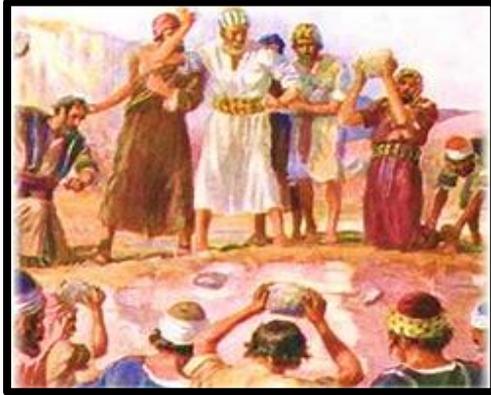




FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors: Dennis & Diane Gordon

Bible Journeys Volume 7 Choosing The Promise #4 CHOOSING INTEGRITY (Hidden Sin)



Joshua 7 & 8

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME WHEN I DON'T HIDE BUT CONFESS MY SIN JESUS WILL USE MY LIFE FOR HIM

SCRIPTURE READING *(Read Aloud Together)*

Numbers 32:23 “...behold, you have sinned against the Lord, and be sure your sin will find you out.”

1 John 2:15-17 “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the Father but is of the world...but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

1. INTRODUCTION: God gave the Israelites great victory over Jericho because they obeyed Him. Joshua led the Israelites to march seven times around the city just as God commanded. On the seventh time the priests blew the trumpets, the people gave a great victory shout and the walls fell flat. When we consecrate ourselves to God and give Him all the praise, He does wonderful miracles for us just like He did for Moses and Joshua. Our faith in our mighty God makes impossible things possible! Yet some find it hard to trust God, trusting only in themselves, but face terrible consequences.

2. GOD COMMANDS HIS PEOPLE TO COMPLETELY DESTROY SIN, AND NOT EVEN TOUCH IT.

Deuteronomy 18:9-12 “When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft,¹¹ or a charmer, or a consuler with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.”¹² For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD...”

The sinful people of Jericho and Ai and the other cities in the Promised Land were wicked much like the people of our world today. They worshipped false gods of their own making, sacrificing their babies by placing them in the burning arms of their stone gods;



they practiced witchcraft and wizardry similar to the magic arts being practiced today, they consulted familiar spirits (fallen angels who still speak through mediums today), such as are commonly seen on television shows like “Long Island Medium”, and

they consulted Mediums who claimed to contact the dead (fallen angels also impersonate the dead), this is called Necromancy, commonly practiced still today. These are serious sins as much an abomination to the Lord today as they were in the times of Joshua.

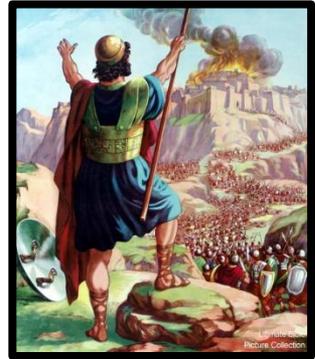
Joshua 6:17-18 “And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.”¹⁸ And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.”

The Israelites could not even touch items that belonged to these wicked people or they would be defiled, and lost from God’s family. God commanded the Israelites to burn the city, completely destroying everything so they would not be tempted by their evil, but because Rahab had believed God, Rahab belonged to God now.

3. WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE FOLLOW HIS WAY, GOD GIVES US GREAT VICTORY, AS HE FIGHTS OUR BATTLES.

God does not want His people to be drawn away and tempted by the clothing, or music, or other things that are attached to sinful practices that will draw you away from the purpose God has for you. We are not to touch sin, because sin destroys life. God told Joshua very clearly to destroy everything but the silver and gold that was consecrated for God's house, and Joshua did exactly as God said.

Joshua 6:19-27 “. ¹⁹ But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD. ²⁰ So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. ²¹ And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword.... ²⁴ And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein: only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of brass and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD... ²⁷ So the LORD was with Joshua; and his fame was noised throughout all the country.”



