



Confronting Sin and Seeking God's Guidance

(The Narrative of Ai and Achan)

JOSHUA 7:1–8:29



CONTENTS

WELCOME:

Fixing Our Focus 1

WORSHIP:

Adoring Our God 1

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word 2

WELCOME:

Fixing Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:

Ask any of your GG members if there ever was a time when you sinned and tried to cover it up from others? How did it affect the way you live and the relationship you had with God and others? What finally set you free from your feelings of guilt and shame?

WORSHIP:

Adoring Our God

Suggested songs:

- [I Surrender All](#)
- [How Deep The Father's Love For Us](#)

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM

1. GG members will learn why it is important to always confront and confess our sins.
2. GG members will have a clearer understanding of how sin affects our relationship with God and others.
3. GG members will know the true meaning of being restored, enjoying sweet fellowship with the Lord and adhering to His commands.

INTRODUCTION

These days, God does not speak to us directly as in the days of the Old Testament where he gives clear and straightforward instructions. However, we have today all 66 books of the Bible that is the inspired Word of God for righteous living. Yet often times, we only obey those things which we are comfortable in following and deliberately choose to ignore or outright disobey God's commands that we find difficult to abide by. This was the case of Achan, who kept for himself the things that God had instructed were devoted for destruction.

The Consequences of Sin (Joshua 7)

After their astounding victory over Jericho, Joshua and the Israelites were all battle ready and roused for their next conquest of the rest of the land that God had promised them. But the next battle over the land and people of Ai did not go well as they expected.

1. Who was Achan? What sin did he commit? (v. 1)
2. What report did the spies give to Joshua regarding Ai? What was their suggestion to Joshua? How confident were they in defeating the people of Ai? (vv. 3-4)
3. What was the outcome of the battle and the effect on the morale of the Israelites? (v. 5)
4. What was the reaction of Joshua after their defeat? (vv. 6-7)
5. What did God instruct Joshua to do? (vv. 10-18)
6. What was Achan's confession after he was found out? What was the consequence for his disobedience and for sinning against the Lord and also against the Israelite community? (vv. 20-26)
7. What does this story tell us about the nature of sin and its effect on both the sinner and the surrounding community?

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

The Restoration and Renewed Guidance of God (Joshua 8:1-29)

After God and the community properly dealt with the sin that hindered Israel's victory over Ai, God gave instructions to Joshua on how to defeat the city.

1. In what way did God show that he had forgiven and restored Israel? What was God's encouragement and assurance to Joshua? (v. 1-2)
2. What specific and strategic instructions did Joshua give to all the 30,000 fighting men in conquering Ai? (vv. 3-13)
3. What was the outcome of the battle with Ai? (vv. 14-29) To whom was the credit given for the victory?
4. In what way do you think God was pleased when sin was confronted, dealt with, and repented from?

Application

We may be mistaken to think that we can hide our sins from others, but we can never hide from God, who always has a way to ferret this out. Unless we, in humility, confess our sins and ask for forgiveness, we will never be free from the guilt and shame that will continue to hound us and affect our relationships, not just with others, but more importantly with God. Remember and trust in God and His Word, which assures us saying, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

PRAYER ITEM

Dear Father God, we come before your throne and grace and humbly ask for the forgiveness of our sins. Help us to seek you with all our hearts, mind, soul, and strength. Empower us by your Holy Spirit to resist all kinds of temptations so that we can live righteous lives that are pleasing to you and glorify you. Let our lives be living witnesses of your goodness and grace, so that others may also come and believe in your precious Son, our Lord and Savior, and in whose name, we pray. Amen. ■



Your feedback is important to us.

If you used this study guide in leading your growth group, please rate it at <https://bit.ly/GCFSGFeedback>. Thank you!



Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1605

☎ (02) 8632 1357 📍 Greenhills Christian Fellowship 📺 GCF Main