



Owners Of the Promise
Pastor Jon Laurenzo 01.11.2026

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Joshua 3:5] ESV

Then Joshua said to the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.”

[Joshua 7:1]

But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the devoted things, for Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things. And the anger of the LORD burned against the people of Israel.

[Joshua 7:4-5]

So about three thousand men went up there from the people. And they fled before the men of Ai, and the men of Ai killed about thirty-six of their men and chased them before the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them at the descent. And the hearts of the people melted and became as water.

Consecration on the OUTSIDE, is always easier than true change on the INSIDE

[Joshua 7:7-9]

And Joshua said, “Alas, O Lord GOD, why have you brought this people over the Jordan at all, to give us into the hands of the Amorites, to destroy us? Would that we had been content to dwell beyond the Jordan! O Lord, what can I say, when Israel has turned their backs before their enemies! For the

Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it and will surround us and cut off our name from the earth. And what will you do for your great name?"

MAIN IDEA:

Repentance and holiness, allow me to live in the POWER and the PROMISE of Jesus.

[Joshua 7:10-12]

The LORD said to Joshua, "Get up! Why have you fallen on your face? Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen and lied and put them among their own belongings. Therefore, the people of Israel cannot stand before their enemies. They turn their backs before their enemies, because they have become devoted for destruction I will be with you no more, unless you destroy the devoted things from among you.

[Joshua 7:13]

Get up! Consecrate the people and say, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow; for thus says the LORD, God of Israel, "There are devoted things in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the devoted things from among you."

How do we consecrate the inside of our lives?

[Hebrews 12:1-2]

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Step 1: Take an honest account for what is HAPPENING, and what it is COSTING you.

[Joshua 7:14-18]

In the morning therefore you shall be brought near by your tribes. And the tribe that the LORD takes by lot shall come near by clans. And the clan that the LORD takes shall come near by households. And the household that the LORD takes shall come near man by man. And he who is taken with the devoted things shall be burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he has done an outrageous thing in Israel.'" So Joshua rose early in the morning and brought Israel near tribe by tribe, and the tribe of Judah was taken. And he brought near the clans of Judah, and the clan of the Zerahites was taken. And he brought near the clan of the Zerahites man by man, and Zabdi was taken. And he brought near his household man by man, and Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken.

[Joshua 7:22-25]

So, Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and behold, it was hidden in his tent with the silver underneath. And they took them out of the tent and brought them to Joshua and to all the people of Israel. And they laid them down before the LORD. And Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver and the cloak and the bar of gold, and his sons and daughters and his oxen and donkeys and sheep and his tent and all that he had. And they brought them up to the Valley of Achor. And Joshua said, "Why did you bring trouble on us? The LORD brings trouble on you today." And all Israel stoned him with stones. They burned them with fire and stoned them with stones.

Step 2: Make war on sin

Step 3: Decide today you will *LIVE*, and not just *VISIT*, the promise land of God for your life.

[Deuteronomy 34:1-4]

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, the Negeb, and the Plain, that is, the Valley of Jericho the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. And the LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, 'I will give it to your offspring.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there."

How do we consecrate the inside of our lives?

Key Points:

- 1. Take an honest account for what is *HAPPENING*, and what it is *COSTING* you.**
- 2. Make war on sin.**
- 3. Decide today you will *LIVE* and not just *VISIT* the promise land of God for your life.**

Applications for the Week:

Consecration on the outside is often easier than the real work on the inside. Are there areas of your life where you are maintaining a "good" appearance while avoiding the difficult work of internal change? What would it look like for you to make time this week to seek support on working on those internal things? Who is someone you could connect with and ask for help?

Discussion Questions:

1. In Joshua 7:1, what specific action did the people of Israel take regarding the "devoted things", and what was the immediate spiritual result?
2. When Joshua is mourning before the Lord, what does he say he wishes the people had been content to do instead of crossing the Jordan?
3. According to Hebrews 12:1-2, what two things are believers instructed to "lay aside" to run the race of faith?
4. The "devoted things" were items that had the potential to turn the nation's heart against their covenant with God. Why might small, hidden treasures or "spoils" have the power to destroy a person's ability to stand against their enemies?
5. Jesus described the religious leaders of his day as "whitewashed tombs" that look good on the outside but contain death on the inside. What is the danger of focusing on church attendance or public perception while ignoring the "secret chambers" of the heart?

6. Taking an honest account of our lives requires looking at what our secret sins are costing us. If you were to look at the "ledger" of your life, what is your current compromise stealing from your relationships, your peace, or your purpose?
7. Repentance and holiness are the pathways to living in the power of Jesus. What is one "devoted thing" you need to lay at the feet of Jesus today so that you can "get up" and take new ground?