



Icebreaker: Do you like magic tricks? If so, which one is your favorite?

Main Passage: Joshua 9:1-21

Big Idea: PAUSE, THINK AND ASK COUNSEL OF THE LORD.

Point 1. Deception would not be deception if it was not deceiving

Gen 3:13

- What did God tell Joshua and the leaders about making a covenant with the other tribes who were living in the regions around Israel?
- Why did the Gibeonites deceive Israel? What report did they hear about this nation that caused them to fear?
- How did the serpent (Satan) approach Eve in the garden?
- Why do you think we are prone to deception?
- How do you recognize temptation? What about deception? What is the difference?

Point 2. The only antidote for the deception of earth is the pursuit of heaven

Prov 3:5-6; Jer 33:2-3; 1 Tim 4:1; 2 Tim 4:2-4; Psa 36:9

- How do you explain these attributes of God (Omniscient, Wise, Eternal, Infinite, Interested, Good)?
- How do you know that God cares about you, your needs, your current situation?
- What can we do when we are in a situation that is unclear?
- How do you recognize false teaching? What standard are we to use? What do you do when someone is teaching a false doctrine?

Point 3. Ultimate freedom of deception is covenant

READ Eph 2:1-9

- What does this passage teach us about our nature?
- Why is grace so important to understand?
- What position do we have in Christ?
- What does the covenant point to and why is this important for all who believe?

STRENGTH = looking at every situation through God's eternal view, not my limited view.