

DAY 1

God was not present to give victory • Joshua 7:1-5

READ

Joshua 7:1-5

EXPLAIN (1)

The truth of Joshua 7:1-5

It's easy to think that our sin is our own problem. But it's not. Your obedience or disobedience affects the people around you. Rahab's faith led her entire family to safety (Josh 6:25). But Achan's unfaithfulness 3. What happened to the Israelite army at brought God's burning anger upon all Israel. Achan ignored Joshua's warning (6:18), and as a result, Israel was defeated at Ai (7:3-4). Thirty-six Israelites died (7:5). That doesn't seem like a lot, but it showed that God was not fighting with them (7:8-9). It also showed their enemies that they could be beaten, even by the relatively small army of Ai. Before, the hearts of the Canaanites melted in fear (2:9), but now Israel's own hearts melted in fear (7:5). God's anger would continue to burn against Israel as long as this sin remained (7:11-12). All this was because of Achan's sin, when he chose to go against God's command. So be careful not to think that you can sin without hurting others. When you are tempted to sin, stop and consider the consequences: will you bring blessing or trouble to those around you?

ASK 🔞



- 1. Why did the God's anger burn against Israel?
 - Because Achan took some of the things devoted to God.
- 2. What did the spies tell Joshua about Ai? That only a small number of Israelites needed to go up there.
- They were defeated and thirty-six Israelites
- 4. What happened to the hearts of the Israelites after the defeat at Ai? They melted and became as water. The people were afraid.

DISCUSS 🦃

were killed.



- 1. How has your obedience or disobedience this week affected the rest of your family?
- 2. When you fail, do you re-strategize, or do you consider whether you have sinned? If you have sinned, do you seek God's mercy (1 John 1:9)?

DAY 2

God explained why He was not present • Joshua 7:6-15

READ |



Joshua 7:6-15

EXPLAIN (9)

The truth of Joshua 7:6-15

What had happened? God had promised Joshua that no one could stand against him (Josh 1:5), but now Ai had stood against him! When things are confusing, Joshua shows us how to respond. First, he remembered that God was still in control when he addressed God as "Lord God" (7:7). Second, he was most concerned about God's glory (7:9). He was confused by Israel's defeat, but he cared more about what Israel's defeat would say about Israel's God. God answered Joshua's righteous prayer, explaining that Israel had sinned (7:11). Through Achan, Israel was guilty of taking things set apart for destruction (7:10-11), so God declared that He had set apart Israel for destruction (7:12). Without God's presence, Israel was doomed, because it is only God's presence that provides courage and wins the victory (1:5, 9: 3:7, 10; 4:14; 6:27; Exod 33:15-16). But God is always merciful, so He provided the solution: get rid of the sin (Josh 7:13-15). This solution applies to you too. When trouble in your life causes you to realize you have sinned, you also must get rid of the sin (Jas 5:16).

ASK 🔞

- 1. What did Joshua do after Israel's defeat at Ai? He tore his clothes, bowed down before God in prayer, and put dust on his head.
- 2. What was Joshua's main concern in his prayer? God's glory, the honor of God's name.
- 3. What did God tell Joshua to do? Get rid of the sin.
- 4. How would Joshua know who had sinned? God promised to show Joshua.

DISCUSS 🦃



- 1. What do your words and actions say about God to the people around you?
- 2. Do you ask God to expose your sin so that you can follow Him (Ps 139:23-24)?

DAY 3

God restored His presence • Joshua 7:16-26

READ I



Joshua 7:16-26

EXPLAIN ②

The truth of Joshua 7:16-26

How quickly do you make things right after you sin? Repenting is hard, because it means you have to admit that you're wrong. It hurts to be humbled, and it's hard to change your attitude and actions. But let Joshua show you how to deal with sin. He got up early to deal with sin quickly (Josh 7:16). He let God expose the sin instead of trying to hide it (7:16-18; Ps 139:23-24).

