



-Don't Be Duped-

Ice-Breaker:

Share a time in your life when you were duped by someone you trusted. Is there any way you could've seen it coming ahead of time?

KEY POINT

Don't Be Duped. We're often defeated through deception.

Questions:

1. Read Joshua 9:1-7. God commanded the Israelites not to make a treaty with anyone in the Promised Land, but they were deceived into thinking the Gibeonites were from far away. Why is it so easy for us to be deceived in life?
2. Read I Corinthians 10:12. *Deception preys on false confidence.* Share a time when you were overconfident, and it led to your downfall.
3. *Deception presents false evidence.* In a world of “fake news” and “independent fact checkers,” what measures do you use to determine truth from lies?
4. Read Joshua 9:8-9 and Proverbs 29:5. *Deception promises false allegiance.* How might you protect yourself from the deceit of flattery?
5. Read Joshua 9:14. *Wise decisions require prayer.* Why do you suppose they didn't pray about this situation? How often do you forget to pray before important decisions? How might you change that pattern?
6. Read II Timothy 3:16 and Proverbs 15:22. *Wise decisions require outside perspective* – from God's Word and godly people. Who are the trusted people you consult before making big decisions in your life?
7. Read Proverbs 14:8. *Wise decisions require patience.* Would you say you are a patient or impatient person? How might you improve in that arena?

Application:

The next time you have an important decision to make, gather wisdom through:

- Prayer
- Perspective (the Bible and godly people)
- Patience