

JOSHUA IS TRICKED

Joshua 9:3-27

Joshua 9

³However, when the people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, ⁴they resorted to a ruse: They went as a delegation whose donkeys were loaded with worn-out sacks and old wineskins, cracked and mended. ⁵The men put worn and patched sandals on their feet and wore old clothes. All the bread of their food supply was dry and moldy. ⁶Then they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and the men of Israel, “We have come from a distant country; make a treaty with us.”

⁷The men of Israel said to the Hivites, “But perhaps you live near us. How then can we make a treaty with you?”

⁸“We are your servants,” they said to Joshua.

But Joshua asked, “Who are you and where do you come from?”

⁹They answered: “Your servants have come from a very distant country because of the fame of the LORD your God. For we have heard reports of him: all that he did in Egypt, ¹⁰and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan—Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth.

¹¹And our elders and all those living in our country said to us, ‘Take provisions for your journey; go and meet them and say to them, “We are your servants; make a treaty with us.”’ ¹²This bread of ours was warm when we packed it at home on the day we left to come to you. But now see how dry and moldy it is. ¹³And these wineskins that we filled were new, but see how cracked they are. And our clothes and sandals are worn out by the very long journey.”

¹⁴The men of Israel sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the LORD. ¹⁵Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live, and the leaders of the assembly ratified it by oath.

¹⁶Three days after they made the treaty with the Gibeonites, the Israelites heard that they were neighbors, living near them. ¹⁷So the Israelites set out and on the third day came to their cities: Gibeon, Kephirah, Beeroth and Kiriath Jearim. ¹⁸But the Israelites did not attack them, because the leaders of the assembly had sworn an oath to them by the LORD, the God of Israel.

The whole assembly grumbled against the leaders, ¹⁹but all the leaders answered, “We have given them our oath by the LORD, the God of Israel, and we cannot touch them now. ²⁰This is what we will do to them: We will let them live, so that wrath will not fall on us for breaking the oath we swore to them.” ²¹They continued, “Let them live, but let them be woodcutters and water carriers for the entire community.” So the leaders’ promise to them was kept.

²²Then Joshua summoned the Gibeonites and said, “Why did you deceive us by saying, ‘We live a long way from you,’ while actually you live near us? ²³You are now under a curse: You will never cease to serve as woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God.”

²⁴They answered Joshua, “Your servants were clearly told how the LORD your God had commanded his servant Moses to give you the whole land and to wipe out all its inhabitants from before you. So we feared for our lives because of you, and that is why we did this. ²⁵We are now in your hands. Do to us whatever seems good and right to you.”

²⁶So Joshua saved them from the Israelites, and they did not kill them. ²⁷That day he made the Gibeonites woodcutters and water carriers for the community and for the altar of the LORD at the place the LORD would choose. And that is what they are to this day.

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| POSSIBLE POINTS | MY POINTS | QUESTIONS |
|-----------------|-----------|---|
| 5 | | 1.) How did the Gibeonites trick Joshua? |
| 5 | | 2.) Why did the Gibeonites trick Joshua? (Verse 24) |
| 5 | | 3.) What happened to the Gibeonites because they tricked Joshua? (Verse 23) |
| 5 | | 4.) Why do you think the Gibeonites were able to trick Joshua? |

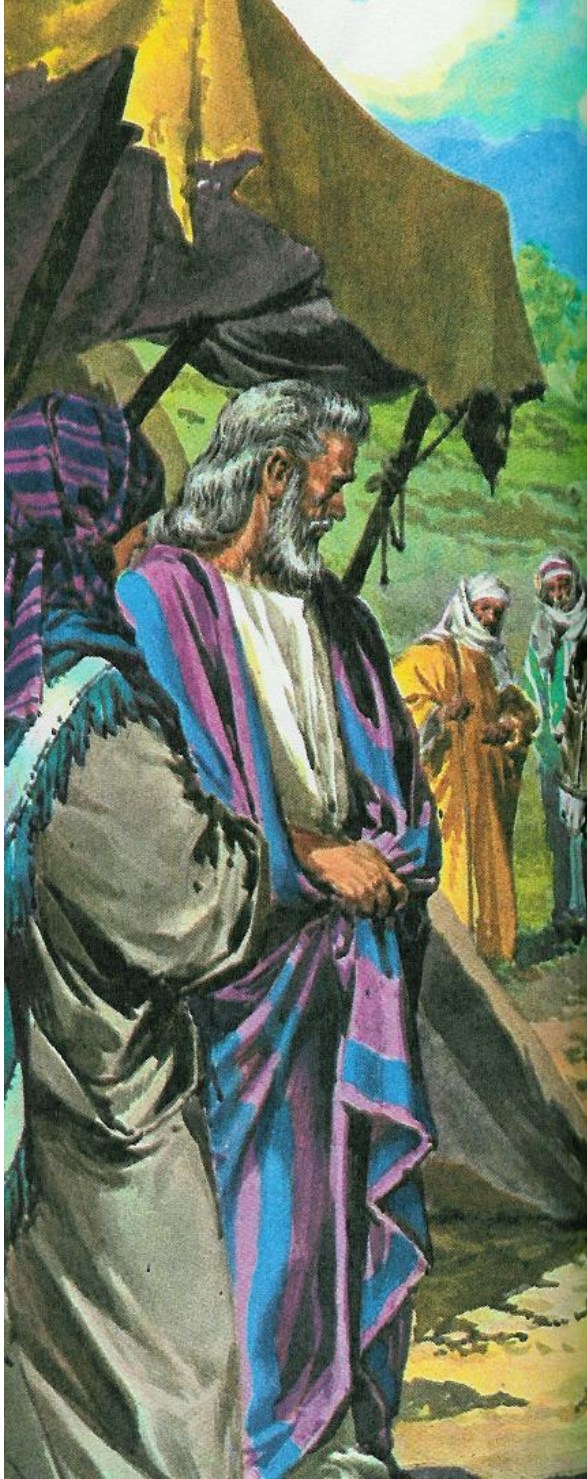
| POSSIBLE POINTS | MY POINTS | MEMORY VERSE |
|-----------------|-----------|--|
| 10 | | <p>“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Galatians 6:7</p> |

