

## THE TROUBLER

Joshua 7: 1-26

But...the children of Israel committed sin against the Lord when they defeated the city of Jericho for one of them took of the cursed things of the city for himself. Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing and brought the anger of the Lord against the children of Israel. Now Achan did this thing in secret, so that none of the people, except his family knew what he had done.

Joshua, not being aware of any problem, sent men from the camp to spy out the city of Ai. He said, "Go up and view the country."

When the men returned to Joshua, they said to him, "Don't send all our people up, but only about two or three thousand. The city is small and we can easily conquer it."

Joshua followed the advice of his men and sent only three thousand Israelites to fight the city of Ai. But Joshua had not asked the Lord's counsel, so he did not know that the Lord was not with them. He did not know that the Lord was angry with Israel because of what Achan had done.

The three thousand Israelites confidently marched off to fight Ai, but to their horror, they suffered a terrible and humiliating defeat instead of a grand victory. They were driven off by the inhabitants of Ai, and chased back to their camp, in the process thirty six men of Israel were killed.

Shocked by the news of the terrible defeat, Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth in front of the ark of the Lord until the evening. He and the elders of Israel put dust on their heads, for they were in mourning. Joshua cried, "Alas, O Lord God, why have you brought all these people over the Jordan River to let them be destroyed by the Amorites? We should have been content to live on the other side of the Jordan. O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel runs away from her enemies? For the Canaanites and all the people of the land shall hear about this, and they will surround us, and destroy us. Then the Lord's great name will be disgraced."

The Lord answered Joshua, "Get up! Why are you lying on your face? Israel has sinned, and broken my covenant which I commanded them. For they have taken of the accursed thing. They have stolen from me, and have hidden it among their stuff. Get up and sanctify the people. Tell them, 'Get ready, for there is a cursed thing among you, and you can not stand against your enemies until you take that cursed thing away from you. In the morning you will be brought according to your tribes, then families, then households, and the Lord will show which is the one who took of the cursed thing. The one that is taken with the cursed thing will be burnt with fire, he and all that he has, because he has brought trouble to Israel.'"

Joshua got up early the next morning and brought Israel before the Lord by their tribes. The Lord picked the tribe of Judah. After that the Lord picked the family of the Zarhites. Man by man the Zarhites came and the Lord picked Zabdi. Then household by household they came and the Lord picked Achan, the son of Zabdi.

Joshua said to Achan, "Give glory to the Lord God of Israel, and confess what you have done."

Achan answered, "Indeed, I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel. This is what I have done. When I saw among the spoils of Jericho a beautiful Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold, then I coveted them and took them. Right now they are hidden in the earth in the middle of my tent."

Then Joshua sent messengers to go and search Achan's tent. Sure enough, the things were hidden there. They took them out of the tent and brought them to Joshua. Then all the children of Israel laid them before the Lord.

Joshua and all of Israel took Achan the son of Zabdi, the silver, the gold, the garment, his sons, and his daughters, his oxen and asses, his sheep and his tent, and brought them to the valley of Achor.

Joshua said to Achan, "Why have you brought trouble to us? The Lord shall trouble you this day." Then they stoned Achan and all that was his, and burned it with fire. For he had stolen what belonged to the Lord and had brought death and trouble to Israel.

The people raised a great heap of stones over the place and the Lord's anger was turned away from Israel. That place is called the valley of Achor to this day.

Sometimes it is hard for us to see how a little bit of coveting can harm anyone, but in the case of Achan, it is very plain. Achan's selfish desire led to the death of thirty-six innocent soldiers and a great defeat for Israel. It also caused Achan and his family lasting disgrace as well as their deaths.

The Lord has commanded us not to covet, that is to desire what does not belong to us. The opposite of coveting is contentment. Are you content with the things that God has given you and thankful?

The lesson of Achan is a good reminder to all of us to be content and not want what belongs to someone else. Coveting may not always result in stealing, but it will surely lead to bitterness and jealousy, which are enemies to our souls, and bring much unhappiness and misery.

Learn: Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Hebrews 13:5

Color this tent. Cut it out. Cut also along dotted tent-staps. So you can fold them back. Paste your garment, gold or silver inside black hole that opens & closes.