The Lord was with Joshua during this battle because Joshua and the armies of God, honored God and obeyed Him; and they saw God fight the battle for them. God wanted Joshua and the Israelites to destroy everything in the city so they would not be defiled by it.

2 Corinthians 6:17 “Therefore come out from among them and be separate... Touch not the unclean thing and I will receive you.”

Still today, the Lord Jesus wants us to cleanse ourselves from every wicked way and not bring sin into our home through what we watch or read, because these sinful distractions trivialize the holiness of God, and often make us choose whom we will serve without our being aware. Being near physical temptations can destroy us from the inside out. God gives us great victory when we follow His way.

4. HIDDEN SIN BRINGS DEFEAT & DISASTER

All of Israel knew that they were not allowed to touch any unclean thing that had been used by a sinful godless person, because by coming out from God's covenant, they would have to pay for their sins themselves, and be stoned to death. Achan knew this fully well.



When Achan looked through the burning city, he saw a beautiful robe, silver & gold and he was tempted! He *looked to see if anyone was watching...* then he hid the things that God had cursed and he hid the wedge of gold he found in his clothing!

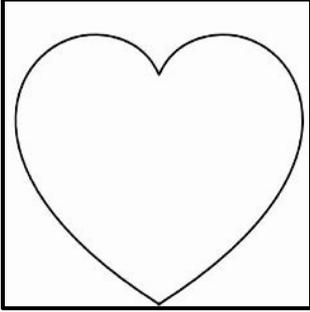
Joshua 7:1-3 *“But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for **Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing:** and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel. ² And Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Beth-aven, on the east side of Beth-el, and spake unto them, saying, **Go up and view the country. And the men went up and viewed Ai.** ³ **And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the people to labour thither; for they are but few.**”*

Joshua did not know that Achan had sinned against God and brought sin into the camp of God, when Joshua sent out 3,000 men into battle. He thought they went with God's blessing, but they did not.

Joshua 7:4-5 *“So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: **and they fled before the men of Ai.** ⁵ **And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men:** for they chased them from before the gate even unto Shebarim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water.”*

Joshua and his men were in shock because God who had fought for them so mightily in the battle of Jericho was not with them at the battle of Ai. Joshua knew that there was hidden sin in the camp. How would Joshua find out what was wrong? When you sense that God's presence is not with you, it is time to examine your heart.

5. OBJECT LESSON: A clean white sheet of paper with the outline of a heart. *(Hidden behind the white paper, is another white paper on which you have traced a sad face and the words sin, fighting, bad words, anger, lying, etc. in pencil. Place a spot of glue stick in the upper corners between the two papers and hold them together so they appear to be one.)*



I have here a clean white heart. (Hold up clean white heart.) When you confess your sins to Jesus, He forgives you and washes your heart clean...But what is this I find? (Shine a flashlight through from the back of the heart and gasp in horror.) There is sin hiding in this heart! (Read some of the sins aloud.) What happened? This heart appears to be so clean on the outside!

Sometimes we can appear to be very clean and holy on the outside and yet be hiding unclean thoughts on the inside. How did we find the sin hidden in this heart? Yes, I turned on the light. The light shining on the heart revealed the hidden sin.

When I hide sin in my heart it makes me afraid that someone will find out. When I hide sin in my heart, it makes me sad and keeps me from being all that God created me to be. Jesus is the light of the world and where He is, is holy. (Shine light through heart again.) No sin can stand in the brightness of God's glory.

*Jesus doesn't want you to ever hide from Him! He came to earth to pay the price for your sin on the cross, so that you can be with Him in heaven because He loves you so much. You are so important to Jesus and He has such a wonderful plan for your life! Confess your sin (**Flip up, remove the sin paper, crumple and throw in the trash**) and Jesus will wash your heart white as snow, all clean and shining bright!*

When you don't hide, but confess your sin, Jesus waits to wash you clean so He can use your life for Him!

Something very sad happened in Achan's life, and in the lives of his family and the whole nation, because he hid his sin that day, because Achan hid the stolen things that were cursed and didn't tell anyone.

