first?** They got tricked and made a deal with the Gibeonites even though God had said to destroy all the people in Canaan.

**What was the consequence for the Gibeonites for lying and tricking the Israelite's?** They became their slaves and were woodcutters and water carriers.

### **3) Joshua is Deceived Color Page**

**15-20 minutes**

Hand out one sheet to each student along with pencil crayons. While students are coloring discuss the following:



**Last week we talked about sin and its consequences. We saw the example of Achan stealing items from Jericho when God said not to and that sin cost the Israelites 36 of their men and Achan and his entire family were killed. This week we see sin again – this time in tricking or deceiving others. Jesus warns us not to be deceived by others. The Israelites were deceived because they did not ask God for help.**

Ask:

**How can we avoid being deceived by others?** Ask God for help, study the Bible to know what is true and what is not so we can't be tricked. Talk to our parents or evangelist or someone we can trust before making a decision.

**Let's stop coloring for a minute and turn to Psalm 46. This Psalm talks about God and how He is with us. Can I get a volunteer to read Psalm 46:9-11?**

**Psalm 46:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.<sup>10</sup> He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."<sup>11</sup> The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

**God says here that He can stop wars and will protect us as a fortress. He also says in verse 10 – Be still and know that I am God. When people ask us to make a decision or to respond to something, what does God say here? Be still.**

**We don't have to rush into a decision or an answer. We don't have to worry. Just like the Israelites – it is a mistake to rush into something without taking the time to study God's Word and to pray to Him for help. We need to be still and take our time to make sure what we are doing and saying are right.**

**Ok, start coloring again, but listen as I give some examples of situations you might face and I want you to tell me how you can correctly deal with these situations based on what we learned today.**

For example:

**A friend tells you that she no longer likes a person in your class and asks you to decide whether you will hang out with that person anymore, if you do – your friend says she will not talk to you anymore!**

(Answers might be: Tell her you will think about it and get back to her and then go pray and study the Bible and talk to your parents about it)

**A person comes to your door at home and tries to convince you that Jesus is not God's Son, and therefore not Lord and Savior!**

(Answers might be: Tell the person to come back when they can talk with your parents, say you need time to answer this person correctly and ask them to come back tomorrow and then close the door and invite your evangelist or your parents to be with you as you try and study with the person the next day and pray during the time between meeting again.)

**Someone in your class says they want you to be part of their group, but in order to belong you need to pull a trick on the teacher.**

(Answers might be: Tell them you will think about it, then pray, talk to your parents and then with help from God and your parents make a wise decision before responding to the student.)

**You see! There are a lot of times when we are faced with things that actually we don't need to deal with right away – we have time to “Be still and know that God is there with us!” We don't have to rush, or make a deal, or answer immediately. If the Israelites would have done that – they wouldn't have been tricked. Now we have a few more tools in our tool box for not being tricked!**

**What are the tools we learned today for not being tricked?** Let students answer: go to God in prayer, tell the person you will think about it first, study the Bible to learn the answer first, talk to parents, evangelist or someone you can trust first and be still!

Let students finish coloring before moving on to the next activity.

#### **4) Joshua is Deceived Break the Code**

**10 minutes**

Hand out one sheet to each student along with pencils. Read the instructions on the page before they begin. Read the answer after they are finished so they know and understand what the answer was.

**Answer:** Found in Joshua 9:14 (New King James Version)

**They did not ask counsel of the Lord**

Ask students when done:

**What are some ways we might get tricked today?** Let students answer

**Are we allowed to hurt someone or say bad things about them if they trick us?** No

**Let's turn to Romans 16:17-20. Can I get someone to read these verses?**

### **Romans 16:17-20**

<sup>17</sup> I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. <sup>18</sup> For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people. <sup>19</sup> Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I rejoice because of you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil. <sup>20</sup> The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

**What are we to do with people who try to trick us in verse 17?** Keep away from them.

**What do we do if someone does trick us in verse 19?** Stay obedient to God – do not sin by trying to get back at them – be innocent about what is evil and focus on being wise and good.

**Who will take care us?** God in verse 20 will take care of us by taking care of Satan. We don't have to worry about getting back at people who hurt us – let God do it!

### **5) Practice Memory Verse**

**Deuteronomy 31:6** – Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Have students repeat this verse with you a number of times. Say a few words, then have them repeat a few times. Once everyone has that done, go to another few words and have them repeat, keep going until they have said the entire verse a few times. The goal is to learn this verse by the end of the quarter.

