

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Never Been Here Before: Joshua, Part Four

January 27 & 30, 2022



Joshua 7-8

Introduction:

1. List some of the greatest upsets of all-time.

Discussion:

2. What caused Israel's loss in their battle against Ai (7:1, 10)?
3. Why was God angry with all the Israelites when it was one man who disobeyed (see God's instructions in 6:18-19)? Why do you think God held all Israel responsible for one man's deed?
4. How did Joshua respond to the defeat suffered at Ai (7:6-9)? Why might he have responded this way? Do you tend to blame God first, before examining your own life of sin? Explain.
5. How did God get Joshua and the Israelites back on track? What instructions did God give to Joshua in order to find out who had disobeyed?
6. Achan stole from what was God's. How do we "steal" from God today?
7. Is there such a thing as a personal or private sin? Explain.
8. After hearing the plan for finding the guilty party (7:14), why doesn't Achan come clean immediately? What might have happened if Achan repented before he had been singled out clan by clan, family by family, person by person?

9. In what ways can you relate to Achan?
10. What types of sin harm God's Church as a whole?
11. How have the sins of others negatively affected you? How have your sins negatively affected others?
12. Is confessing to a sin after you have been caught necessarily the same as repentance? Explain.
13. What do Achan's actions reveal about the pathway to sin (7:20)?
14. With chapters 7 and 8 in view, what is God trying to teach Israel?
15. Achan attempted to hide his sin from God and others. Is there a sin in your life that you have been hiding and need to confess?
16. What has God been trying to teach you recently?

Additional Study:

17. Compare Joshua 7:1-26 with Acts 5:1-11. What similarities and differences do you observe? Why do you think God was so drastic in dealing with these sinners? Why do you suppose he rarely does this kind of thing today?
18. Compare the progression of Achan's sin (7:21) to that of Eve (Genesis 3:6) and to James 1:13-15.

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