6. TURN TO JESUS WHEN YOU ARE TEMPTED, CONFESS YOUR SINS, AND HE WILL RAISE YOU UP TO VICTORY!

Achan was tempted and drawn away into sin by the lust of his heart, bringing upon himself and upon his family terrible consequences. It is no different today when a person of God sees temptation, then continues to look upon the temptation until he can no longer turn away and sins by embracing the temptation.

James 1:14 “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. When desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings death.”

The time to make the choice to turn away from sin is immediately! Even our Lord Jesus in His humanity was tempted, but He showed us how to immediately rebuke the devil with God’s word, and the temptation will flee. Achan first made the choice to keep looking at the temptation, then



he made a choice to disobey God, and then he hid his sin - just like Adam and Eve hid when they chose to listen to a wicked voice who was not God. Once you listen to the voice of the devil, you are making a choice to serve him as your master.

Luke 16:13 “No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

You cannot have it both ways, you cannot choose to flirt with sin to gain instant gratification, wealth or status, or to be part of the crowd, without becoming a servant to the author of sin, and turning away from God to hide. God forgives us when we come to Him, but something horrible happens in our hearts when we make that change from following God’s way to follow Satan’s way, and it is a difficult road to come back. Achan went home and hid all the stolen stuff in his tent! We cannot hide our sin from our Father God.

1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

7. GOD'S COVENANT WITH US REQUIRES BOTH PARTIES TO KEEP THE COVENANT.

Deuteronomy 30:19 “I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.”

The time to make the choice to turn away from sin is immediately before you become trapped and destroyed. Every one of us as members of God's family, make choices daily that will affect the whole family. The next day the Israelites went to battle to win the wicked City of Ai for God, but they came back miserably defeated. Sin was in the camp, God's people lost the battle and 36 men died that day! What happened? Didn't God say He would be with them?

Joshua 7:6-9 “And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads. ⁷And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord GOD, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan! ⁸O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies! ⁹For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?”



Joshua tore his clothes in grief! This defeat meant they had defied the commandment of God, and God was not helping them. Joshua and the elders fell on their faces in God's presence before the Ark of God! Joshua and the elders threw dust on their heads and prayed until

it was dark, searching their hearts to purify themselves before God.

1 John 3:1-3 “Behold what manner of love...Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

8. ACHAN IS AN EXAMPLE THAT SIN CANNOT BE HIDDEN, BUT WILL BE EXPOSED AND BURNED UP!

God commanded Joshua to gather all the people together by tribes and families and He would show Joshua who was bringing curses upon the whole camp by hiding the things that were cursed.

Joshua 7:14-15 “In the morning therefore ye shall be brought according to your tribes: and it shall be...that he that is taken with the accursed thing shall be burnt with fire, he and all that he hath: because he hath transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he hath wrought folly in Israel.”

The one who was found to be hiding the cursed things would have to be stoned and all their possessions burned up with them!

Joshua 7:20-25 “And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done...²⁴ And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor.²⁵ And ... all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones.”

Some feel that the God of the Old Testament was not kind and gracious like Jesus, but is that true? No, Jesus is the same God yesterday as He is today – and at His coming, all who defy the living God shall be burned up just as in the example of Achan.

2 Peter 3:10-12 “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.¹¹ Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,¹² looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?”

After sin was burned up, God raised up righteous Joshua and Israel to great victory! When you choose life in Jesus and confess your sin, Jesus gives victory and will raise you up at His coming!

9. GOD'S PURPOSE & PLAN FOR ME

Achan did eventually confess his sin, but only because he was caught and saw judgment coming upon his whole family because of his sin, but then it was too late! When Jesus comes to raise up His people, His word says that he who is filthy shall be filthy still, for then it will be too late to confess your sin. As long as Joshua allowed sin to remain in the camp, God would not go with them and they would continue to be defeated by their enemies; the same is still true today. Do you want God's presence to go with you? Confess your sin to Jesus so that He can wash you, and make you whole and holy before Him again. Then you will have victory!

