

ACHAN'S SIN

Joshua 7:1-8:35

Big Idea : Achan's sin led to Israel being defeated at Ai, but God graciously restored the nation and gave them victory when they repented.

Aim : To teach that failure to respond in faith and obedience to God's word has serious consequences, but God always restores those who truly repent.

Review it

- **What had God promised to give to his people?** [The city of Jericho; the land of Canaan (6:2; 1:6)]
- **How did he do this?** [He made the walls collapse (6:5, 16)]
- **What did the people have to do?** [Obey God's instructions to march around the city for seven days then blow their trumpets and shout (6:3-5)]

INTRO GAME

WHERE'S THE STONE

In today's true story from the Bible there was one man in Israel who disobeyed God and tried to hide it, but God knew who he was.

WHERE DO WE START

<https://youtu.be/9UMLXjLSWZw>



READ THE

STORY





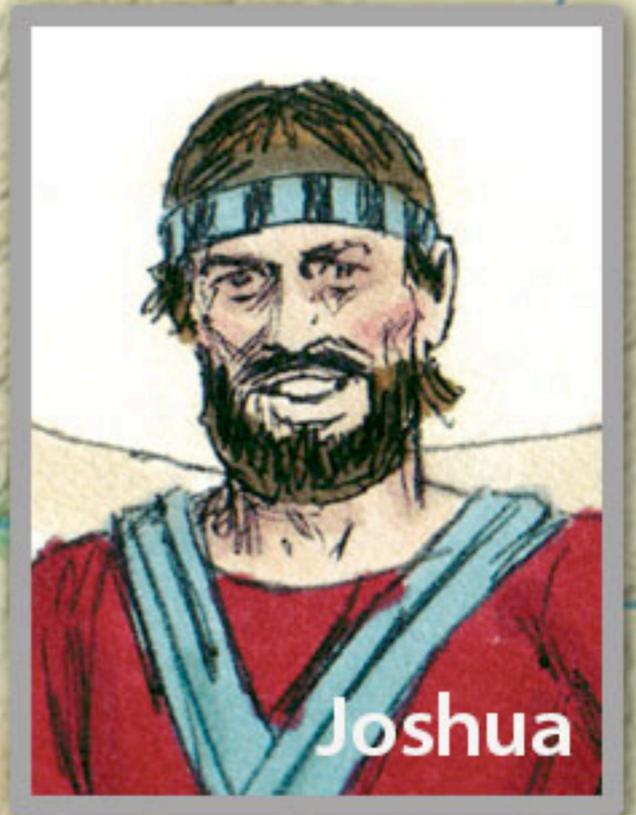
Canaan

**River
Jordan**

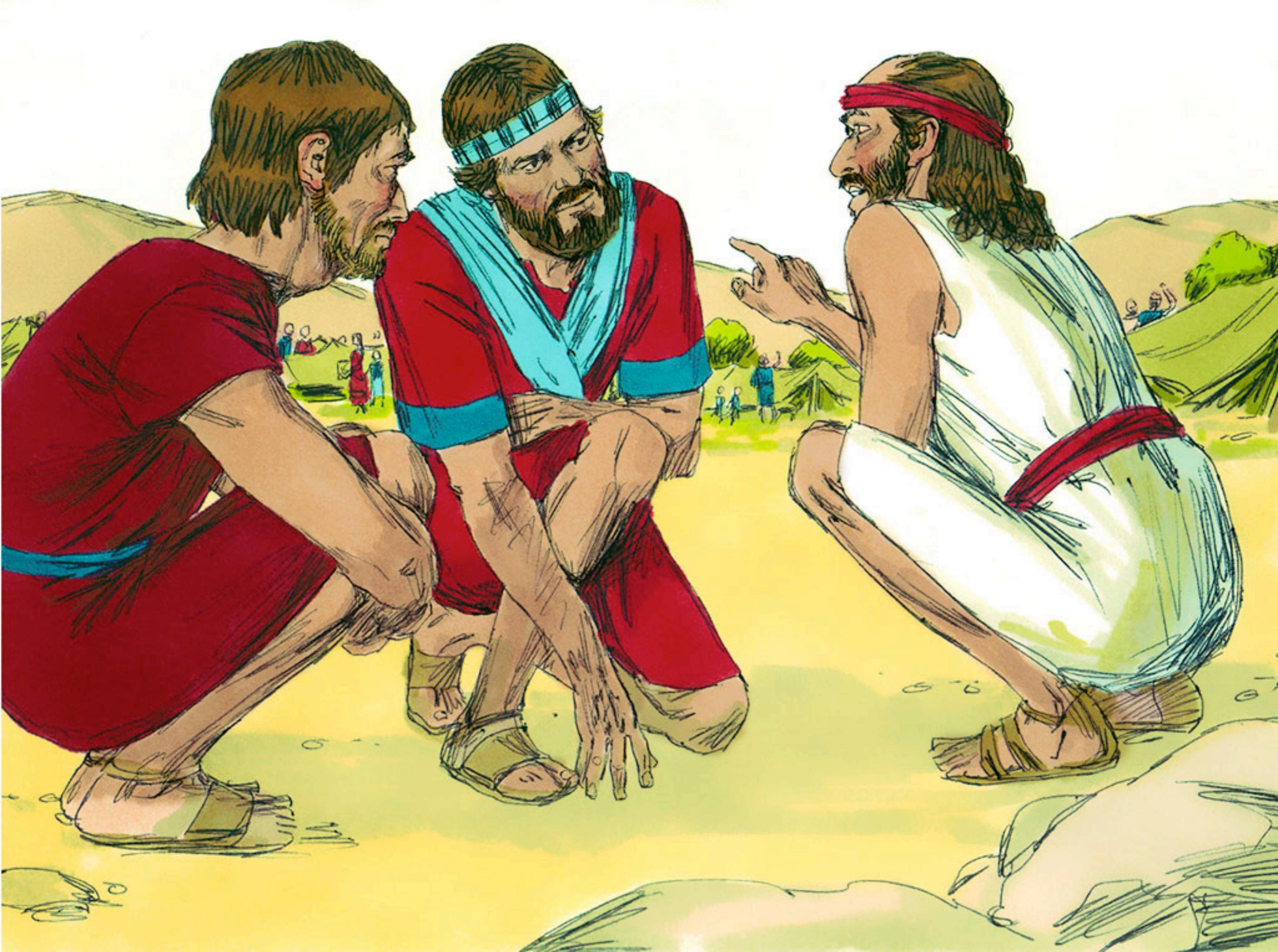
