

VGROUP STUDY GUIDE
"JOSHUA: THE LONGEST DAY"
JOSHUA 10: 1-15
MARCH 12, 2023

FOCAL POINT: You can learn the easy way or you can learn the hard way. Can you give an example of each from your own life? The Israelites were a living testimony to this. Their life experiences taught them some valuable lessons that give us the opportunity to avoid some of the mistakes they made.

TEXT:

Now Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had captured Ai and completely destroyed it, treating Ai and its king as he had Jericho and its king, and that the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were living among them. 2 So Adoni-zedek and his people were greatly alarmed because Gibeon was a large city like one of the royal cities; it was larger than Ai, and all its men were warriors. 3 Therefore Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem sent word to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish, and Debir king of Eglon, saying, 4 "Come up and help me. We will attack Gibeon, because they have made peace with Joshua and the Israelites." 5 So the five Amorite kings—the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon—joined forces, advanced with all their armies, besieged Gibeon, and fought against it. 6 Then the men of Gibeon sent word to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal: "Don't abandon your servants. Come quickly and save us! Help us, for all the Amorite kings living in the hill country have joined forces against us." 7 So Joshua and his whole military force, including all the fighting men, came from Gilgal. 8 The Lord said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them, for I have handed them over to you. Not one of them will be able to stand against you." 9 So Joshua caught them by surprise, after marching all night from Gilgal. 10 The Lord threw them into confusion before Israel. He defeated them in a great slaughter at Gibeon, chased them through the ascent of Beth-horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah. 11 As they fled before Israel, the Lord threw large hailstones on them from the sky along the descent of Beth-horon all the way to Azekah, and they died. More of them died from the hail than the Israelites killed with the sword. 12 On the day the Lord gave the Amorites over to the Israelites, Joshua spoke to the Lord in the presence of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and moon, over the Valley of Aijalon." 13 And the sun stood still and the moon stopped until the nation took vengeance on its enemies. Isn't this written in the Book of Jashar? So the sun stopped in the middle of

the sky and delayed its setting almost a full day. **14** There has been no day like it before or since, when the Lord listened to the voice of a man, because the Lord fought for Israel. **15** Then Joshua and all Israel with him returned to the camp at Gilgal.

Lessons learned:

Bad choices make life complicated (vv. 1-5)

1. What was the bad choice the Israelites had made? Why did this choice “greatly alarm” the Israelite people?
2. Why were the other cities against the treaty the Gibeonites signed with Israel? What was the purpose of attacking Gibeon? How was this a problem for the Israelites?
3. Share a time when a bad choice made your life complicated.

Bad choices can lead you to seek God’s guidance (vv. 6-8)

1. How have bad decisions in the past helped you with decisions in the future? Israel was in the position of having to stand up for Gibeon because of the treaty they had signed with them. *Read Josh. 9: 14-15.* They had signed a treaty with them. But in v. 14 you see the underlying issue to all of this. What was it?

2. *Read v. 8.* This time around they wanted to consult with God! And because they consulted with God they found encouragement. What had the Lord shared with them in v. 8? God was involved. God had provided the victory. The result of this was they could move beyond fear and live in boldness.

a. How is this also true in your life? Share an example of when a bad decision on your part impacted how you made future decisions.

Bad choices can lead you to bold choices (vv. 9-15)

1. What was their bold choice in these verses?

2. It was a 10 hour march. When they got there they had to face 5 different armies. Why were they not scared? Re-read v. 8. This meant victory wasn’t up to them and how they performed. It was them making themselves available for God to work through and believing He would do it.

a. How are you making yourself available for God to work through you?

3. Joshua pursued the enemy and then in v. 12 he asked God to stop the sun from moving. Why? What do you think about the request? Why do you think he made the request?

a. What did him making the request say about his faith? Are you believing God

or trusting in God for anything big in your life? What's a bold choice you've made for God?