

Victory at Ai - Joshua 8:1-35

Topics: Affirmation, Blessing, Challenge, Courage, Dedication, Enemies, Follow-through, Guidance, Instructions, Leadership, Obedience, Plans, Preparation, Remembering, Success, Teamwork, Traditions, Victory, War

Open It

1. What characteristics do you look for in a leader?
- * 2. To what extent do you consider yourself more of a leader or a follower? Why?
3. Why is it important for an army strictly to obey its commanders during wartime?

Explore It

4. Why did Joshua need special encouragement when the Lord told him to attack the city of Ai? (8:1)
5. How would the Israelites' battle with Ai compare to their war with Jericho? (8:2)
6. In what way did the battle with Ai differ from the Israelites' war with Jericho? (8:2)
7. What was Israel's strategy of war to overtake the city of Ai? (8:4-7)
8. Who was the leader of the army of Israel? (8:8)
- * 9. What role did Joshua play before and during the war with Ai? (8:9, 13, 18, 26)
10. How did the king of Ai respond to Israel's second advance against his city? (8:14)
11. What specific instructions did the Lord give to Joshua during this war? (8:18)
- * 12. What was the outcome of Israel's war with Ai? (8:20-23)
13. Why did the Israelites take the livestock and plunder of Ai? (8:27)
- * 14. What did Joshua do following Israel's victory over the city of Ai? (8:30-35)

Get It

15. What does this passage teach us about the Lord's view of obedience?
16. How do you think Joshua felt when the Lord told him to go to battle against the city of Ai when they had already lost a battle against them?
17. What happened that last time you did something for the Lord that you had thought was impossible?
18. Why did God give Israel the victory over Ai?
19. Why was it important for all of the Israelites to offer burnt offerings to the Lord and review the Book of the Law?
- * 20. Following the Israelites' example, how should we respond when the Lord gives us victory over a sin or weakness?
21. In what circumstances is it important for us to review the written instructions God has given us?
22. What can we learn from this story about "second chances"?
- * 23. In what area of your life do you need a second chance?

Apply It

24. What first step can you take to renew your commitment to obey God?
- * 25. How can you remind yourself this week of God's promise of victory over the struggles in your own life?
26. What concrete action could you take this week to encourage a friend who needs a "second chance"?