Ai

Jericho

**Dead
Sea**



Joshua







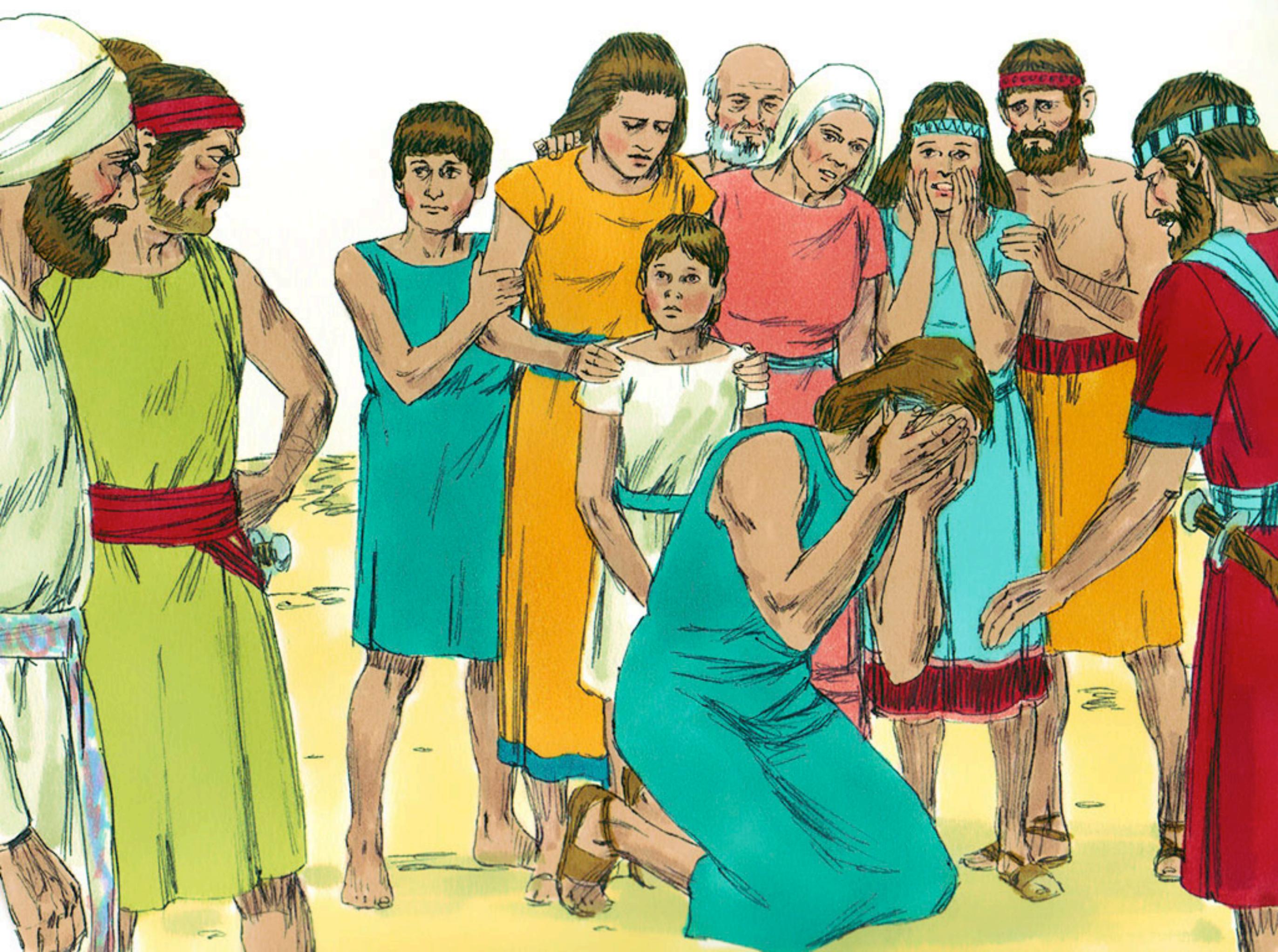








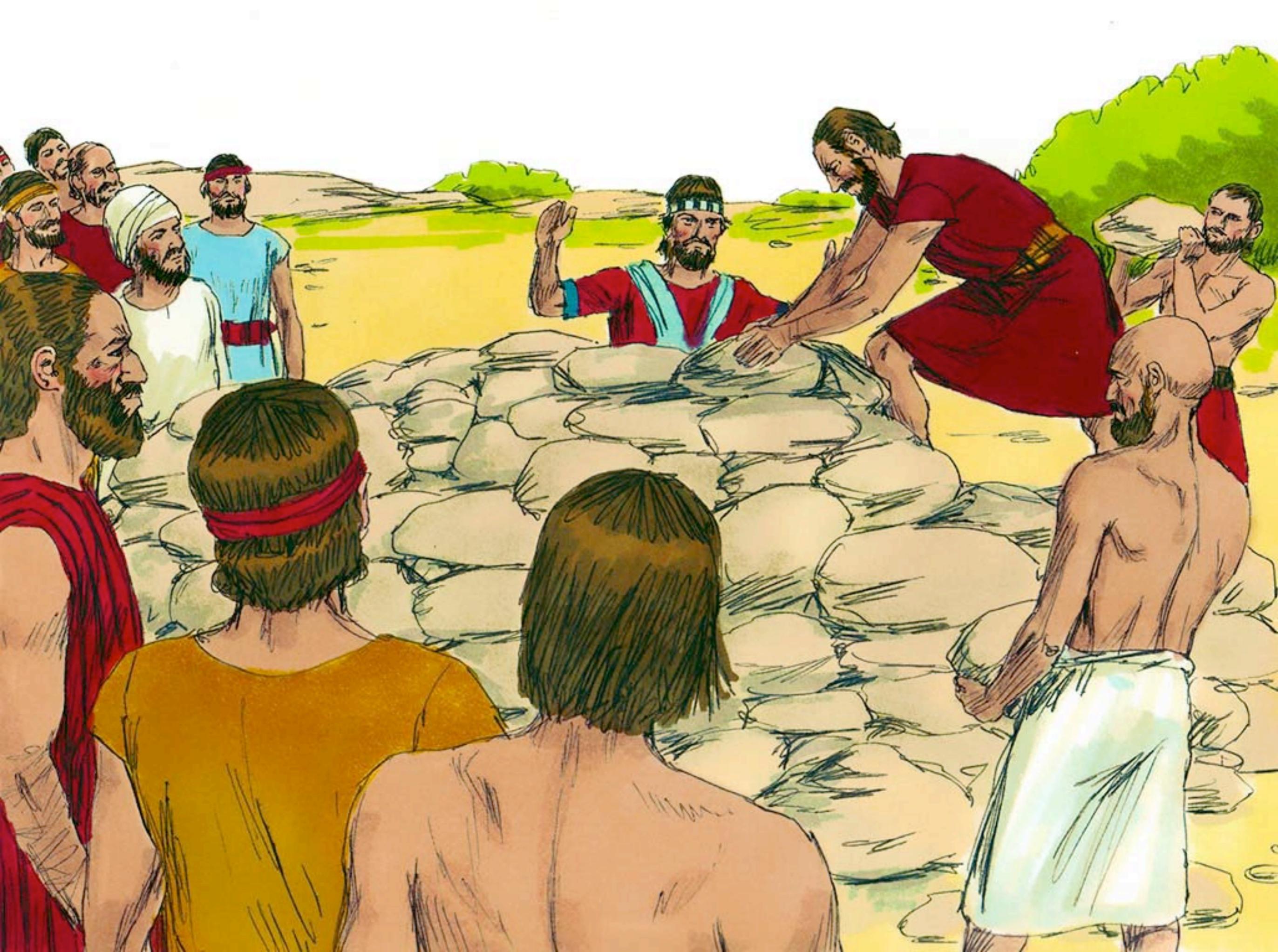














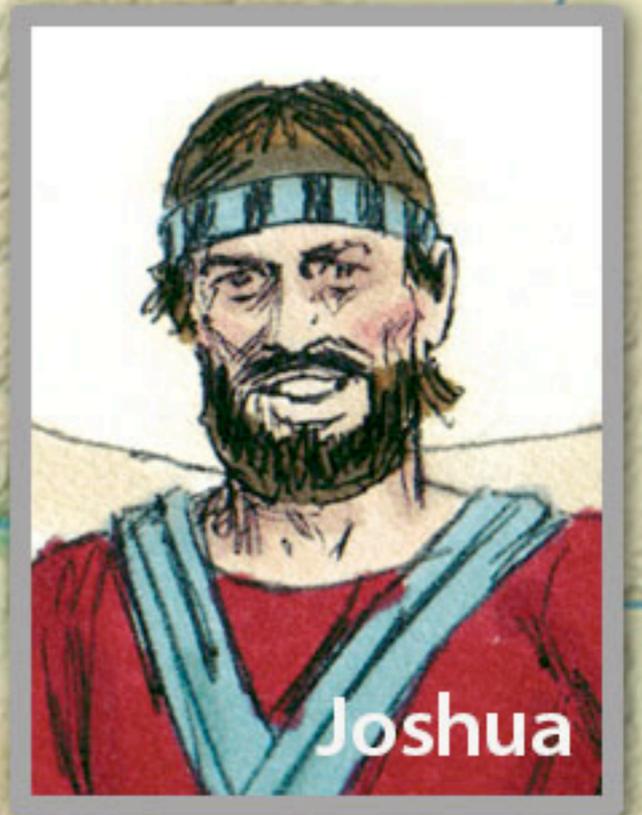
Canaan

**River
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Joshua











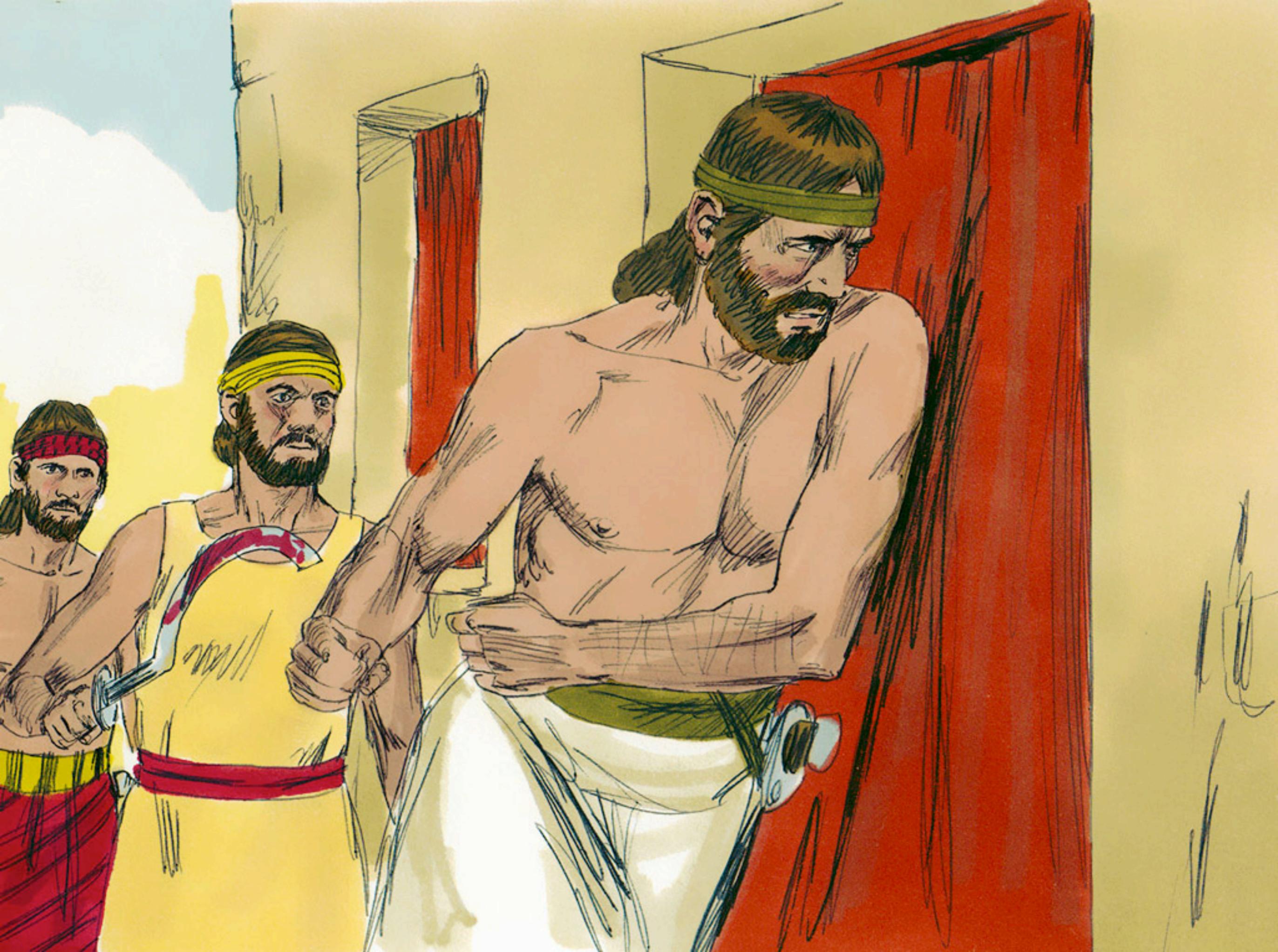
















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- 1 When the Israelites conquered Jericho God gave instructions that no one was to plunder anything or