

GOD'S PROMISES FULFILLED
A Study in the Books of Joshua and Ruth

Learning Obedience Joshua 8
"Do what the LORD has commanded." Joshua 8:8b

Read Joshua 8:1–29.

1. Why does the LORD begin by telling Joshua not to be afraid or discouraged? (Consider all that happened to the Israelites in chapter 7, and all that they will be called upon to do in chapter 8.)
2. What are the differences between the two battles at Ai? (7:2- 3)
3. Describe a time when, after repenting, God gave you a second opportunity to do over what you messed up the first time.

Read Joshua 8:3–27.

4. Describe in your own words the strategy for the attack on Ai, or draw a sketch of the battle plan. You may want to look at the map in your folder.
5. Look again at verses 4a, 8b, and 27.
 - a. What is emphasized in these verses?
 - b. Why is this important for the Israelites?
6. What role does obedience play in our lives as Christians? (Jn. 14:21-24; 1 Jn. 2:3–6)

Read Joshua 8:24–29.

7. Why does God require the annihilation of those who live in Ai and all of Canaan?
 - a. Gen. 15:16; Deut. 4, 5
 - b. Deut. 11:16; 12:2-4

8. The king of Ai was probably killed and then hung or impaled on a tree for all to see. What does this punishment mean? (Deut. 21:22-23)
9. Who else was hung on a tree, and what does that mean for us? (Gal. 3:13, 14)

Read Joshua 8:30–35.

10. Why do Joshua and the Israelites take a break from their military campaign to perform this lengthy, large-scale religious ceremony? (Deut. 27:1-8)
11. Why was it so important for *this* group of Israelites to hear the law? (Deut. 31:11-13)
12. Joshua was not the first of God's people to build an altar at Shechem, the city between Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal. Abram (Abraham) built one there after the LORD appeared to him and said, "To your offspring I will give this land" (Gen. 12:6, 7). How does this history lend additional significance to this ceremony?

Read Joshua 8:30–35.

13. This passage is emphatic that all the Israelites and all the aliens (foreigners) living among them participate in the renewal of the covenant. Why are they included? (Lev. 19:33-34)

As Christians, in what way can we identify with those aliens? (Eph. 1:18-19)

14. The Israelites have now constructed several memorials in the promised land. What are future generations of Israelites meant to remember when they see the monuments described in chapter 8?
15. What are some "monuments"—big or small—from the past that help you remember what God has done in your own life? Why are they important to you?