

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## ACHAN'S SIN AND DEFEAT AT AI

*“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.” (Romans 6:12–13)*

### Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God's Will</i>	Achan's sin affected all of the Israelites, leading to many deaths and their defeat in battle. Only by sanctifying themselves were the Israelites able to experience the blessing of God's presence.
<i>Knowledge of God</i>	God is all-knowing. He desires our honest prayers.
<i>Good Works</i>	We must learn to walk according to the Spirit, not according to the flesh. To walk in God's way, we must confront and remove any sin in our lives.

### A. Achan's Sin

#### 1. The dangers of desire and covetousness

a. *Lust of the eyes*: As visual beings, what we see can have a huge impact on our desires.

b. *Covetousness*: Covetousness reveals a dissatisfaction with God's goodness and care.

2. **We cannot hide sin from God**: Apart from following his material desires, Achan also tried to hide what he had done. We may be able to hide things from our parents or friends, but there is nothing God does not see.

3. **Our sins affect others**: We may think that our actions are our own, but like yeast, sin has a tendency to spread and its consequences can affect others.

Achan's actions showed his lack of fear towards God, a lack of sensitivity towards sin, and an indifference to the idolatry and evil of Ai, as well as a preferential treatment to idols rather than to God.

### B. Defeat at Ai

1. **They were overconfident**: After seeing how small Ai was, the Israelites thought that it would be an easy victory. When we rely on human wisdom and assumptions, we forget to rely on God.

2. **They did not inquire of the Lord**: The Israelites forgot that the key to winning the battle was not the size of their army, but their reliance and total trust in God.

### The Assembly Is Sanctified

1. **He first consulted with God (Josh 7:6)**: Joshua's prayer was desperate and heartfelt. In the same way, God desires our honest prayers.

2. **Under God's command, he then isolated and identified the sin (Josh 7:10–15)**: God wants us to listen to Him, and He is ready to deliver us, but we must first get up and face our responsibilities.

3. **Lastly, he removed the sin completely (Josh 7:16–25)**: Joshua obeyed God's instructions to identify and reveal their sin. In contrast, Achan refused to face his own sin.

### C. Victory over Ai

1. **Victory comes from God**: Their defeat and victory at Ai was a clear warning to the Israelites of the importance of following God's instructions instead of relying on their own strength.

2. **Nothing is hidden from God**: We may try to cover our sin or pretend that our actions are not against God's will, but hiding our sins only obstructs our spiritual walk with God.

### Life Application

1. How Do We Walk?

2. Confronting Sin

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## Lesson 10 Homework Assignment

### Achan's Sin and Defeat at Ai

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Romans 6:12–13):

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1. How do we present ourselves as “instruments of righteousness to God”?
2. “He who \_\_\_\_\_ his sins will not \_\_\_\_\_, but whoever \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ them will have \_\_\_\_\_.” (Proverbs 28:13)
3. What did Achan's actions show us about his attitude towards God and sin?
4. What were two reasons for the Israelites' defeat at Ai? What can we learn from this incident?
5. Why is it so important that we avoid sin and follow God's commands?
6. What does it mean to walk according to the Spirit?