there would be trouble in the camp. Everything made from silver, gold, bronze, or iron was brought to the Lord and put in His treasury. However, unknown to anyone, one man had secretly taken plunder and hidden it.



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- 2 Joshua sent men to spy out the next town they needed to capture. It was a town west of Jericho called Ai.



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- 3 When they returned, they told Joshua, 'There's no need for the whole army to capture Ai. There are so few of the enemy, it won't take more than two or three thousand men to attack Ai.'



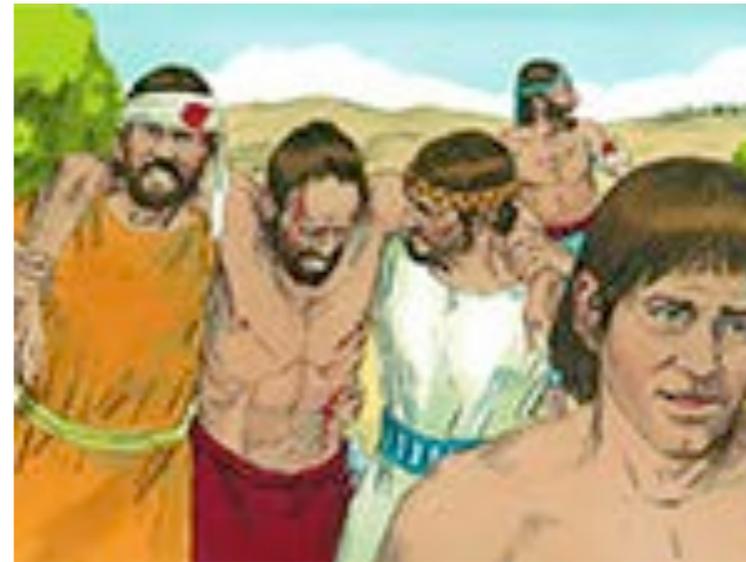
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- 4 So Joshua sent around 3,000 men to take the town.



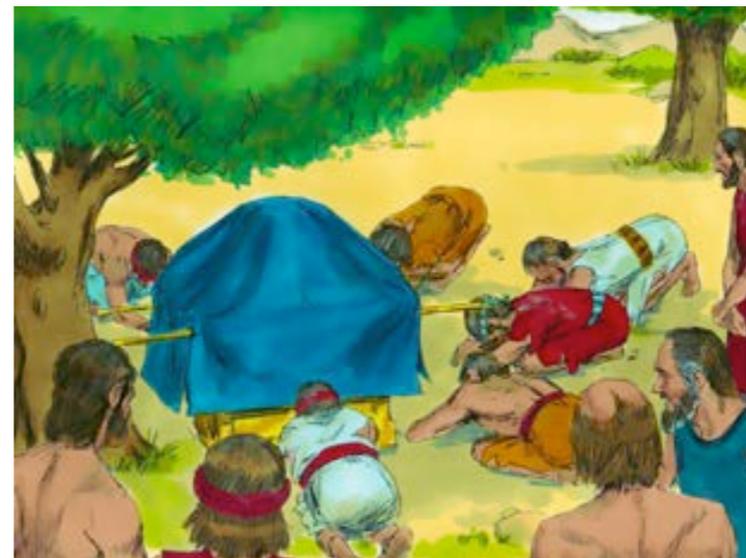
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- 5 But men of Ai chased the Israelites from the town gate, killing about thirty-six as they retreated in defeat.



