



Joshua 10–24

Living by Faith

Sample Lesson #1
and
Leader's Guide Answers

ONE

A DAY LIKE NO OTHER

Read Joshua 10;
other references as given.

In Joshua chapters 1–9 you learned that God *always* keeps His promises. And because God always keeps His promises, believers can trust Him and obey His Word. The Lord tests His followers, not because He is unkind or unloving but to show them what they are trusting in (God or self) and to train them to live by faith. When we trust God and walk in obedience to His Word on a daily basis, we can honestly say we are living by faith.

In this study on Joshua chapters 10–24, you’ll learn that living by faith is not reserved for a few spiritual superstars. It should be the normal Christian life for all believers (Ephesians 4:13–15). God uses His Word and the struggles of our lives, fought in the trenches of daily living, to teach us to trust Him.

Before you begin each lesson in this study, ask God to reveal Himself to you through His Word and to transform you into the image of His Son.

1. The Gibeonites deceived Joshua and the Israelite leaders who entered a peace treaty with them (Joshua 9:1–15). Some biblical scholars believe Gibeon was not an independent city-state, but under the jurisdiction of the king of Jerusalem, which would make Gibeon’s alliance an act of treason. Why *do you think* the southern alliance of Amorite kings attacked Gibeon instead of directly attacking Israel (Joshua 10:1–4)?



Lombardi Time Rule:

If the leader arrives early, he or she has time to pray, prepare the room, and greet others personally.

ADD GROUP
INSIGHTS BELOW

ADDITIONAL
INSIGHTS

2. When the southern alliance attacked Gibeon, Joshua and the Israelites were forced to defend the Gibeonites—the same people who deceived them (Joshua 10:6). There is an important spiritual principle here; When a believer violates God’s Word by forming an alliance in violation of God’s Word, he will soon find himself defending the ally (*“I know my girlfriend isn’t a Christian and I know I shouldn’t be dating her, but she treats me better than some Christians I know”*).

a. Perhaps Joshua and the Israelites wondered if God would be with them if they defended the unrighteous Gibeonites since their alliance was based on deceit (Joshua 9:4). If Joshua and the Israelite leaders’ failure led to the death of more than thirty-six people, why didn’t Joshua need to ask the Lord if he should defend the Gibeonites?

b. Joshua and the Israelites marched twenty-five miles and climbed four thousand feet up difficult terrain to Gibeon *before* the Lord spoke to him (Joshua 10:8). What assurance did the Lord give Joshua as he prepared to defend the Gibeonites (Joshua 10:8)?

3. God promised Joshua victory at Gibeon even though he had failed in his initial dealings with them. Some Christians

doubt God's love for them and believe they have forfeited His promises because of their past sins. If you are a Christian who has failed the Lord in the past, what promises of God can you legitimately claim?

1. Romans 5:8: _____

2. 1 John 1:9: _____

3. 2 Timothy 2:13: _____

4. Hebrews 13:5, 8: _____

4. If Joshua had sought the Lord prior to the conquest of Ai, it's likely that God would have revealed Achan's sin to him. When the Gibeonites came to Joshua, his failure to seek the Lord's counsel resulted in a treaty with a heathen nation (a violation of Moses' command; Exodus 34:12) and unrest among God's people. But when Joshua responded to the Gibeonites' appeal for help without receiving any counsel from the Lord, God assured him of victory. How *do you think* a believer can know when God wants him to move forward in faith and when he should wait on the Lord?

5. One of the recurring themes of the book of Joshua is (1) God gives a command, (2) the Israelites respond in faith, and (3) the Lord honors their faith and gives them victory. Take a few minutes to seriously examine your relationship with God. In the blank at the beginning of each statement, indicate which of the following statements reflects your



Zip-It Rule:

Group members should agree to disagree, but should never be disagreeable.

ADDITIONAL
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typical responses to God’s commands. In the blank at the end of the statements, indicate whether your initial answer is a “right” or “wrong” response to God’s commands?

1. ___ When God gives me a command, I obey immediately like Joshua and the Israelites.

2. ___ When God gives me a command, I immediately pray about whether I should obey. _____
3. ___ When God gives me a command, I weigh my options and make a calculated decision about what I should do. If I think it’s the right thing to do, I obey the Lord. _____
4. ___ When God gives me a command, I usually evaluate the implications of obeying the Lord. If obeying Him doesn’t adversely affect me or hurt my relationships with others, I obey. _____
5. ___ When God gives me a command, I try to obey even if it costs me and others don’t understand why I am obeying the Lord. _____
6. Joshua sinned when he entered a peace treaty with the Gibeonites. When Joshua realized his error, he acknowledged his sin and accepted the consequences. God blessed Joshua’s willingness to honor his covenant with the Gibeonites. In what ways *do you think* God used the southern alliance’s attack on the Gibeonites to advance the Israelites’ conquest of the land?

7. The Lord intervened on behalf of the Israelites by performing two specific miracles. The first was a hailstorm that affected

only the southern alliance (Joshua 10:11). What was the second miracle the Lord performed on their behalf (Joshua 10:12–14)?

8. Some people have difficulty believing that God can perform miracles such as the one commonly known as “Joshua’s long day.” If the Lord, however, cannot intervene at will by temporarily suspending the laws of nature, can He really be God? Numerous interpretations have been offered to explain this miracle. They can be summarized as the following: (1) The earth stopped rotating. (2) The sun’s light lingered due to refraction of light. (3) An eclipse. (4) The sun’s light was blocked. And (5) a special sign was involved. What *do you think* happened (Joshua 10:12–14)?

9. The leaders of the southern alliance fled to the cave at Makkedah (Joshua 10:16). The Israelites sealed the cave entrance until they completely routed their enemies. Then Joshua returned to the cave and commanded the Israelite leaders to place their feet on the necks of their enemies (Joshua 10:24). What was this action supposed to teach the leaders (Joshua 10:25)?