Then he tore up the sin by the roots: Achan, his family (who probably knew what Achan had done), and his animals were stoned to death and then burned (7:24-25). The remains were treated like the remains of an enemy (7:26; 8:29). Then the pile of stones over Achan became a monument to remind Israel for years to come of God's deadly wrath against sin and God's gracious restoration when sin is dealt with (7:26). So deal with your sin. Let God expose it, repent quickly, get it completely out of your life even if it hurts, and never forget the pain of sin or the joy of restoration.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 🔞

- 1. Was Joshua eager to deal with the sin? Yes. He got up early in the morning to do it.
- 2. Where had Achan hidden the stolen items? *In the earth inside his tent.*
- 3. What were the consequences of Achan's sin? Achan, his family, and his animals, were stoned, burned, and buried under a pile of stones.
- 4. Did God turn from His burning anger? Yes. After Achan was punished (7:26).

DISCUSS S



- 1. When your parents get you in trouble for disobeying, how long does it take you to make things right-in your heart, with your parents, and with God?
- 2. If Achan had waited, he would have been able to keep plunder from Ai (Josh 8:2). Have you ever missed out on good things because you were impatient?

DAY 4

Sin separates from God • Isaiah 59:1-2

READ



Isaiah 59:1-2

EXPLAIN **(9)**



When we sin, often we don't want to admit it. So we pout and grumble and are not happy (Ps 32:3). That's because sin separates us from God, just like Achan's sin separated Israel from God's power to give them victory. As many years went by, Israel kept sinning and grew farther and farther away from God. God was still strong enough to save and He could still hear their prayers (Isa 59:1; 58:9; 65:24). But because of their sins, God hid His face from Israel (59:2). By separating themselves from God. Israel lost the Promised Land and all its blessings. The same is true for you. You have sinned (Rom 3:23), and your sin separates you from God. When you hide your sin, you are miserable. So do you want to be happy and close to God? Then confess your sin and find forgiveness (Ps 32:1, 5). Repent quickly and turn away from your sin (Acts 3:19), get rid of anything leading you back to sin (Matt 5:29-30), and make things right with the people you sinned against (Matt 5:22-23). It's hard, but it's worth it.

ASK



- 1. What separated Israel from God? Their own sin.
- 2. What was life like for them when they were separated from God? They lost their land and everything good, and got only evil.
- 3. Repentance is hard, but in the end is it happy or Happy, because when we repent, we get rid of sin, make things right with those we've wronged, and stop being separated from God.
- 4. Why is repentance the only way to be happy? Because when we repent, we are humble, and God only gives grace to the humble (Jas 4:6).

DISCUSS S



- 1. When was the last time you confessed your sin to God?
- 2. What do you say and do when you get in trouble at home or at school?

READ 📖



Romans 6:23

EXPLAIN ©

The truth of Romans 6:23

When you sin and don't repent, you are not happy. That's because your sin separates you from God. But your sadness is only a taste of something much worse. It is a taste of spiritual death, because, like Achan, your sin earns you death (Rom 6:23a). This death is being completely separated from God and from everything good forever. Isn't that terrible? So it is good news that God has made a way for you to escape from death and have eternal life. This gift is through Christ: His life, death, and resurrection can count for you, if you receive Him by faith (Eph 2:8-9). Like Achan, you deserve God's wrath (Rom 2:8). But if you turn to Christ, then God's wrath is removed forever (8:1). You will still sin, and your sin will still provoke God's anger. But now God's anger does not condemn you. Instead, it draws you back to Him (Jas 4:5; Heb 12:7-10). His anger against you may last for a moment, but His favor toward you is forever (Ps 30:5). So flee from your sin, run to Jesus, and thank God for His kindness.

ASK 🔞



- 1. What does your sin earn? Spiritual death.
- 2. Do you deserve eternal life? No. It is a gift, and gifts cannot be earned.
- 3. How are you like Achan? We have all sinned (Rom 3:23) and deserve to die (Rom 6:23).
- 4. How can you escape God's anger against you for your sin? By turning to Christ (Rom 8:1).

DISCUSS



- 1. Do you feel like you are always guilty? Do you feel like you are always in trouble with God? How can a right view of God's grace free you from guilt and sin (Rom 8:1-4)?
- 2. Are you thankful when God uses your parents to discipline you, so that you will be restored to God and to your parents?

NEXT WEEK

God is chosen by Israel

Joshua 23:1-24:29

