

NEW GROUND

LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Sermon Date: Sunday, February 8, 2026

Sermon Passage: Joshua 7

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This Week's Main Takeaway

In Achan and Israel's story in Joshua 7, we are reminded that when we hide our sin, it harms us and those around us. Furthermore, we also forfeit God's blessing as His people. However, there is hope. God can take what was broken and make it new. Because of His mercy, there is forgiveness.

This Week's Memory Verse

Hosea 2:15 (NIV), "There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she will respond as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt."

Five Inductive Questions

1. GOD :: What does this passage imply about *God*?

God takes sin seriously.

Verses 10-11 help us see that "God suggested that so long as the things devoted for destruction remained in Israel's camp, Israel would be set apart for destruction. God would not fight for them or be present with them as he had in Joshua 1:5-9." God is not dismissive of sin like we can become. Our sins wound the heart of our Heavenly Father, as He knows all. Notice in this passage that Achan tried to hide sin (v.1). Still, sin can never escape God's sovereignty or omniscience (God is all-knowing, Hebrews 4:13) (v.11). God also loves us enough to call us to repentance (v. 13). God desires devotion, not sin.

2. MAN :: What does this passage imply about *man*?

When we hide our sin, it hurts us and affects the people around us.

One commentary says, "Amid this new generation of Israel's blessing from God, the people of Israel would again taste the first sin and know its terrible consequences." Achan, one of Israel's soldiers from the tribe of Judah, was guilty of taking the "devoted things." He heard God's commands but chose to disobey. What was the result? Therefore, destruction occurred because God is not okay with sin (v. 1). Sin always follows this pattern: We see, we want, we act. It's important to note that the text tells us in verse 11 that "Israel has sinned." Sin not only affects us,

but also the people around us. Verse six tells us that Joshua’s response was that of mourning. Note, only then was the ark of the Lord mentioned. One commentary says, “Its absence in the opening part of the chapter signifies the absence of God’s presence and blessing on what happened.” When we hide sin, we forfeit God’s blessing as His people (v. 12). We honor God when we agree with Him about our sin — acknowledging that His standards are right and His judgments are just. We dishonor God when we try to cover up our sin or treat it lightly (v. 19).

3. PROMISE :: Is there a *promise* to claim in this passage?

God gives hope—because of His mercy, there is forgiveness.

While this chapter of Scripture deals with sin and its effects, it also points to hope. One commentary says, “As Achan, who was from the tribe of Judah, sinned, causing the death of thirty-six men in the war with Ai, so the death of Christ, who is also from the tribe of Judah, brought salvation to those who would believe in Him.” Furthermore, in Hosea 2:15, we see a beautiful connection of grace and hope. This passage reads, “There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she will respond as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt.” The end of Joshua 7 points us to the cross and our need for a Savior. Jesus entered our Valley Achor and suffered the judgment we deserve.

4. COMMAND :: Is there a *command* to obey in this passage?

In this passage, we must learn this invaluable lesson—our victory does not rest on the presence of what we can do. One commentary says, “Rather, we succeed in kingdom work by the presence and power of God as we obey His Word and walk together as one.”

5. REPENT :: Reflecting on this portion of God’s Word, what can I *repent* of this week?

One commentary says, “As the Holy Spirit convicts, we are to confess our sins daily to God so we may receive Christ’s forgiveness and walk in the power of the Holy Spirit as the light of the world.”

When we chase the world and disregard God’s call to pursue holiness, our lives are indistinguishable from those who do not confess Jesus as Lord.

What does your life reflect?

Sources:

Exalting Jesus in Joshua (Holman Publishers)

CSB Study Bible Notes (B&H Publishing)