

Sermon Study Guide



#6: A Game of Hide and Seek

Series: *Courage in the Crucible*

February 28, 2021 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

In this study on the book of Joshua, we learn how we can stand courageous when trials, difficult situations, opposition, and inevitable changes surround us.

Reflect

Is there anything in your life that you wish you could hide from God? Why is that so?

Read and Discuss

Scripture

Joshua 7:1-26

Discussion Questions

Sin is a serious matter to God. A life of sin will suck the courage out of you. Here are five biblical principles that will remind you to live a life of holiness and shun a life of living in sin:

1. ***Sin has serious consequences affecting you and others (v. 2-9).*** What major problem happened after the Israelites' victory at the city of Jericho? What caused it to be a major problem and what was the result of this sin? How does the sin of one person affect others? How does the sin of a Christian, especially of a Christian leader, affect the name of the Lord? Before you fall into sin, what ramifications should you think about to keep you from falling?
2. ***The holy God hates sin and wants nothing to do with it (v. 10-12).*** What did God tell Joshua about what would be the consequence of the sin committed by Achan? What characters of God do many Christians forget to acknowledge and would rather think that He would only always extend grace, mercy, and forgiveness? What does accountability mean? How could accountability be practiced in your church to remind you and others that God hates sin and wants nothing to do with it?
3. ***Actively rid your life of sin by identifying, searching, and dealing with it (v. 13-19).*** What was God's instruction to Joshua on how he should deal with the sin committed by one person? What

did God want to show His people from this drastic measure of dealing with sin? How does reading the Bible help you in identifying the sinful things in your life? Could you pray with the Psalmist in Psalm 139:23-24 in searching your heart if you are guilty of those sins? What are the ways you can deal with sin head-on to avoid falling into it?

4. ***Do not underestimate the strong attraction and allure of sin (v. 20-22).*** What caused Achan to fall into the sin of stealing? How do you know that he was aware that what he did was wrong? How do people usually hide the sins that they are committing in their life? It is a fact that God is omniscient or all-knowing, but why do a lot of Christians still think that they can hide something from Him?
5. ***The penalty of the price of sin has to be paid (v. 23-26).*** What terrible consequence did Achan and his family suffer from his sin? What lesson do you think the Israelites learned from Achan's experience? Does acknowledgment of your sin keep you from suffering its consequences? What does God's discipline teach you about God's love and grace?

Respond

In Walk: Our God who is holy hates sin and wants nothing to do with it. Therefore, actively rid your life of sin by identifying, searching for, and dealing with it. What sins in your life do you need to get rid of? What are the steps you should do so that you will not fall into the allure of sin? What should you do so that you can live a life of holiness and shun a life of living in sin?

In Prayer: Heavenly Father, I acknowledge that I am weak and could easily fall into sin without Your help. Please help me to be strong in my resolve so that the attraction of sin will not get in the way of my relationship with You. May the consequences of sin keep me from entertaining anything that may tempt and lead me to sin. Help me to live a life that gives glory to Your Name. In Jesus' Name. Amen.