

## Lesson # 5 – Losing and Winning at Ai

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### Joshua 7 &8

After the win over Jericho, Joshua and the Israelites next came to the small city of Ai. They thought they would need only 3,000 Israelites to go to battle against Ai.

However, the Israelites were defeated and several men were killed. The others fled in fear from the city. Joshua fell on the ground in anguish. He asked God what had happened in Ai. Why had God allow them to fail?

The Lord told Joshua to get up and find who in the Israelite camp had sinned. Someone disobeyed God and took treasure from Jericho for himself. God would not be on their side until the man was found and punished. Joshua must get rid of the sin in the camp!

Joshua began searching for the one who had taken the treasure. God pointed to him being from the tribe of Judah. Finally the man was found. It was Achan. He confessed and told them he had hidden the things in the ground in his tent.

Joshua sent men to his tent. Buried in the ground, they found coins and silver and gold and fancy garments. These were taken from his tent to return to the Lord. Achan was severely punished for his sin. His family was also punished because they knew of his sin.

Now God was ready to help Israel fight again. This time the Israelites won over Ai easily. The men of Ai fled in fear from them.

Joshua learned that God is with us when we obey his commands. God is not with us when we disobey. We should all remember to obey God at all times. Just as Israel learned that they should choose to serve God, we need to learn that lesson, too. We need to remember that God helps those who obey Him.

**True and False Questions**

- T F 1. Ai was a large city.
- T F 2. The Israelites were defeated at Ai.
- T. F 3. Joshua was upset that they lost men.
- T F 4. God told Joshua that there was sin in the camp.
- T F 5. Joshua could not find the sinner.
- T F 6. The sinner was Achan.
- T F 7. Achan buried the treasure in his tent.
- T F 8. Achan was punished.
- T F 9. It is okay to steal.
- T F 10. God is with us when we obey.