1. Jesus wants you to confess your sin – because no sin can be in the light of His presence.
2. Without God's presence, you will be defeated by your enemies.
3. The decisions you make today, will change your life and the lives of all your family for all your tomorrows.
4. Hidden sin will always bring defeat.
5. Remember to ask Jesus for His plan to follow so you will have great victory!
6. God's covenant with His people has always required both parties to keep the covenant for the covenant to be valid.
7. Achan is an example for us that sin cannot be hidden but will be exposed and burned up!

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER:

Our dear Father God,

We come to worship before you today, knowing that we have sinned against you. I confess all of my sin before your holiness Lord Jesus, and ask you to forgive me. Thank you that your blood shed for me cleanses me from every spot. I surrender my whole heart to serve you, Lord and commit my whole life to follow your ways all the days of my life. Help me to live my life for you, as I choose to be content in all the blessing you have already given to me, and I pray that I may bring glory to you every day. Thank you for saving me and loving me as your own child, in Jesus name, Amen.

10. CHILDREN'S STORY: Pinocchio & Me

“If you don’t stop lying, your nose is going to grow just like Pinocchio!” said mother. Jimmy thought of the story about Pinocchio, a wooden puppet that came to life when the puppet maker, Geppetto, wished for a real little boy. Every time Pinocchio told a lie Geppetto knew it, because Pinocchio’s nose would grow longer, until Pinocchio’s nose grew so long that everyone knew he was a liar! Jimmy felt his nose to see, but he just couldn’t stop lying.



Jimmy remembered the Bible verse Mom had taught him, ***“Be sure your sin will find you out.”*** Jimmy thought about how Pinocchio wanted to be a real boy - like Jimmy wanted to be a real Christian because he loved Jesus. Jimmy didn’t want to be known as a liar, but what could he do? Jimmy went to his room and knelt beside his bed. ***“Dear Lord, I’m sorry that I sinned, please forgive me and help me to change. I can’t do it by myself but if you’ll remind me, I know I can stop because your word says I can do all things because you will give me strength. Help me, Lord Jesus, Amen.”***

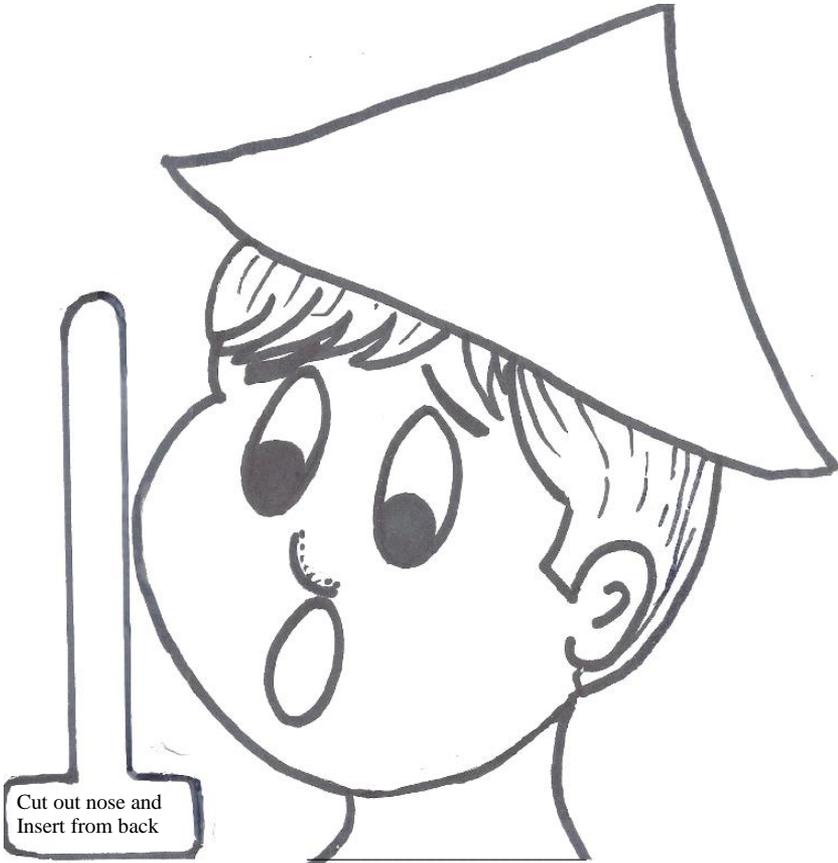
When Jimmy left his room, he felt clean and happy, and knew that Jesus had forgiven him, but just then, he passed by too close to a table and heard something crash to the floor! His heart sank as he looked and saw the broken angel. Jimmy felt sick. He quickly put the pieces in his pocket, thinking he could throw them away at the park and no one would ever know! He went by the kitchen and said, ***“Mom, I’m going to swing for awhile at the park, OK?”*** she said, ***“OK, but don’t stay too long, dinner’s almost ready.”***

