

Sermon Discussion Guide

12.31.23 Message | Chuck Sackett | Joshua 10:1-15

Key Scripture:

"As soon as Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem, heard how Joshua had captured Ai and had devoted it to destruction, doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho and its king, and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them, he feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were warriors. So Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, to Piram king of Jarmuth, to Japhia king of Lachish, and to Debir king of Eglon, saying, "Come up to me and help me, and let us strike Gibeon. For it has made peace with Joshua and with the people of Israel." Then the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, gathered their forces and went up with all their armies and encamped against Gibeon and made war against it. And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp in Gilgal, saying, "Do not relax your hand from your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the hill country are gathered against us." So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor. And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you." So Joshua came upon them suddenly, having marched up all night from Gilgal. And the LORD threw them into a panic before Israel, who struck them with a great blow at Gibeon and chased them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah. And as they fled before Israel, while they were going down the ascent of Beth-horon, the LORD threw down large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died because of the hailstones than the sons of Israel killed with the sword. At that time Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD gave the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, "Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jashar? The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day. There has been no day like it before or since, when the LORD heeded the voice of a man, for the LORD fought for Israel. So Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal."

- Joshua 10:1-15

CONVERSATION STARTER

- If you could witness any miracle from the Bible, which would it be, and why?

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE

- How has the Spirit spoken to you through this section of God's Word?

THINK DEEPER (Does your group understand the passage?)

- Look at Joshua's bold prayer for the sun and moon to stand still. How does this event showcase Joshua's faith and God's extraordinary response?
- What can we learn from Joshua's leadership in this situation? How did he rely on God's guidance and demonstrate courage in the face of overwhelming odds?
- Reflect on the statement that "the LORD fought for Israel." How does this event illustrate that ultimate victory comes from relying on God rather than human strength alone?

THINK LIFE CHANGE (Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?)

- Consider the plea of the men of Gibeon for help. Are there situations where seeking help from others or turning to your faith community could make a significant difference?
- In the face of challenges, Joshua received assurance from God. How can we develop a deeper trust in God's promises to navigate our own challenges and uncertainties?

THINK ENGAGE (Does your group recognize the communal implications for us as a Gospel-centered community?)

- Considering the unity among the Israelites in facing external challenges, how can we foster a spirit of unity and collaboration within our community of believers to address common concerns or struggles?
- How might the miraculous events in the passage, such as the sun standing still, inspire us to seek and expect God's extraordinary intervention in our communal endeavors and challenges?

THINK EXPAND (Does your group recognize the missional implications for those we want to reach for Christ?)

- Reflecting on the theme of victory in the passage, how can we convey the concept of spiritual victory and redemption through Christ to those who may be feeling defeated or overwhelmed in our community?
- Thinking about Joshua's leadership against overwhelming odds, how can we inspire and encourage others in our community to embrace faith in the face of challenges?

THINK KINGDOM (Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?)

- With a focus on the broader impact on the Kingdom of God, how can we convey the concept of spiritual victory and redemption through Christ to those who may be feeling defeated or overwhelmed?