

PEOPLE LIKE US

Week 6
The Gibeonites
"Religion or Relationship?"

Scripture

Joshua 9:1-27

- When you are trying to make a decision, are you more likely to research, ask advice, trust your gut, or just keep moving?
 - What has that taught you about yourself?

Diving IN

- The Gibeonites go to great lengths to make their story believable. What details stand out to you in the way they deceive Israel?
 - Why do you think Israel was so persuaded?
- During this time in Israel's story, what did they do right? What did they fail to do?
 - Why is understanding these distinctives important?
- Israel's mistake was not that they ignored every spiritual thing, but when they tried to evaluate the situation, they left God out of the conversation. Where do you see that same tendency in people like us?
 - Why do we sometimes consult everything except the Lord?
- What does this story teach us about the limits of simply "doing our best"?
- When can "doing our best" still leave us disconnected from God?
- Look at the story of Mary and Martha in *Luke 10*. What is the difference between doing things for Jesus and being with Jesus?
 - Why do you think Jesus says Mary chose "what is better"?
- In *John 10:27*, Jesus says His sheep hear His voice and follow Him. What does that tell us about the kind of relationship Jesus wants with His people?
 - How does that challenge the way we sometimes think about Christianity?

Living It OUT

- What would it look like to invite the Lord into a decision you're making or trying to make?

- What are some signs that your faith is drifting toward “religion” instead of “relationship”?
 - What usually causes that drift for you?
- What simple rhythm could help you become more aware of God’s presence this week?
- Where do you feel more like Martha or the older brother—busy, responsible, tired, or quietly frustrated?
 - What might Jesus be inviting you to receive instead of just accomplish?
- When it comes to hearing from God, what feels most difficult for you: stopping, listening, recognizing His voice, or responding?
- Why do you think that is?
- What is one decision, burden, or area of your life where you need to stop and say, “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening”?
 - How can this group pray with you about that?

Lifting it UP

- Praise God for being a Father who speaks, leads, and stays near.
- Ask Him to forgive us for the times we move ahead without inquiring of Him.
- Pray for hearts that are willing to stop, listen, recognize the Spirit, and respond.