Here's an outline for a Bible study on **Joshua 7:16–26**, which covers the **judgment of Achan** after Israel's defeat at Ai. This outline includes key sections, commentary, discussion points, and application ideas, making it suitable for teaching or group study.

## 📝 Bible Study Outline: “The Sin of Achan”

**Text: Joshua 7:16–26**

### ****I. Setting the Scene (vv. 16–18): The Search Begins****

* **Summary**: Joshua rises early and brings Israel tribe by tribe before the Lord to identify the transgressor.
* **Commentary**:
  + This method reflects God's sovereignty and thoroughness—He narrows it from tribes to families to individuals.
  + The process is slow and public, emphasizing the seriousness of sin in the community.
* **Discussion**:
  + Why do you think God led Joshua through such a public and drawn-out process?
  + What does this teach us about accountability in the body of believers?

### ****II. Exposure of Achan’s Sin (vv. 19–21): Confession****

* **Summary**: Joshua calls Achan to confess, and Achan admits to coveting and taking forbidden items from Jericho.
* **Commentary**:
  + Joshua addresses Achan as “my son,” showing both authority and pastoral care even in judgment.
  + Achan’s confession outlines a pattern: I saw… I coveted… I took… I hid—mirroring the pattern of sin from Eden.
  + The items (Babylonian garment, silver, and gold) represent greed, materialism, and disobedience.
* **Discussion**:
  + What parallels do you see between Achan’s sin and the fall in Genesis 3?
  + How can confession bring healing even when consequences remain?

### ****III. Judgment Executed (vv. 22–26): Achan’s Punishment****

* **Summary**: The stolen items are recovered from Achan’s tent. He, his family, and belongings are taken to the Valley of Achor and stoned/burned.
* **Commentary**:
  + This severe judgment may be hard to read, but it shows how sin affects more than just the individual.
  + Achan’s family may have been complicit in hiding the items (implied by the joint punishment).
  + The “Valley of Achor” (meaning “trouble”) becomes a lasting reminder, but later a symbol of hope (cf. Hosea 2:15).
* **Discussion**:
  + Why do you think such harsh judgment was necessary at this moment in Israel’s journey?
  + How do we reconcile God’s justice and mercy in stories like this?

### ****IV. Applications and Reflection****

* **1. The Seriousness of Hidden Sin**
  + Personal sin can bring consequences to the entire community (cf. 1 Cor. 5:6).
  + God sees what is hidden; nothing is truly secret.
* **2. The Pattern of Sin**
  + Achan’s confession teaches how temptation grows: seeing → desiring → acting → covering.
* **3. The Need for Accountability**
  + Israel’s corporate responsibility reminds us that holiness matters for the whole church.
  + Healthy confrontation and discipline are sometimes necessary (Matt. 18:15–17).
* **4. God’s Justice Leads to Renewal**
  + After judgment, Israel is restored.
  + God removes trouble to make way for future blessing (cf. Hosea 2:15 – “Valley of Achor as a door of hope”).

### ****🖊 Journaling & Discussion Prompts****

* When have you seen secret sin affect a wider group (family, church, etc.)?
* Are there things you’ve “hidden in your tent” that God is calling you to bring into the light?
* How do you handle confession and repentance in your walk with God?
* What does this passage teach us about how seriously God views holiness?

### ****Optional Group Activity****

**Title**: “What’s Hidden?”

* Create small index cards where people write things (anonymously) they struggle to surrender.
* Place them in a “tent” (box or cloth), and symbolically pray over them, asking God to uncover, forgive, and heal.

Would you like this formatted into a printable handout or study guide?