

4) Read Joshua 7:6-9.

A) After the defeat, the nation and the leaders were distraught. Their faith was shaken. Instead of having a pity party, what action did they take?

B) In verses 7-9, what were Joshua's two greatest concerns about this defeat?

5) Read Joshua 7:10-12.

A) What do you think it means in verse 10, "Why is it that you have fallen on your face?"

B) What was God's answer to why they were defeated?

C) What did God tell them had to happen before He would be with them again?

God then told the nation of Israel what to do to find the person who had taken the items. They followed His plan and found that Achan had taken gold and silver that he was not supposed to. Achan confessed and paid a heavy price for his disobedience.

6. Read Joshua 8:1-2.

A) What promise did God give Israel about Ai now?

Verse 2 ends with God instructing the Israelites on how to defeat Ai. He tells them, "set an ambush for the city behind it." Joshua takes his 30,000 mightiest warriors and hides them close behind the city of Ai. Joshua takes a smaller force and marches on the city before fleeing (that makes it look like the first time Israel tried to defeat Ai.). The armies of Ai chased after the small Israelite force and left their city undefended. The larger Israelite army came and took over the city of Ai just as God had instructed them. **It's just like God not to waste anything. He chose to use the defeat the Israelites suffered in the first battle at Ai to bring glory to His name and victory to His people!**

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Looking at your life, how can your faith not be shaken by the defeats in your life?

2. Where is seeking God out in prayer on your list of priorities when you come upon trials and struggles?

3. Can you share a time when God took something that looked like a defeat in your life and used it for His glory?