17 Sep 2023 Josh 9-12 **(9:3-27)**

**Staying Focused When Things Go Awry**

QUESTIONS

The Gibeonite deception was a mistake the Israelites made. What decisions do you make without strongly seeking the Lord (getting out of bed, brushing teeth…buying a car)? Where is the threshold of wisdom and faith coming together (brushing your teeth is not a risky decision) or how would you describe this part of your life?

Why might the Gibeonites seem like a small, daily wisdom decision after the battles at Jericho and Ai? Why did God remain silent—let them make a bad choice?

Why was the Gibeonites not a sin, but only a foolish mistake (Achan was a sin, this was not)? What is the difference? Why might we easily make that mistake?

What does it mean that the Israelites kept their word, even though they had been deceived? How was God able to work with their integrity in the next battle defending these Gibeonites (Josh 10:5-10)?

Why is integrity and not quitting so important in our journey through life with Jesus (Philippians 1:6, 9-10; 2:14-16)?