

Joshua 8

FIRST DAY: Introduction

Did you ever realize that God has specific ways in which He wants to direct you? Proverbs 3:6 states, *In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.* Too often we get ahead of God because we think we know what to do and how to do it. In times like this, instead of asking for God's plans, we are only seeking God's approval and blessing on **our** plans. Throughout the Bible, the necessity of seeking and obeying God's directives is clearly seen. God alone knows the best way to victory! He not only wants to direct us into victory, but teach us valuable lessons in the process.

Israel lost their first battle against the city of Ai because they didn't seek the Lord. Before victory could be achieved, Israel needed to deal with the sin in their ranks and seek God's specific battle plans.

Is there an area in your life where you have suffered defeat? Seek God for His specific directives for victory.

Ask the Lord to reveal His victorious plan to you.

SECOND DAY: Read Joshua 8:1–8

1. After Israel suffered defeat at Ai, what did God declare to Joshua? Joshua 8:1a

a. Link this with Joshua 1:9. Why do you think he needed to be reminded of this?

(1) Share a time you needed this reminder.

2. Use Joshua 8:1b–2 to answer the following questions:

a. What did God command Joshua to do? (verse 1b)

b. What had God *given* to Israel? (verse 1c)

(1) Considering their previous defeat, why was knowing this important?

c. What did God require Joshua to do? (verse 2a)

d. What could the Israelites *take*? (verse 2b)

(1) Contrast this with Achan's decision to *take* the spoils for himself (Joshua 7:21). What do you see?

3. In Joshua 8:3–8 Joshua gave God's battle plan to the people. Use these verses to describe and comment on:

a. The *ambush* (verses 3–4)

(1) What was Joshua's specific command to the army?
(verse 4b)

(a) Why do you think this was an important imperative?

b. The *people* with Joshua (verses 5–6)

c. The seizing of the city (verse 7)

(1) What assurance of victory did God give with His directives?

d. The *commandment of the LORD* (verse 8)

4. Use the following Scriptures to state why God's plans are best:

a. Psalm 18:30

b. Psalm 37:23–24

c. Proverbs 19:21

5. Contrast God's battle plan for Ai with His plan for Jericho (Joshua 6:2–5). What can you draw from this concerning God's plans?

a. How does this minister to you concerning God's plans for your life?

THIRD DAY: Read Joshua 8:9–23

1. In Joshua 8:9–13, Joshua put God’s battle plan into action. Briefly summarize how he did this.

a. Note that *Joshua lodged that night among the people*. Why do you think he did this?

2. Joshua 8:14–23 records the defeat of Ai. Use these verses to describe:

a. How the Israelites lured out the *king of Ai* (verses 14–17)

b. How the battle turned (verse 18)

(1) Remark on Joshua’s obedience in the heat of the battle.

c. How Israel responded (verse 19)

d. How Ai was defeated (verses 20–23)

(1) What stands out to you from this battle?

3. Observe how necessary God’s directives were for victory.

4. Contrast Israel’s victory over Ai with their defeat in Joshua 7:1–5. What lesson can you draw from this for your own life?

FOURTH DAY: Read Joshua 8:24–31

1. Israel routed the enemy in the battle against Ai. Briefly summarize their activity from Joshua 8:

a. Verses 24–25

b. Verse 26

(1) Compare this with Exodus 17:10–13. What do you see?

c. Verse 27

d. Verse 28

e. Verse 29

(1) Share a lesson you receive from this battle.

(2) Ai means *ruin*. How would this ruined and burned city stand as a memorial to God's faithfulness?

2. According to Joshua 8:30, *Joshua built an altar to the LORD God of Israel in Mount Ebal. Describe and comment on how he built this. Joshua 8:31*

JOSHUA

a. Why do you think God's instructions were so specific?

b. Link this with Moses' directives to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 27:4–7. What do you see?

(1) Why do you think this *altar* was necessary?

c. What did they offer on this *altar*? Joshua 8:31c

3. Take a moment to commemorate and share a victory God has given you.

FIFTH DAY: Read Joshua 8:32–35

1. After Israel offered sacrifices to the Lord, what did Joshua do? Joshua 8:32

a. Link this with Deuteronomy 27:2–3, 8. What do you see?

b. In ancient times, kings would often celebrate their greatness and exploits by writing them on plaster-covered stones such as these. With this in mind, why is it noteworthy that Joshua wrote a copy of the law of Moses on these stones?

c. Use Exodus 20:3–17 to briefly record the Ten Commandments Joshua would have written:

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

(6)

(7)

(8)

(9)

(10)

2. Use Joshua 8:33 to answer the following:
 - a. Who was present at this time? (verse 33a)
 - b. Where did they stand? (verse 33b)
 - c. Why did they do this? (verse 33c)

3. What did Joshua *read* to the people? Joshua 8:34
 - a. Joshua would have read the *blessings* and *cursings* found in Deuteronomy 27:14–28:68. What effect do you think this was meant to have on the Israelites?

4. Joshua was thorough in that *there was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read* (Joshua 8:35). Note the assembly to whom these words were read (Joshua 8:35b). Why do you think all of this assembly was included?

a. What does this convey to you about:

(1) Joshua

(2) God's covenant

5. Comment on why this was a significant event for Israel as they began to possess the Promised Land.

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. From your study this week in Joshua 8, write one sentence about:

a. God's plans

b. God's faithfulness

c. God's leader

d. God's people

e. God's victory

f. God's law

g. God's covenant

2. Share something you received from your lesson about possessing the promises.