## Part #6 THE ENEMY WITHIN

Scripture Song: Be strong and of good courage – Deut. 31:6

**Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series of studies on Lessons of Faith from Joshua. Today's topic: THE ENEMY WITHIN.**

### 1) Defeat at Ai

a. The children of Israel had just experienced a miraculous victory over the fortified city of Jericho. What were the two major reasons for their defeat when attacking the small city of Ai? Joshua 7:1-5
b. What are your thoughts about the reaction of Joshua when he heard of the defeat at Ai? Joshua 7:6-9
c. What was the response of the LORD as Joshua lay face down before Him? Why? Joshua 7:10
d. Joshua 7:11 Why was the whole nation condemned for the sin of one man? (see Joshua 7:1)
d. What other examples can we find in the Bible of communities that were impacted because of the sin of one person?

### 2) Sin exposed

a. What directions did the LORD give to Joshua and what was the result? Joshua 7:13-19
b. How was it possible for one man to be identified from a multitude? 1 Samuel 16:7, Luke 12:1-3, etc.
c. Joshua 7:20-21 What are your thoughts about Achan's admission of guilt? Why didn't he confess his sin before he was identified by the LORD?
d. Why was his punishment so severe? Joshua 7:24-26 (see Joshua 7:5)
e. What is the difference between admission of guilt and genuine repentance?
f. Name other Bible characters who admitted their guilt but demonstrated no genuine repentance. (Cain, Judas, etc.)
g. We have all sinned (Romans 3:23). How can we experience genuine repentance, forgiveness, and cleansing? Romans 2:4, 1 John 1:9, etc.

### 3) The hope of a new beginning

a. Joshua 8:1a What is the significance of the first words the LORD spoke to Joshua after the judgment of Achan? (see also Joshua 1:6-7)
b. What lesson do you think Joshua learned through this experience?
c. What instructions and assurance did the LORD give to Joshua regarding the conquest of Ai? Joshua 8:1-2
d. How did Joshua respond to the instructions of the LORD? Joshua 8:3-8, 9-19
e. What major difference do you see between the first attempt to conquer Ai and the second attempt?
f. Why is obedience so important if we are to experience victory in our lives? Psalm 32:8
g. Share a time when you experienced a significant victory in your life when you obeyed the instructions of the LORD.