| POSSIBLE POINTS | MY POINTS | HOME CONNECTION | PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE |
|-----------------|-----------|--|---------------------------|
| 5 | | <i>I have read, or been read, the passage of scripture for this week.</i> | |
| 5 | | <i>I have answered the questions aloud to an adult at home this week.</i> | |
| 10 | | <i>I have recited the memory verse out loud to an adult at home this week.</i> | |

| TOTAL POINTS | CLUB CONNECTION |
|--------------|---|
| | LEADER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE ___/___/___ |

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Joshua 9:3-27



Picture from *The Children's Bible* Golden Press: Copyright © 1965.

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Joshua 9:3-27



Some Gibeonite men dressed in ragged clothes trick Joshua

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Joshua 9:3-27

CRAFT/ACTIVITY: WORN-OUT SACKS

Students will make worn-out sacks to remind them that the Gibeonites tricked Joshua by saying that they had come from a distant country.

MATERIALS

1. Tan 67 lb. Cardstock
2. Sack Pattern
3. Scissors
4. Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
5. Yarn (Two 7" pieces per student)
6. Hole Punch
7. Crackers
8. Green Food Coloring



DIRECTIONS

1. Make copies of the “Bag Pattern” onto 67 lb. cardstock for each student.
2. Have the students color the worn-out bag pattern with markers, crayons, or colored pencils.
3. Have the students cut out the bag pattern on the solid black lines.
4. Allow students to crumble the bag pattern 10-15 times (to make it feel like cloth).
5. Help students fold the bag on the dotted black line.
6. Punch holes through each black dot.
7. “Sew” each side of the bag with yarn.
8. Place a drop of green food coloring on several crackers (before students arrive) to make crackers appear moldy.
9. Place “moldy” crackers (bread) into the bag.

FOR DISCUSSION

While the students are coloring their worn-out bag, remind them that the Gibeonites used a worn-out bag, patched sandals, old clothes, old wineskins, and old bread to make Joshua believe that they had traveled from a distant country. Joshua did not inquire of the Lord and was tricked into sparing the lives of the deceitful Gibeonites. Help students realize that we reap what we sow, as the memory verse says.

TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE: Approximately 15 minutes

