



# J O S H U A

FAITH IN THE GOD OF PROMISE

## INTRO

- What was your favorite game to play as a kid?

*Leader Note- I'm trying to get them to say 'hide and seek', so you may have to tell a funny story about it or hint at it for them.*

- Have you ever noticed that people, especially on social media, try to present a certain version of themselves that may not actually be the person they are offline?
- We do this with the jokes we tell around certain groups, the things we say or do, the way we interact with different people in different circumstances. Have you ever wondered why do we do this?

We are going to see tonight a story of a man who tried to hide and his reason for hiding is obvious.

*Leader note: Tonight's lesson is going to be about confessing sin and getting the buried pain and shame out of the 'closet' of our lives, so move quickly through some of this material to leave time for that at the end and make sure the tone of the night matches the intended purpose of this lesson.*

## THEN

### Read Joshua 7:1-13

*Leader Note: Ai was small & insignificant compared to Jericho yet Israel couldn't defeat it.*

- What attitude does it seem the Israelites took toward their battle with Ai?
- Why did God say they couldn't defeat it?

### Read Joshua 7:14-20

*Leader Note: God acts almost like a Google map right here. He begins big picture with the whole nation, then zooms in to a particular tribe, then a particular clan, then a particular family, then zooms ultimately to Achan. This would have taken hours if not days to accomplish; yet Achan doesn't say a word. He hides.*

- What do you think Achan was thinking as the 'lot' kept getting closer and closer to him?
- Why do you think he hid what he had done? (*take note: Joshua 7:15*)
- Do you think God would have granted Achan mercy had he just simply come forward from the beginning?\*

*Summary Note- God zeroed in on the hidden sin so that it could be exposed and dealt with, and because Achan tried to bury it instead of bring it to the light, he faced judgment.*

## NOW

- What sin, shame, past action or hurt, brokenness or pain are you burying in your own life?
- What keeps you from being honest with your cell group, your friends, your leaders, parents? Why do you think you're hiding it? What is the emotion behind your hiding?
- Are you afraid that the 'real you' isn't quite as impressive as the 'online you' or the 'school you' or the 'locker room' you?
- Hiding and putting on a mask is exhausting. Do you feel constantly under pressure to keep up the act? What does this look like for you?

### Read 1 John 1:8-9

- How do these two verses make you feel? (*Hint- on one side relieved to know that we're not perfect, God knows it, and we shouldn't expect it of each other...we're all broken. Yet, in our brokenness, God is gracious and forgiving, so we can be honest because God already knows our buried shame and pain and wants to deal with it in mercy and grace.*)