

SERIES: LESSONS FOR LIFE FROM GOD'S SERVANT, JOSHUA

Lesson #5: "God Blesses Us When We are Holy"

Joshua 7-8

Announcements and opening prayer



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** Can you think of a time when you planned something exciting, something great, and it fell through? What usually happens when our excitement and plans are crushed?

Question: Do great leaders ever make mistakes? Why?

The Bottom Line: A lack of holiness among God's people withholds His blessings!

Transition: Today we are going to look at how easily it can happen to the greatest of godly leaders. If it can happen to incredibly spiritually gifted people, then we need to realize that no one is exempt. That is the beauty of the church. When we are all that Jesus created us to be, we are a community who loves each other so deeply we help one another through those times.

LESSON PLAN



Denotes "Apply"

Read Joshua 7:1-9

1. What happened to the 3,000 men who went up to take Ai?

2. Were the spies to blame for underestimating the people of Ai?

It is estimated that Israel had about 600,000 soldiers. However, they had already seen God's promise at Jericho. The Lord gave them victory. The Lord was in this conquest for the long haul. It was His idea. They bore no blame for their decision, but someone did.

3. What does Joshua do when he sees that God has not given them victory?



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- ⌚ How does God get blamed by us when things we attack for Him fail?
- 4. Why did Israel fail to conquer Ai when they were greater in number and traveled with God as their power?
- 5. Why was God so mad that He would allow their defeat and watch His people be killed?
- 6. What were the devoted things mentioned in chapter 6?

Read Joshua 7:10-26

- 7. How does God restore Joshua's leadership and purify their unholiness?
- ⌚ How do you think this applies to the church congregation today?
- ⌚ How do you think this applies to church leaders today?
- 8. What did Achan admit he took? 200 shekels (5 lbs.); 50 shekels (1¼ lb.)
- 9. What happened to Achan and all that he owned and had stolen?

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- ⌚ This seemed drastic. Why is God so adamant that we clear up unholiness in His family?

Unholiness is a cancer that eats away at the body. God loves us and created His body to heal us spiritually and repair our broken lives.

Read Joshua 8:1-34

10. What was different about God's instructions concerning the attack on Ai?



Interactive Teaching Ideas: ideas for learner-focused teaching. Ask the class to discuss at each table the following assignment and then share the results from each table: Notice that sin in the camp had made a major difference between the outcomes of the first and second attacks on Ai. Discuss at your table how we can apply the insights from this lesson to the effectiveness of our church in taking this world for Christ.



Going Deeper/Homework:

Memory Verse: "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).