

Bright and Shiny Things — Small Group Guide

Joshua 6–7 · Matthew 4

Distraction rarely comes as one big crisis — it comes through a thousand small "bright and shiny things" that quietly pull our gaze off God. But the real problem was never that we want *too much*. It's that we spend a kingdom-sized hunger on things too small to satisfy. Jesus shows us how to stay *full*, and how to keep our eyes on what is unseen and eternal.

Open

- What's a "bright and shiny thing" that grabbed your attention this week — a product, a , an idea, a worry you couldn't put down?
- Looking back, did it deliver what it promised, or had you already moved on to the next one?

Achan — read *Joshua 6:18–19* and *7:20–21*

Standing in the rubble of a miracle victory, Achan's eyes stop on a beautiful robe, silver, and gold.

- God's warning to keep away was framed as *protection*, not stinginess. How does it change things to hear a warning as a Father protecting us rather than restricting us?
- Achan's confession runs in order: *I saw. I wanted. I took. I hid*. Where does that same sequence start in your own life — and which step is easiest to catch early?
- He had a kingdom-sized inheritance in one hand and buried a coat with the other. Why do we so easily lose the big thing for something small and glittering?

Jesus — read *Matthew 4:1–10*

Same tempter, another wilderness — but Jesus is hungry and empty.

- The temptations came when he was empty, not on the day heaven affirmed him. Where do the shiny things tend to show up for you — in seasons of need, doubt, or striving?
- Every offer was *this world, for right now* — bread now, a spectacle now, kingdoms now. The enemy can never offer the age to come, because the kingdom can only be *received* as a gift, never grabbed. How does that reframe what he's actually offering us?
- Read *2 Corinthians 4:18* — "we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen." Practically, what helps you do that when the seen is loud and right in front of you?

Conclusion

- The surprise of the message: Achan's problem wasn't wanting *too much* — his wanting was *misplaced and too small*. He swapped a whole inheritance for a coat. How does that land differently than "just want less"?
- Every shiny thing is a knock-off — a rumor of the real thing. What were you *really* longing for underneath a recent want?

This Week — read *Luke 4:1*

Jesus walked into the wilderness *full* of the Spirit — not on willpower.

- Where do you feel empty right now — and what would it look like to reach out to be filled rather than reaching for a shortcut?
- Name one small, practical step this week to lift your eyes back to God (a set time in the Word, a limit on the scroll, gratitude before you reach for the next thing). Share it so the group can check in.

Pray

Pray for one another — especially anyone who named an empty place. Ask the Father to feed us with his Word, remind us we are his loved children with nothing to prove, lift our eyes off the shiny things, and fill us with his Spirit.

*As you go: you're not fighting **for** victory this week — you're living **from** it. Full, loved, and free.*