LESSON 6

THE JUDGMENT OF ACHAN



Aim: **To show the children that nothing is hidden from God's eyes and that our righteous and holy God cannot ignore sin.**

Scripture Reading: **Joshua 7:1, 15–26; 8:12**

Memory Verse: **John 3:17**
"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Ask the class what would happen if you put your hand into a pot of boiling porridge. They will tell you that your hand would be badly burnt. Mothers warn small children not to put their hands into the porridge, but a child may want it so badly that he will not listen. When he disobeys his mother's instruction, he burns his hand.

MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Achan was an Israelite soldier who fought in the battle of Jericho. **Describe how he, too, walked around the city behind the ark of the covenant and saw the walls fall down. Show Picture 4.** When Jericho was conquered, Achan went into the city with the other soldiers.
2. Achan knew what God had instructed Israel to do with everything that was in the city: it was to be given up to the Lord. Therefore, they had to save the gold, silver, bronze and iron to be used in the Lord's service, but everything else they had to destroy (6:17, 24). They were not allowed to take anything for themselves.
3. But Achan saw some beautiful things in Jericho – some gold and silver and expensive cloth. He wanted it very badly. He looked around to make sure that no one was watching and hid it under his clothes. Back home, he buried it in the ground inside his tent. No human being had seen him, but God knew Achan had disobeyed his instructions (7:1, 20–21).
4. God allowed the Israelites to be defeated at Ai. **Show Picture 5.** God told Joshua that he had to find out who had been disobedient (7:12–13).
5. Early the next morning all twelve tribes of Israel had to walk past Joshua. God showed Joshua that the disobedient person belonged to the tribe of Judah. Each clan of that tribe now had to walk past Joshua. Hereafter each family in that clan had to do so. Finally, each member of that family had to walk past him. Achan was picked out (7:16–18).

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6. Joshua told Achan to confess his disobedience. Achan did, and the stolen things were found in his tent. Achan had never enjoyed them, because he had to keep them hidden (7:19-22). **Show Picture 6.**
   Joshua, in yellow, is pointing to Achan, who is kneeling. The man standing behind Joshua is a priest.
7. Achan paid with his life for following his own desires instead of following God's instructions. He deliberately did what God had told them not to do. He had so little respect for the Lord that he stole that which belonged to God alone (7:24-26).

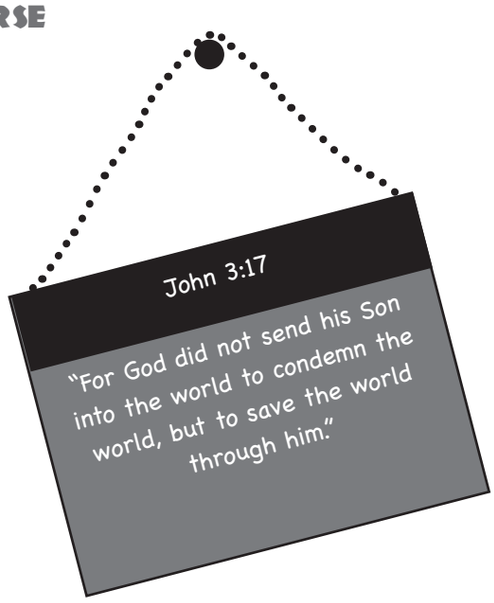
Our Response to the Story

Disobedience to God is a sin, because it means we think we know better than God. Sin cannot be hidden like buried stolen goods. God cannot ignore sin as he is holy. Therefore, sin has consequences. **Remember the story I told you in the beginning about the child who burnt his hand?** It shows us what a consequence is. If you touch fire or something hot, you will burn yourself. In the same way, Achan suffered the consequences of his sin.

We all are sinners who deserve to be punished. However, Jesus Christ came to take the punishment for our sins and so save us from sin and death. Let us praise the Lord for his love and mercy!

Instil the Memory Verse

Close the session by repeating the memory verse, John 3:17.



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