8. You can open tent door & look inside black hole to tell story.

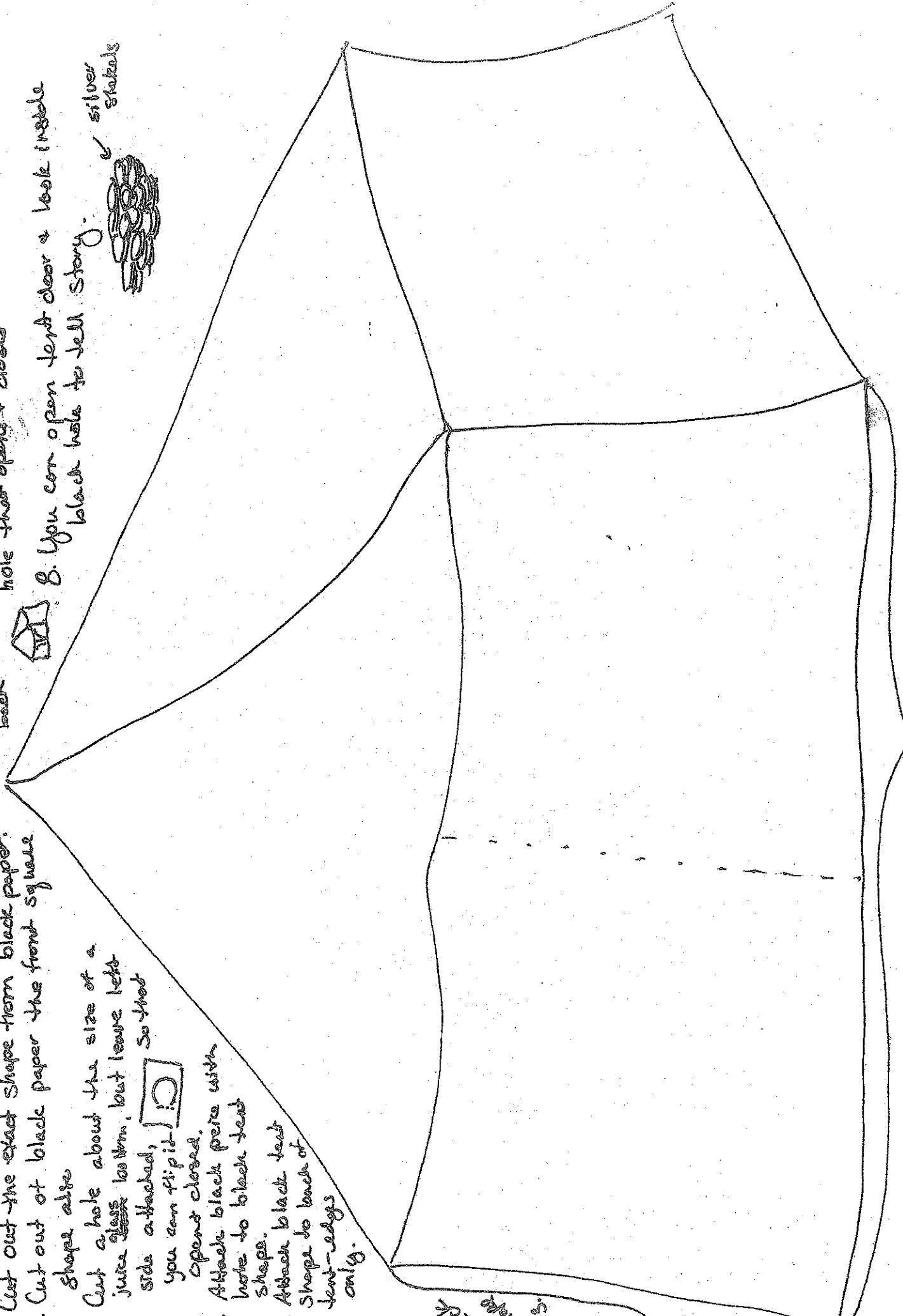


1. Cut a hole about the size of a juice glass bottom, but leave left side attached, so that you can flip it open & closed.



5. Attach black piece with note to black tent shape.

6. Attach black tent shape to back of tent-edges only.



black shape #3.

