



**Week of August 1, 2021**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. We all lean towards being an excuser, an enabler, or a pray-er, instead of taking responsibility. Which of these is your default? Why do you think that is?
2. Paul said, “Eventually, your irresponsibility becomes someone else’s responsibility.” What emotions do you feel when you read this statement (Anger, sadness, regret, pride, \_\_\_\_\_)? What does that emotion tell you?
3. Read Joshua 7:6-10. Why do Joshua’s actions seem to be the right thing to do? Why do you think God responded the way that He did?
4. Is there anyone in your inner circle who tends to be irresponsible? What boundaries can you put in place to limit the effects of their actions on you? What conversations of truth do you need to initiate?
5. What area of your life comes to mind when you hear this question “Are you expecting God to fix your irresponsibility?” What is the difference between God fixing and God forgiving?
6. What area of your life do you realize you need to take action and step up your responsibility? What action will you take this week to begin?

## **Moving Forward**

Don't ignore or excuse irresponsibility, because every day of irresponsibility that goes by creates a heavier weight someone else will have to carry. Every step of irresponsibility we take makes the journey back longer. Eventually, your irresponsibility becomes someone else's responsibility. So let's be responsible in every area of life no matter how small or big it may seem.

## **Joshua 7:2-13**

Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and said to them, "Go up and spy out the land." So the men went up and spied out Ai. <sup>3</sup>They returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not let all the people go up; only about two or three thousand men need go up to Ai; do not make all the people toil up there, for they are few." <sup>4</sup>So about three thousand men from the people went up there, but they fled from the men of Ai. <sup>5</sup>The men of Ai struck down about thirty-six of their men, and pursued them from the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them down on the descent, so the hearts of the people melted and became as water.

<sup>6</sup>Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until the evening, both he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads. <sup>7</sup>Joshua said, "Alas, O Lord GOD, why did You ever bring this people over the Jordan, only to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? If only we had been willing to dwell beyond the Jordan! <sup>8</sup>"O Lord, what can I say since Israel has turned their back before their enemies? <sup>9</sup>"For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it, and they will surround us and cut off our name from the earth. And what will You do for Your great name?"

<sup>10</sup>So the LORD said to Joshua, "Rise up! Why is it that you have fallen on your face? <sup>11</sup>"Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. And they have even taken some of the things under the ban and have both stolen and deceived. Moreover, they have also put them among their own things. <sup>12</sup>"Therefore the sons of Israel cannot stand before their enemies; they turn their backs before their enemies, for they have become accursed. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy the things under the ban from your midst. <sup>13</sup>"Rise up! Consecrate the people and say, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, for thus the LORD, the God of Israel, has said, "There are things under the ban in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you have removed the things under the ban from your midst."