

Fellowship Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of March 10

The Right Way to Fear the Lord | Joshua 9

Opening Connection: *Choose one question. Go around the room and ask each person to give their name and answer. The Discussion Leader is welcome to make up a question.*

- What was the worst haircut you ever had?
- What do you wish you hadn't done when you were a teenager?
- How would you change the way you lived if you were immune to other people's opinions?

Sermon Text and Content Question Ideas: *Discuss the content of the text and ask your own follow-up questions as the discussion unfolds.*

- Open up to Joshua 9:1-2. Ask a volunteer to read it out loud.
- What was the response of the Canaanites to Israel setting up an altar to the Lord in the Lead? Why would they respond this way? What would a better response have been?

Read: Joshua 9:3-21

- How did the Gibeonites respond differently than the other people? Was this a better option? Why or why not?
- How much did they know about the Lord? Did this allow them to respond correctly?
- In what ways is their response similar to and different than Rahab's (Joshua 2)?

Read: Joshua 9:22-27

- How did Joshua and the leaders respond to their failure?
- What is the evidence that they were seeking to follow the Lord? See Deuteronomy 20:10-15.
- How do we know that it was the right thing for Joshua to keep the oath they had made? See 2 Samuel 21:1-2.

Discussion/Application Question Ideas: *Focus now on applying the content of the message.*

- What are some ways we tend to fight God today in our own lives?
- Have you ever tried to impress God?
- Why is it so easy to try to maneuver ourselves into better standing with Him? Why is that so dangerous for us as Christians?
- How should we combat that temptation in our own lives?
- Why is it so important that we apply the Gospel to our lives each day?
- Have you ever been tempted to deny or excuse a mistake or failure? What should we do?

Prayer Together

- Ask for a volunteer to be the last person to pray, and have a time of prayer together, with a few different people praying.
- Pray for God's Word to bear fruit in your lives, in light of what you have discussed.