



JOSHUA CHAPTER 7 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- Name one situation in your life when you have said, “It’s not fair.”

Opening Prayer

- Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don’t feel tied to the questions and don’t feel like you must get through every question. Follow the Spirit’s lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of, and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Read the Story (Joshua 7:1-26)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Joshua 7:1-9

- Notice the language that is used in verse 1 about “the people of Israel” breaking faith. What is significant about this?
 - As you continue to read the rest of the story, it becomes evident that one man was responsible for breaking faith. Even if some of Achan’s other family members knew about what he had done, the reality is that most of the nation of Israel had no clue about what Achan had done and yet God puts the entire nation in the same category. This is significant because one person’s actions and decisions can and do have the ability to tremendously affect others in good ways or bad ways.

- How would life look different if you more fully lived according to the principle that your decisions drastically and dramatically affect those around you in positive or negative ways?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

- How is the battle at Ai completely different than the battle at Jericho according to verse 5 and why does this matter?
 - In the battle at Ai, Israel lost 36 men. In the battle at Jericho, there wasn't a single casualty that the text mentions and Jericho was a much more formidable opponent than Ai on every level. To lose any man to a "lesser" opponent much less 36 men would have been sobering and deeply distressing to the nation. This matters because it demonstrates that while God hasn't abandoned His people in any way, He does take sin very seriously.

 - In what ways are you tempted to make less of your sin than God does? In what ways are you tempted to make more of your sin than God does?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

- What is inspiring about how Joshua responds to Israel's defeat at Ai?
 - Joshua is completely and totally focused on bringing this tremendous defeat before God. He shares his heart in all its rawness and realness with the One who can do something about it. He isn't seeking after human solutions or wisdom but rather, He is seeking God's face, heart, and will. He is focused on God's reputation being upheld rather than Israel's glory or reputation.

 - In what ways do you need to be more like Joshua was in this text?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Joshua 7:10-15

- Notice what God says in verse 13. Why is this important for us as Christians to remember and consider?
 - Walking in the presence and power of God means that I am willing to commit to surrendering and submitting to what He desires and what He

says. It's no longer about what I think is best but about what He says is best.

- In what ways do you sometimes want to walk in the presence and power of God and yet want to still do your own thing in your own way?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Joshua 7:16-26

- Put yourself in the place of Achan while he was making the decision to sin and take and hide some of the “devoted” and “forbidden” things that God told Israel not to take. What excuses and/or rationalizations do you think he might have been speaking to and over himself?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- What excuses and/or rationalizations are you currently giving for some or all of the sins with which you currently struggle?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Joshua chapter 8)

JOSHUA CHAPTER 7 (STUDENT)

Discussion Starter

- Name one situation in your life when you have said, “It’s not fair.”

Joshua 7:1-9

- Notice the language that is used in verse 1 about “the people of Israel” breaking faith. What is significant about this?
 - How would life look different if you more fully lived according to the principle that your decisions drastically and dramatically affect those around you in positive or negative ways?

- How is the battle at Ai completely different than the battle at Jericho according to verse 5 and why does this matter?
 - In what ways are you tempted to make less of your sin than God does? In what ways are you tempted to make more of your sin than God does?

- What is inspiring about how Joshua responds to Israel’s defeat at Ai?
 - In what ways do you need to be more like Joshua was in this text?

Joshua 7:10-15

- Notice what God says in verse 13. Why is this important for us as Christians to remember and consider?
 - In what ways do you sometimes want to walk in the presence and power of God and yet want to still do your own thing in your own way?

Joshua 7:16-26

- Put yourself in the place of Achan while he was making the decision to sin and take and hide some of the “devoted” and “forbidden” things that God told Israel not to take. What excuses and/or rationalizations do you think he might have been speaking to and over himself?
 - What excuses and/or rationalizations are you currently giving for some or all of the sins with which you currently struggle?

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Joshua chapter 8)