

Video:
<https://youtu.be/fk3c8UgN2Wg>
 by Jeffrey Wilson

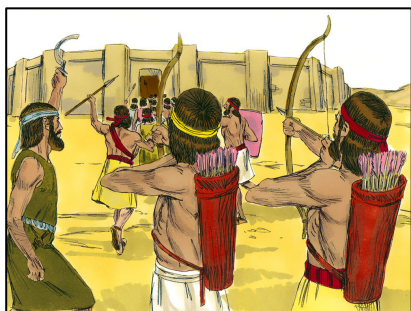


Lesson #5: ACHAN'S SIN AT THE BATTLE OF AI (Joshua 7- 8:1)



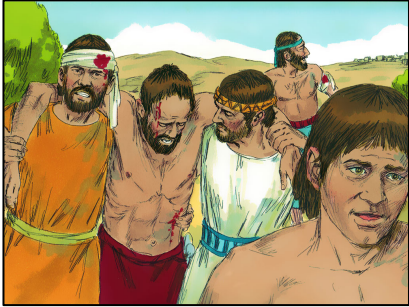
Do you remember how the Lord helped the Israelites win the battle of Jericho? The Bible says that the Israelites followed God's instructions and the walls around the city just crumbled and fell down. The Israelites rushed in and captured the city. Jericho had lots of gold and silver and riches. They were not to keep any riches for themselves. They were to give it all to God for the tabernacle. Joshua **thought** that's what all of the Israelites did.

After the battle of Jericho, Joshua led his people to the next city. The city of Ai (pronounced "A-eye"). Joshua sent spies to see how strong Ai was. The spies came back and told Joshua, "Remember how we beat Jericho? We're so strong, we just need a few men to conquer Ai."



Joshua sent only a small army of 3,000 men to fight the city of Ai. But when the Israelite army attacked the city, the people of Ai fought very hard and beat them the Israelites.





36 of God’s people died in the battle that day!

Joshua was very upset! He tore his clothes and he fell down on the ground. He cried out to the Lord. “Oh Lord, why have we lost this battle? You helped us win against Jericho but now we have lost to Ai. All of our enemies will laugh at us and try to hurt us.”



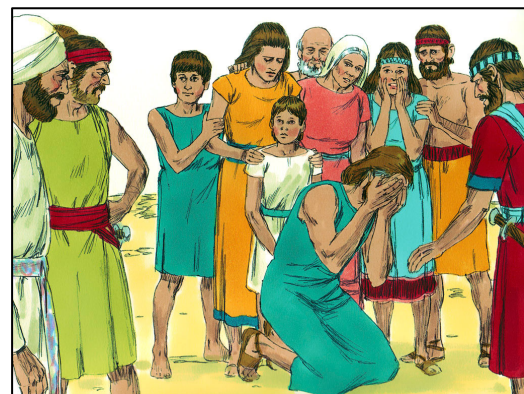
“Stand up Joshua,” the Lord said, “you have lost the battle because someone in your army has disobeyed me. There is sin in the camp. Remember how I told the people to put all of the riches from Jericho in the tabernacle? Someone has kept some of the riches and hidden them. They have forgotten that I can see everything.”



There was sin in the camp, and that was making all of the Israelites suffer. The Lord told Joshua to gather all of the people together. No one admitted to the sin. God told Joshua that the guilty man was Achan.

Achan finally admitted that he had stolen some things from Jericho. He said the things were buried inside his tent. Soldiers quickly went to his tent and found a beautiful robe, silver, and gold where he had hidden it.

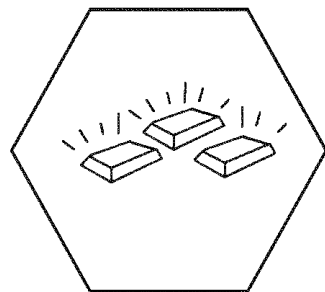
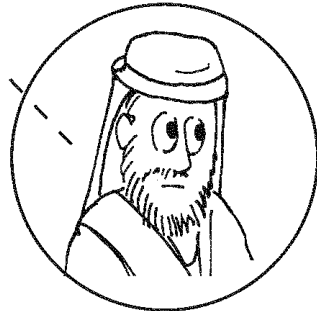
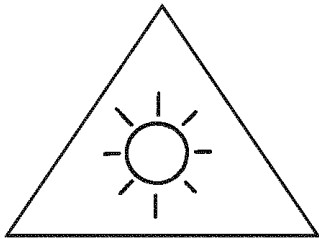
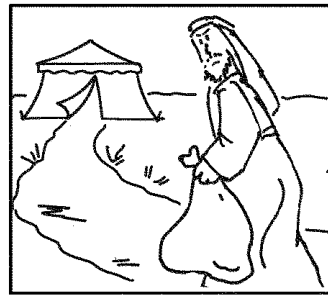
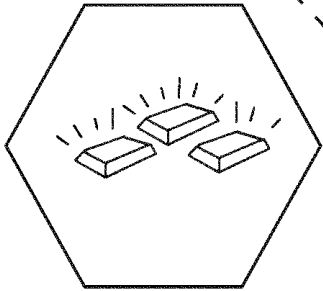
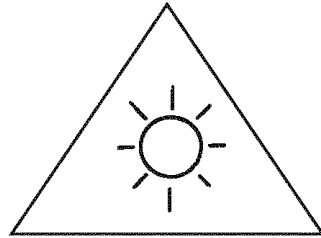
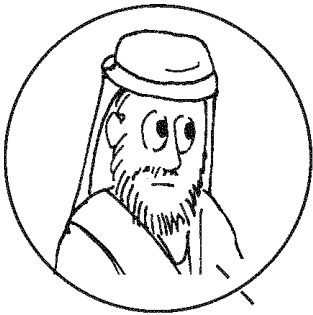
Achan and those in his family who had helped him hide the riches were taken out of the city and stoned. (Read Duet 24:16) The battle of Jericho had been won because the people obeyed the Lord. The battle of Ai had been lost because the people did not obey the Lord. Now the Lord told Joshua that it was time to fight Ai again. This time, the Lord helped Israel to win the battle because all of the people wanted to obey God.



We must always remember that nothing is hidden from God.
His plan is best and we should obey!

PRIMARY GRADES ACTIVITY

COLOR THE PICTURES & MATCH THE SHAPES



UPPER GRADES ACTIVITY



True or False
Circle the correct answer:

1. The Israelites won the first battle at Ai. **True / False**
2. One person's sin affected the whole nation. **True / False**
3. God helped Israel win after they obeyed Him. **True / False**

THINK ABOUT THIS:

1. What happened when the Israelites first tried to fight Ai?

2. Why did God allow the Israelites to lose the first battle?

3. Who had taken items God said not to take?

4. What did the Israelites do differently in the second battle?

5. What happened to the city of Ai in the end?

6. What lesson does the Battle of Ai teach us about sin, obedience the wisdom of God's plan?