Jimmy walked through the door and stopped, because he felt in his heart to take the angel to his mother and tell her what happened. ***“Thank you, Jesus,”*** thought Jimmy, and he took the angel to show his mother. ***“Mom, I’m so sorry I walked too close to the table and broke your angel. But I have some money saved, could I buy you a new one?”*** Mother had tears in her eyes as she hugged Jimmy. She was so thankful that God answered her prayers for her little boy who stopped lying, and became an honest boy, just like Jesus!

11. GOSPEL CRAFT: PINNOCHIO

DIRECTIONS:

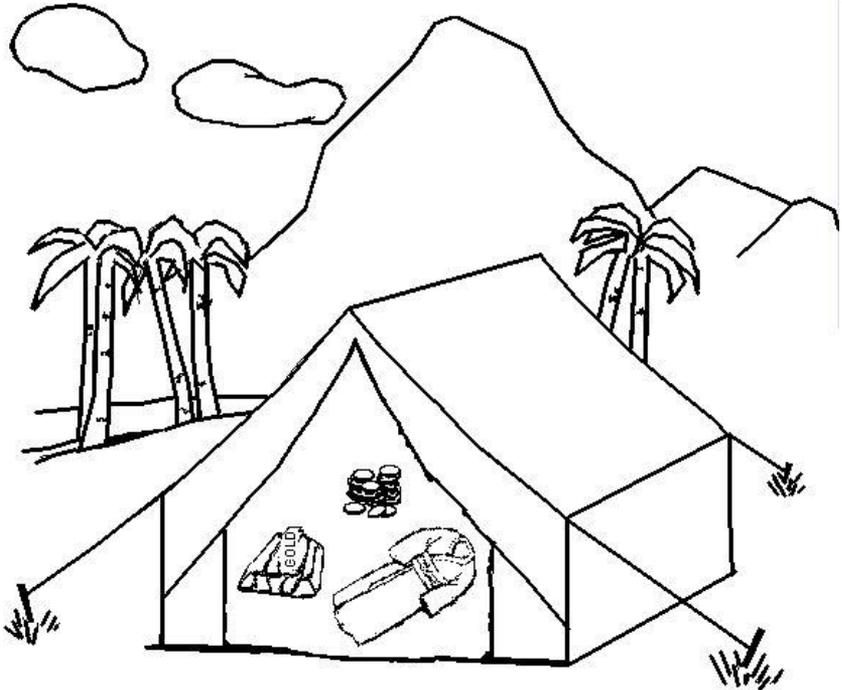
1. Copy, color, and laminate this page front and back, or cover in tape to reinforce.
2. Cut out Pinnochio's head and nose, including the rectangle base all in one piece.
3. The base of the nose will keep the nose from slipping out.
4. Carefully cut on the dotted line of Pinnochio's nose to form slit for long nose.
5. Insert the nose through the slit.
6. Carefully glue just around the outside of the head (do not get any glue on nose.)
7. Press the glued head to secure to a brightly colored page of card stock.
8. Cut out the scripture and purpose, to glue above and below Pinnochio's head.



**WHEN I DON'T HIDE BUT CONFESS MY SIN
JESUS WILL USE MY LIFE FOR HIM**

*Numbers 32:23 "...behold, you have sinned against the Lord, and
be sure your sin will find you out."*

12. COLORING PAGE: CHOOSING INTEGRITY



Be content with
such things
as ye have.
Hebrews 13:5