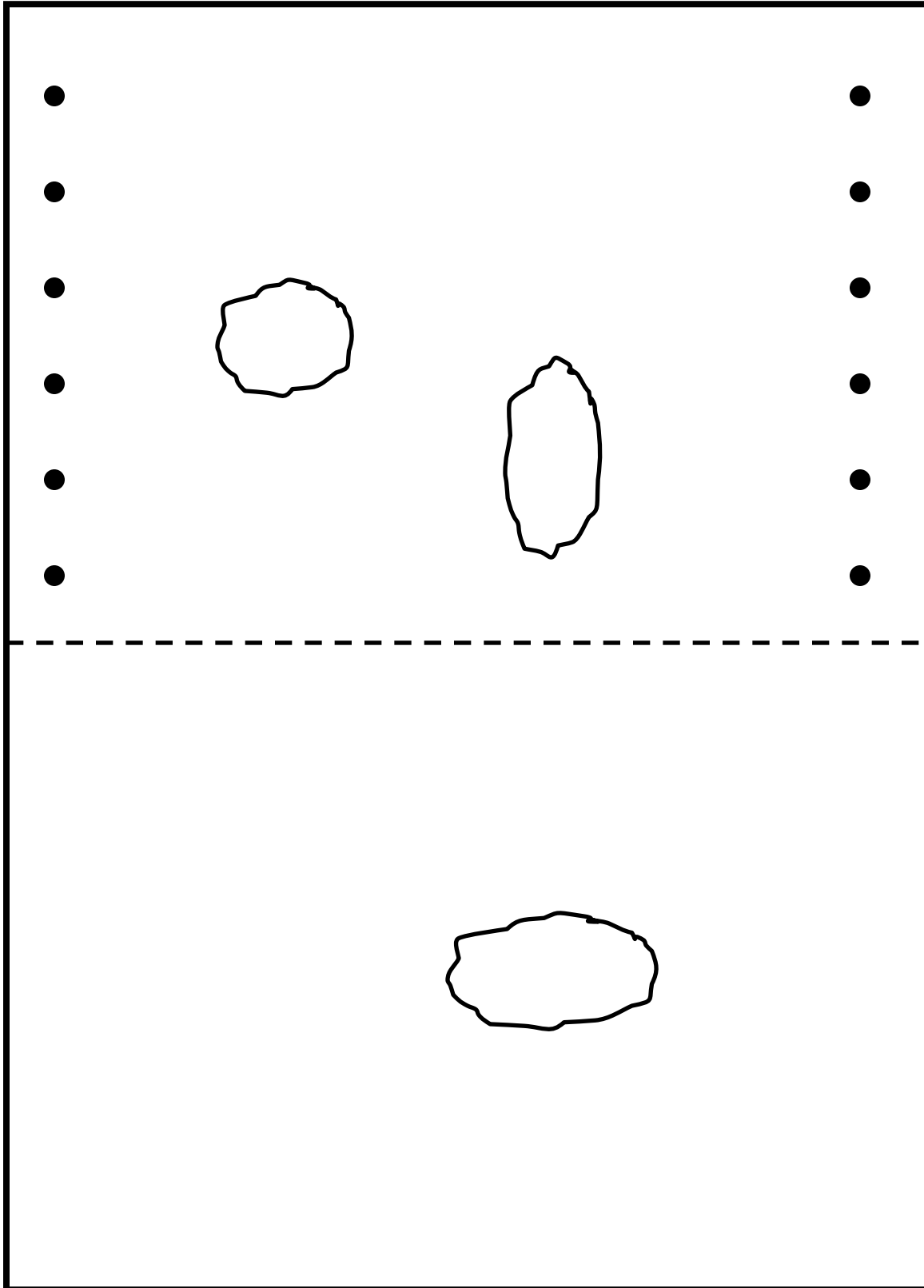
MEMORY VERSE

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” Galatians 6:7

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CRAFT/ACTIVITY: BAG PATTERN



THE BIBLE TIMES HERALD

A SPECIAL REPORT ON JOSHUA 9:3-27

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The people of Gibeon found out what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai. They decided to try to trick Joshua. They dressed up in old clothes and brought dry and moldy food with them.

The people of Gibeon came to Joshua and said, "We have come from a distant country; make a treaty with us. This bread we brought was warm when we packed it. See how dry and moldy it is now. Our clothes are worn out because of the long journey." The people of Gibeon wanted Joshua to think that they were from a country far, far away.

The men of Israel did not pray to the Lord for guidance. So Joshua made a treaty of peace with them. This meant that the Israelites could not attack the Gibeonites.

Three days later, the Israelites found out that they were neighbors with the Gibeonites! Joshua had been tricked!

Joshua asked the Gibeonites why they had tricked him. They said, "We heard how the Lord had given you the whole land and that you were supposed to kill all the people who lived in the land. We were afraid. Do to us whatever seems right to you."

So Joshua made the Gibeonites woodcutters and water carriers for the Israelites because they had tricked him.

To find out more, read Joshua 9:3-27 in your Bible.

QUESTIONS

1. How did the Gibeonites trick Joshua?
2. Why did the Gibeonites trick Joshua?
3. What happened to the Gibeonites because they tricked Joshua?
4. Why do you think the Gibeonites were able to trick Joshua?

MEMORY VERSE

"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows."

Galatians 6:7

CROSS OFF THE LETTERS

Cross out every other letter. Write the remaining letters on the lines below to reveal the hidden message.

~~J~~~~Q~~~~O~~~~P~~~~S~~~~T~~~~H~~~~Q~~~~U~~~~A~~~~L~~~~W~~~~S~~~~A~~
~~Q~~~~S~~~~H~~~~T~~~~S~~~~R~~~~V~~~~I~~~~X~~~~C~~~~J~~~~K~~~~H~~~~E~~~~O~~~~D~~

J _ _ _ _ _

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