### **6) Optional Hangman Game**

**10-15 minutes**

Before class get a large easel or chalkboard with marker or chalk to show kids while playing the game of hangman. If neither are available sit around a table and hold up a page with the gallows and slots for the words underneath so all children can see – use a marker to fill in each letter as you write them. Play hangman with key words from the Bible story – when kids discover the word – ask them to explain why that word was important if they can, or you can explain if they can't.

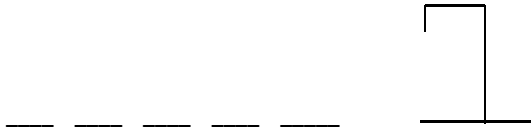
**Game instructions: Ask students if they know the game, if not explain to them the following:**

1. Start the game by choosing a word from the list below –don't let the children know what word you have chosen and don't let them see your list of words.
2. Place one dash on the bottom of a piece of paper for each letter of the word or words chosen. Leave a space between words. Example: Jacob – you would write \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ at the bottom of the page you are using to show the students.



3. Draw a "gallows" at the top of the paper - draw a horizontal line at the bottom, a vertical line coming up out of its center, and then a short line off to the right at the top (so that you now have an upside-down "L" on the horizontal line). Draw a short vertical line off the end of the top line - this is your "noose."

Example:



4. Have the other player guess one letter at a time - or he or she can use a turn to guess the entire word or words. If they get the letter write - fill it in where it belongs - example: J \_ \_ \_ \_ .
5. If they get the letter wrong - write the letter on the top of the page - so other students know it was already chosen and then fill in a part of the body on the hangman's noose. Begin by drawing a head attached to the short vertical line (the "noose"). Add body, right leg, left leg, right arm, then left arm.
6. Know that if the drawing of the person is completed before the word or words are guessed, the guessing player loses. If the player figures out the word or words first, he or she wins.
7. When a student guesses the word ask them to explain something that they know about the word.

### List of Words to Use

**(Possible suggestions for things they might know about that word):**

**Deceive** - The Gibeonites deceived the Israelites by saying they were from a faraway country

**Trick** - The Gibeonites wanted to trick the Israelites so that they would not conquer them

**Inquire** - the Israelites did not inquire or ask the Lord for help before acting

**Gibeon** - the town that the Gibeonites were from and the place that Israel was going to conquer next

### 7) Optional - Snack: Fresh Bread or Buns

5 minutes

\*Check for allergies before handing out snacks.

Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water. Explain that, "**Today we saw another consequence of sin - when we are tricked or deceived that might mean we did not go to God first before answering a person or dealing with a problem. Today we are going to eat fresh bread. Why are we eating bread today? Because in the story the Gibeonites used moldy bread to trick the Israelites into thinking they were from a faraway country. We won't eat moldy bread - but nice fresh bread to remind us not to be tricked but to turn to God and ask for help instead! Let's talk about that while we eat our snack.**" Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss any questions while snacking.

## 8) Optional – Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you. An example is:

**Be Still and Know** – From Hymn Book  
(for music sheet see songs in front of Binder)

Be still and know that I am God,  
be still and know that I am God,  
be still and know that I am God.

I am the Lord that strengthens thee,  
I am the Lord that strengthens thee,  
I am the Lord that strengthens thee.

In you, O Lord, I put my trust,  
In you, O Lord, I put my trust,  
In you, O Lord, I put my trust.

## 9) Close in prayer

\*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Dear God thank You for Your might and power, thank You for your everlasting ability to always take care of us as You did Joshua, Rahab and the Israelites. Thank You that we can be strong and courageous because of You and Your Son being there for us. Help us in our faith to always remember that You are there with us and that we need to remember to pray, study and focus on Your Words day and night to gain strength for our days ahead and to avoid being tricked. Help us Father to avoid being tempted by knowing that we don't have to rush into making decisions – if we need to make a decision, help us to remember to go to You first and be willing to study Your Word the Bible to find an answer before acting.

Father be with our families and friends and those who were unable to be here today because of problems or sickness. Bring those people back safely next week. Help us to be strong and courageous in sharing the good news that Jesus is alive and able to save all who come to Him through baptism. Help us not to trick, steal, lie or want things that do not belong to us. Help us to love and respect You because You are mighty and awesome. Help us to take sin seriously as it not only will affect us but those we love as well when we sin. Bless us as we enter this new week. Thank you for being our wonderful God, in Jesus precious name we pray, Amen!