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- 6 The Israelites were overcome with fear at this turn of events, and their courage melted away.



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- 7 Joshua and the elders of Israel tore their clothing in dismay, threw dust on their heads, and bowed face down before the Ark of the Lord until evening.



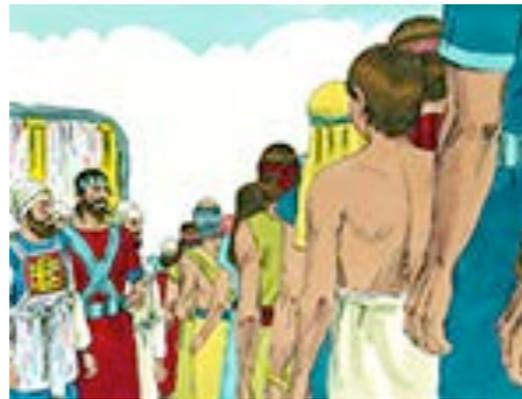
8 Then Joshua cried out, 'Oh, Sovereign Lord, why did you let the Amorites kill us? When the Canaanites and others hear about our defeat, they will surround us and destroy us forever. And then what will happen to the honour of your great name?'



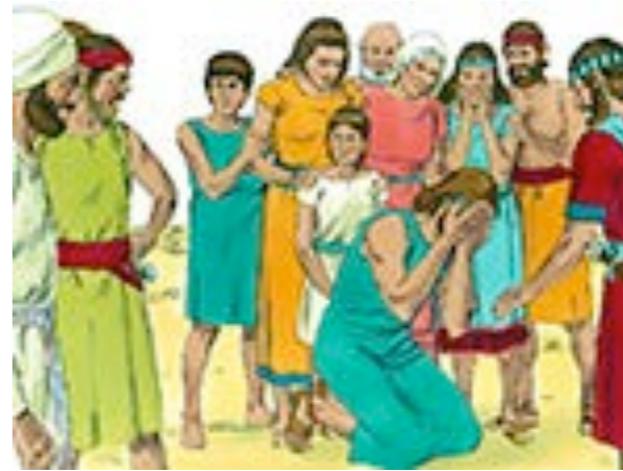
9 The Lord replied, 'Get up! Why are you lying on your face like this? Israel has sinned and stolen some of the things that I commanded must be set apart for me. They have not only stolen things and lied about it but hidden the plunder among their own belongings. You will never defeat your enemies until you remove these things from among you.'



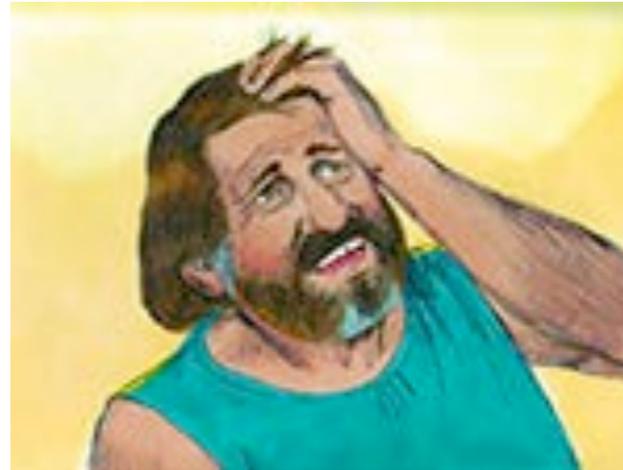
10 The next morning Joshua ordered the Israelites to present themselves before the Lord tribe by tribe. The tribe of Judah was singled out. Then the clans of Judah came forward, and the clan of Zerah was singled out. Then the families of Zerah came forward, and the family of Zimri was singled out.



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- 11 Every member of Zimri's family was brought forward person by person, and Achan was singled out. Joshua told Achan to tell the truth and confess what he had done.



