



# DISCOVERING GOD'S WAYS

Please note that this teaching text has not been proofed.

Author: Arlene S. Piepgrass  
Illustrator: Didi Greiner

PowerPoint Presentation, Interface and Download: LaRue and Mark Bowser  
Typesetting and Layout: Patricia Pope

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Phone: (717) 859-1131 Web: www.biblevisuals.org

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## NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

## Lesson #1 SIN AND DEFEAT

### NOTE TO THE TEACHER

To be most effective, this volume on Joshua should be taught immediately after teaching Old Testament Volume 16.

The book of Joshua records the Israelites' conquest of Canaan. The experiences of the people of Israel teach us spiritual lessons for our own lives (1 Corinthians 10:11). The sin and defeat at Ai (see Joshua 7) are solemn warnings for us. It was the only battle the Israelite people lost in their seven-year conquest of Canaan. Because of one man's sin, God could *not* bless them.

The principles are as true today as in the days of Joshua. We must beware of crying to God for help if we are hiding sin in our lives.

1. Nothing can be kept secret from God (Proverbs 15:3). He sees everything. "Be sure your sin will find you out" (Numbers 32:23).
2. Others are affected by our sin. (See 1 Corinthians 12:26.) "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" (1 Corinthians 5:6).
3. "Pride goes before destruction" (Proverbs 16:18). The success at Jericho caused the Israelites to be self-confident. They forgot that they had not won by their own strength. *God* had given them the victory. Because of self-confidence they neglected prayer and, as a result, suffered defeat.

**Scripture to be studied:** Joshua 7; verses cited in lesson.

**The aim of the lesson:** To show that no sin can be hidden from God.

**What your students should know:** Sin breaks our fellowship with God and hurts other people.

**What your students should feel:** The awfulness of being guilty before God.

**What your students should do:** Confess to God any secret sin and obtain His forgiveness.

**Lesson outline for the teacher's and students' notebooks:**

1. Achan's sin (Joshua 7:1, 21).
2. Joshua's negligence (Joshua 7:2-3).
3. Israel's defeat at Ai (Joshua 7:4-15).
4. Confession and judgment (Joshua 7:19-26).

**The verse to be memorized:**

*Fear the LORD, and serve Him in sincerity and in truth.* (Joshua 24:14a)

## THE LESSON

Jericho was a heap of ruins. Everyone who had lived there was dead. That is, everyone except Rahab and her family who were rescued (Joshua 6:22-25). All the animals were dead. The

houses were burned. Only those things made of silver and gold or brass and iron were saved. What had happened? (*Teacher:* With questions review the events of Joshua 6. Use illustrations from Old Testament Volume 16, Lesson 4.)

## 1. ACHAN'S SIN Joshua 7:1, 21

Did you ever steal anything? Did it make you happy? (*Teacher:* Mention your own experience of stealing.) Stealing is sin. We thought no one saw us steal. But God sees everything!

Achan was a soldier in the army of Israel. He was with the others who had marched around the city of Jericho 13 times. With all the Israelite people, he shouted when Joshua gave the signal. And he saw the walls of Jericho fall outward to the ground just as God had promised.

In obedience to the Lord, Achan and the other soldiers rushed into the city to destroy everyone. The soldiers began to burn the houses and everything which belonged to the wicked people of Jericho. God had ordered this, too.

But Achan did not help the others. Instead, he stopped to look at the exquisite belongings of the rich people. As he looked, he wanted some of the things for himself!