10. Although the Lord had given Joshua victory over the southern alliance, a few survivors found their way back to the fortified cities (Joshua 10:20). Joshua led the Israelite



If the leader asks all the study questions, the group discussion will be more likely to stay on track.

ADDITIONAL
INSIGHTS

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army against these cities and systematically destroyed them (Joshua 10:29–41). If victory in the south had already been won and the individual kings had been killed, why was it necessary for Joshua to utterly destroy these cities (Joshua 10:40)?

11. The victory at Gibeon led to the defeat of the southern alliance of kings and the collapse of all major resistance in the southern region of the land area. As Israel's national leader, Joshua must have been greatly revered by the people. While the Lord used Joshua and the Israelites to accomplish His work, it was really God who allowed them to defeat their enemies.

a. Has there been a time in your life when the circumstances seemed overwhelming, but you realized that God had orchestrated the events of your life? What were the circumstances?

b. What did you learn about God and yourself from that event?

LEADER'S GUIDE

Lesson 1: A Day like No Other

1. 1. If Gibeon was under the jurisdiction of the king of Jerusalem, the southern alliance responded to Gibeon's act of treason to prevent further defection by the surrounding cities.
 2. Perhaps the southern alliance thought a victory over Gibeon would convince the Gibeonites to return to fight against Israel.
 3. Adoni-Zedek greatly feared the Israelites (Joshua 10:2). It's possible that this fear had spread throughout the peoples of the south, and a victory over the Gibeonites would bolster the morale of the southern forces and the remaining city-states.
 4. The southern alliance had heard of the military advancement of the Israelites, and they had to make a bold offensive move to slow Israel's military expansion. Other answers could apply.
2. a. Israel's peace treaty with the Gibeonites obligated the Israelites to defend them. Believers do not need to pray about obeying the clear commands of God's Word or fulfilling their word. Christians, however, should pray for God's grace and wisdom to glorify Him as they fulfill His will and their word.
 - b. The Lord promised Joshua victory over the southern alliance of city-states. God told Joshua not to fear their enemy because he had delivered them into his hand. God promised that no man would be able to stand before them, meaning their victory would be complete and swift.
3. 1. Romans 5:8: Jesus Christ loved me and died for me *before* I committed any sins. This proves that His love for me is unconditional, and it gives me the promise of His continuing love when I sin.
 2. 1 John 1:9: If I (genuinely) confess my sin, regardless of how egregious it may be, God will forgive me and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. I may face the earthly consequences of my sin, but I can be assured that God has forgiven me.
 3. 2 Timothy 2:13: God will remain faithful to me even though I have been unfaithful to Him. God cannot deny or change His character.

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4. Hebrews 13:5, 8: God will never leave me or forsake me (Hebrews 13:5). Unlike some people, God doesn't change as a result of my sin. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
4. If a command is explicitly (clearly) stated in Scripture and there is no theological reason why the command should not apply to a Christian (for example, specific commands within the law of Moses or Old Covenant), a believer is obligated to obey the Word of God. The believer doesn't need to pray whether or not he should obey God's Word, but he should pray about obeying His commands in a manner that honors the Lord. If the believer is not certain if a command applies to him, he should search the Scriptures diligently, ask God in prayer for wisdom (James 1:5), and trust God to direct his steps (Proverbs 3:5–6). He should also seek the counsel of godly Christians (pastors and other spiritual leaders) who demonstrate wisdom in their daily living, sobriety in decision-making, and specific knowledge in the area in which counsel is being sought (Proverbs 1:5).
5. Answers will vary. The answers to the second part of the questions are 1. Right. 2. Wrong. 3. Wrong. 4. Wrong. 5. Right.
6. First, The armies of the southern alliance were drawn out of their cities. This made it easier for the Israelites to defeat them. Second, the congregation of the southern forces allowed the Israelites to defeat a large portion of the southern region with one battle. Third, the defeat of the southern alliance enabled the Israelites to inflict a deathblow to the morale of the remaining southern city-states. Other answers could apply.
7. The sun and the moon stood still in answer to Joshua's prayer.
8. In the presence of the Israelites, Joshua told the sun and the moon to stand still (Hebrew *danian*, be still, be dumb). God answered Joshua's request by halting the movement of the sun and the moon in the sky as they appeared. This third and last miracle in the book of Joshua has been called the most striking example of the conflict between Scripture and science in the entire Bible. Joshua was not in error when he told the sun and the moon to stand still in the sky. He was using the language of observation as he addressed the sun and moon. Meteorologists and other experts in scientific evaluation speak regularly of the time of sunrise and sunset. The best explanation of

this miracle appears to be that God caused the rotation of the earth to stop (Heb. *amad*) and then caused it to make one full rotation in 48 hours rather than in 24 (Joshua 10:13). God stopped the cataclysmic effects of such a change (tidal waves). The mention of the appearance of the sun and the moon in the sky is significant. The Canaanites worshipped both the sun and the moon, and their presence in the sky at the same time was supposed to be a good omen for them. The subjugation of these heathen deities to God's servant Joshua must have been very frightening to the Canaanites.

9. The ancient custom of the leaders of a conquering army placing their feet on the necks of prostrated and defeated enemies was a symbol of absolute and final victory (Deuteronomy 33:29; 1 Kings 5:3; Psalm 110:1). Joshua used this ancient custom as an object lesson for the leaders of Israel. They would have gained courage and strength by his action (Joshua 10:25).
10. God had commanded Joshua to utterly destroy the nations, and he was acting in obedience to God. Joshua acted as God's instrument of divine judgment against the prolonged wickedness of the people.
11. a/b. Answers will vary.