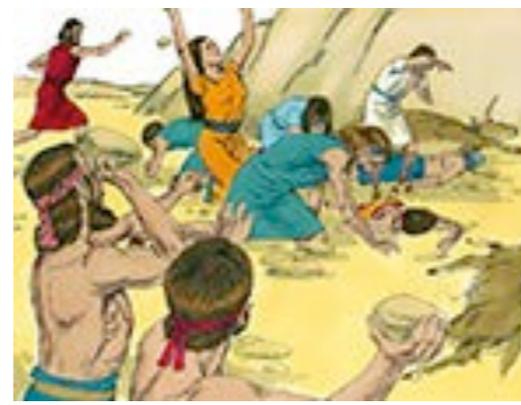
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- 12 'It is true! I have sinned,' Achan confessed. 'Among the plunder I saw a beautiful robe from Babylon, 200 silver coins, and a bar of gold weighing more than a pound. I wanted them so much that I took them. They are hidden in the ground beneath my tent, with the silver buried deeper than the rest.'



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- 13 Joshua sent men to make a search and they found the stolen goods. They laid them on the ground in the presence of the Lord.



14 Joshua and the Israelites took Achan, the silver, the robe, the bar of gold, his sons, daughters, cattle, donkeys, sheep, goats, tent, and everything he had. They brought them to the valley of Achor where they stoned them to death.



15 They piled a great heap of stones over Achan. The place has been called the *Valley of Trouble* ever since. After this the Lord was no longer angry with the Israelites.



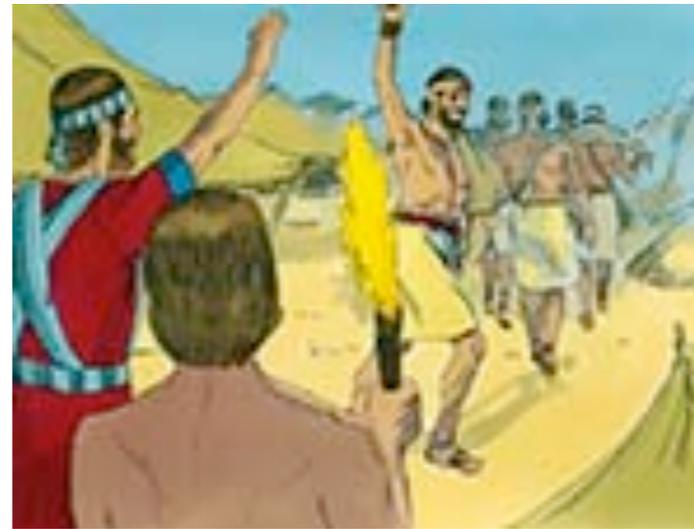
1 Israel had been defeated when they attacked Ai because Achan had been disobedient and kept plundering valuables from Jericho. Once that disobedience had been dealt with, the Lord was no longer angry with His people.



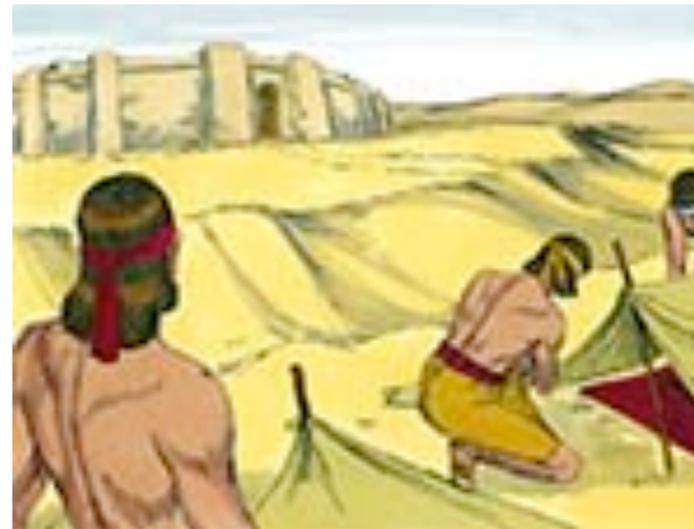
2 The Lord said to Joshua, 'Do not be afraid. Take all your fighting men and attack Ai. You will destroy them as you destroyed Jericho and its king. This time you may keep the plunder and the livestock for yourselves. Set an ambush behind the town.'



- 3 Joshua chose 30,000 of his best warriors and sent them out at night. The plan was to hide behind the town. Another group would attack from the front then run away as they had done before when the enemy were drawn out of their town. Then those hiding in ambush would take the town.



- 4 The next morning Joshua and his fighting men camped on the north side of Ai with a valley between them and the town. 5,000 men hid in ambush on the west side of the town.



- 5 When the king of Ai saw the Israelites across the valley, he and all his army hurried out early in the morning and attacked them. He didn't realize that an ambush had been set.



- 6 All the men in Ai and the nearby town of Bethel charged towards the Israelites, leaving Ai undefended.



