| A discouraging turn of events unfolded as Israel experienced <u>defeat</u> at Ai. |
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| In response to this defeat Joshua <u>cried</u> out to the LORD. |
| Sin had led to Israel's defeat and God <u>exposed</u> the sin and called upon the nation to remove it. |
| Questions for Discussion & Application |

- 1. What questions do you have about today's passage and message?
- 2. God went from tearing down the walls of Jericho to allowing His people to be easily defeated at Ai. What commitment does this demonstrate in the heart of God?
- 3. Is God still concerned about the holiness and obedience of His people (see Acts 5:1-11)?
- 4. What discouraging defeats might a church experience if there is unrepentant sin within the community?
- 5. How does God instruct His church to deal with unrepentant sin today (see Matthew 18:15-20)?
- 6. What can we learn from Joshua's prayer to the Lord in verses 6-9?
- 7. This story demonstrates that we cannot hide our sin from God and that our own sin always brings trouble upon more than just ourselves. How have you seen these lessons to be true?