

It Is Time to Clean House!

October 16-22, 2011

PRAYER:

Begin with a few moments of sharing thanks and praises in prayer.

OPENER: When you were 10 years old, where was your favorite hiding place?

Can you recall a time when someone did something wrong, but you were punished for it instead? How did you feel?

Read: Joshua 7:1-9

DISCUSS: Why was God angry with all the Israelites (see 6:18-19, for God's instructions on the capture of Jericho)?

When Israel attacked Ai, what apparently did they expect would happen? What instead was the actual outcome?

How would you describe Joshua's reaction to the stunning defeat at Ai? (Cowardly? Angry? Whining? Surprised? What?)

Read: Joshua 7:10-15

How did the Lord get Joshua and the Israelite back on track?

What emotions does God express in the conversation with Joshua?

What instructions did the Lord give to Joshua in order to find the one who had disobeyed?

Read: Joshua 7:16-19

Why was it so important for Israel to follow these instructions? Suppose they hadn't?

Read: Joshua 7:20-26

What exactly was Achan's sin?

Why do you think he did it even though he knew God's orders?

Describe his state of mind as he watched the tribes, clans, and families file past Joshua.

Who all suffered because of Achan's sin?

Why do you think the punishment was so severe?

PLAN for ACTION:

What kinds of things can happen in our lives when we sin and try to hide it?

As with the Israelites, has the Lord ever had to "get tough" with you to get you back on track?

If you had been Joshua, would you have been tempted to let Achan go with a slap on the wrists? Send him packing? Punch him out? Or what?

What does this say about your style of disciplining those you feel responsible for at home or work?

If you had been Achan's wife or children, how would you have felt? How about the parents of one of the 36 killed in the attack on Ai?

Do you think it was fair for God to punish all Israel because just one person sinned? Why or why not?

How can this group pray for you this week?

To view the complete teaching from the Sunday services go to www.centralcommunity.org/media/index.html