- 7 Joshua and the Israelite army fled toward the wilderness as though they were badly beaten.



- 8 Then the Lord told Joshua, 'Point the spear in your hand toward Ai, for I will hand the town over to you.' Joshua obeyed.



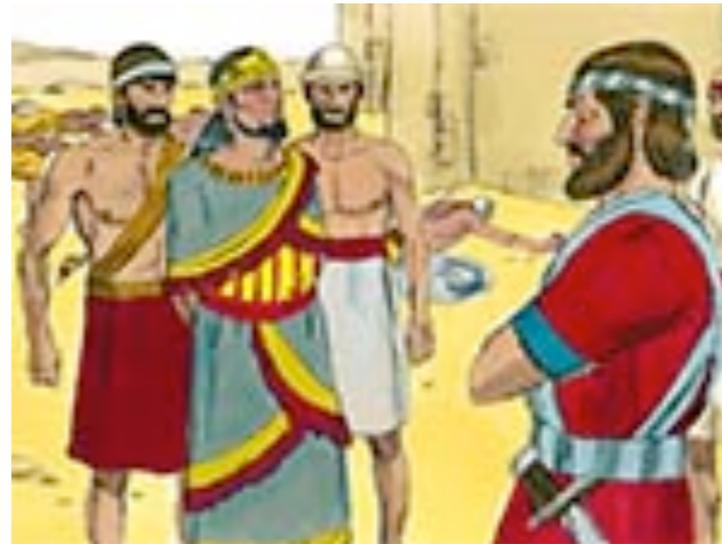
- 9 The men waiting in ambush poured into the town, captured it and set it on fire.



10 The men of Ai saw smoke from the town filling the sky. The Israelites who had fled in the direction of the wilderness now turned on their pursuers. Those who had captured Ai poured out of the town to attack the enemy from the rear.



11 Joshua held out his spear until the battle was won. Not a single enemy survived or escaped. The king of Ai was taken alive and executed. A great heap of stones was placed over his body.



12 The livestock and the treasures of the town were taken as plunder for themselves, as the Lord had permitted.



- 13 The town of Ai was burnt to the ground and was never rebuilt.



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- 14 Joshua built an altar to the Lord on Mount Ebal. The Israelites were assembled into two groups, one in front of Mount Gerizim, the other in front of Mount Ebal. Joshua then read to them every command that Moses had been given by God.



Did you get

THAT?

<https://youtu.be/n93zNfNqbEM>

CHECK — IT — OUT

<https://vimeo.com/157479334>

game . . .

LAST MAN STANDING

In today's true story from the Bible there was one man in Israel who disobeyed God and tried to hide it, but God knew who he was.

- Who disobeyed God? [**Achan (7:1)**]
- What did they do? [**Acted unfaithfully by taking and hiding some of the things that belonged to God (7:1, 11)**]
- How were the rest of God's people affected? [**God was angry with them and allowed Israel to be defeated at Ai (7:1, 12)**]

WRAP — IT — UP

<https://youtu.be/bjKdIUhEx3Y>



Think? Spot

Do you think Achan was sorry for what he had done?
How many chances did God give him to repent?

DISCUSS?

Why was Achan's sin so serious? Who did it affect?

What was different about Achan's and Israel's responses to God's anger?

What can we learn about how God views sin? What can we learn about his forgiveness?

How did God deal with our sin? How should we respond to sin in our lives? What will true repentance look like?



DO YOU KNOW?

The idea behind this link is that if possible - give each child their own device and allow them to click on this link and do the quiz - you can compare results at the end of it!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L9VKP9K>

MEMORY VERSE

<https://youtu.be/cQMGgSYvamM>

PRAY TOGETHER.

Dear Heavenly Father

We thank you for the Bible that is Your Word to us. We ask that you would help us never to forget how much we need Your Word in our daily lives. We thank you for the opportunity to learn from the life of the Israelites. We also thank you that as we read about the life of Israel we learn more about You, our Great and Awesome God and Father.

We thank you for the reminder today that you take sin seriously. Thank you for showing us in the life of Achan that teach that a failure to respond in faith and obedience to Your Word has serious consequences. But we come with thankful hearts knowing that you are a loving God who always restores those who truly repent.

We ask Lord that you would help us to live lives of faithful obedience and when we fail, that we would have hearts that turn to you in eager repentance.

We ask Heavenly Father, that you would fill us with Your Spirit this week, so that we can live lives that glorify you in all areas.

Amen

SING — IT — LOUD

<https://youtu.be/XiS1Pw4qEh8>

<https://youtu.be/-jkMnq2Hfzo>

<https://youtu.be/EILTdXTm8V8>