

Confidence in the Battle

November 6 - November 12, 2011

PRAYER: Begin with a few moments of sharing thanks and praises in prayer.

Leaders, it's your call; you may choose to incorporate more information/scriptures as time allows for your small group lesson. **Reflecting:** Gibeon, about 10 miles northwest of Jerusalem, was one of the lands' greatest cities. The Gibeonites, frightened at the fall of Jericho and Ai, worried they would be destroyed next, devised a scheme to becoming slaves to Israelites. This enraged the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon; and they marched against Gibeon. Then Joshua came to the rescue of Gibeon. This led to the famous battle of Gibeon, Bethhoron and westward, where the sun stood still for a whole day. It is unclear in how the sun stood still. Some have calculated that the calendar lost a day about that time. At any rate, in some way or other, daylight was miraculously prolonged, so that Joshua's victory might be made complete..

OPENER: As a teenager, did you ever do something risky to defend a friend? What was it?
If you could save one day of your life in a bottle to live over and over, what day would it be?

Read: Joshua 10:1-5

DISCUSS: Who are these people that attack Gibeon? Why did they want to combine forces?

Read: Joshua 10:6

Remember the Gibeonites are the ones who tricked Joshua and the Israelites in chapter 9 into a peace treaty. They came appearing and indicating they were from a "very distant country" when in fact they lied to save their lives and become enslaved to the Israelites.

Read: Joshua 10:7-15

How do Joshua and the Israelites get involved? If you were Joshua, would you have helped the Gibeonites after their trickery in chapter 9?

How does the Lord encourage Joshua in his attack to save the Gibeonites?

Who was actually responsible for Israel's victory? Why is this important in the story?

PLAN for ACTION:

When Israel made an agreement with the enemy, they created problems for themselves. Israel now had to defend the very people they should have defeated. Imagine the servants commanding the masters (verse 6).

God could have said, "You got yourself into this, so you can get yourself out!" But instead, He gave His people encouragement (verse 8) and fought for them from heaven (vv. 10-11) When Joshua needed more time to finish the battle, God stayed the sun and moon in answer to prayer. The Canaanites worshiped the heavenly bodies, so this miracle must have impressed them greatly. If we are doing the will of God, prayer has tremendous power!

Who do you feel you could call on for help in a tough spot?

What are you doing now that you wish God would give you more time to accomplish? If more time is not available but more workers would get the job done, is there a way your small group can help?

How can this group pray for you this week?

To view the complete teaching from the Sunday services go to www.centralcommunity.org/media/index.html

