

WEEK 5 | TROUBLE IN THE VALLEY
JOSHUA 7:1-26



ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 MINUTES)

Catch everybody up to date on what's going on with New City. You can use your bulletin as a tool to do so. Especially note all the new summer studies that are beginning soon (<http://bit.ly/1pkczVc>).

STARTER QUESTION (10 MINUTES)

If you could go back to school and study something just for fun, what would it be? Why?

REFLECTION AND STUDY (30 MINUTES)

>>>>Read Joshua 7:1-26

- (1) What stands out to you from this story as significant, challenging or confusing?
- (2) Retell the basics of the story together as a group, answering these questions:
 - WHO are the main characters in the story?
 - WHAT happens here?
 - WHEN is this all occurring?
 - WHERE is the action taking place?
 - WHY do you think things are turning out this way?
 - HOW does the main action in the story come to a conclusion?
- (3) What was the cause of God's wrath against Israel? Why was this such a big deal?
- (4) Focus on Joshua's reaction to the loss at Ai in verses 6-9. Do you think this was a good or bad way to handle it? Why?
- (5) What is the progression that eventually leads Achan to take the devoted items (see verse 20-21)? Do you see in parallels to how temptation works in your own life?

(6) How does this passage point you to Jesus?

ACTION STEPS

(1) Do a little self-reflection this week. What are the things that you covet? the things you worship? the things you put in the place of God?

If you are having trouble doing this, use these TESTS to help you discern what is going on in your heart. The answers to these questions will give you a pretty good idea as to what is “controlling” you.

- ***The Unanswered Prayer Test:*** Where do you say to God, “Lord, if you don’t give me this (or if you make me experience this), we’re through?”
- ***The Solitude Test:*** What do you think about (daydream about) when you have nothing to do? (as you’re falling asleep or waiting for the bus, or in between tasks)
- ***The Extreme Reaction Test:*** What makes you enraged and bitter (rather than simply angry)? What makes you petrified (rather than worried)? What crushes you (rather than disappoints you)?

(2) Achan’s sin began with what he “saw” (or beheld). Be intentional with your eyes this week. You inevitably will notice things, but beware what you gaze at.

(3) The only way to be less enthralled with sin is to be more enamored with Christ. Make a point to begin each day this week reading God’s Word and in prayer. If you don’t know where to start, begin with the Gospel of John.

PRAYER (15 MINUTES)

Break up into smaller groups of men and women. For those who are comfortable, share your applications and pray for one another.