



# May 14

## Achan Sinned

### Kinder-2nd

**Big Picture Question:** How does God feel about sin?  
God hates sin and punishes sin.

**Bible Passage:** Joshua 7

**Christ Connection:** Joshua was a representation of Christ, leading the Israelites to victory in overcoming Canaan as Jesus leads us to victory in overcoming the world.

## TEACHER BIBLE STUDY

When the Israelites conquered Jericho, God told them not to take anything. Everything in the city was to be destroyed and set apart for God. Achan must have assumed no one would notice if he kept a few things for himself. The cloak was beautiful, and he sure could use some pieces of silver and a bar of gold. No harm, no foul. Right?

Wrong. God had commanded complete obedience from the Israelites. God knew what Achan had done, and His anger burned against all of the Israelites.

Joshua sent spies into the land of Ai. There were only a few people in Ai. Joshua sent a few thousand men to fight, but during the battle, the Israelites ran away in fear. About 36 of them were killed. Joshua knew something was wrong. He suspected God had lied to the Israelites about protecting them against their enemies. He cried out to God, "Why did you bring us across the Jordan to die at the hand of the Amorites?" (Josh. 7:7).

Joshua had it all wrong. God explained that the Israelites had sinned against Him—that was why they had not won the battle.

The next morning, God revealed that it was Achan who had sinned. Joshua brought Achan forward to confess his sin. Achan's possessions were destroyed, and Achan and his family were stoned to death. The Israelites covered their bodies with a large pile of stones as a reminder of the consequences of sin.

God hates sin. (See Prov. 6:16-19.) God deals with sin by punishing it. We are all sinners. Here's the bad news: "For the wages of sin is death," but here's the good news: "but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). We all deserve to die for our sin, but Jesus came to bear the consequences for us by dying on the cross in our place.

# THE BIBLE STORY

## *Achan Sinned* *Joshua 7*

When the people of Israel attacked Jericho, God gave them one rule: Destroy everything. Keep nothing for yourselves. But one man, Achan (AY kuhn), disobeyed God. God was angry with the Israelites because of Achan's disobedience.

Joshua sent men from Jericho to a city called Ai (AY igh) to spy out the land. The men went and spied out Ai. They came back and said, "Do not send all of the men to attack Ai. There are not very many people there; you only need to send two or three thousand." So about 3,000 men went to Ai. They ran away from the men of Ai, and about 36 of them were killed. The men were very afraid.

Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the ground before the ark of the Lord. The elders did the same thing, and they all put dust on their heads. Joshua asked God, "Why did you bring us across the Jordan River just to have us killed by these people? We should have been content to stay out of the promised land! When the other people living in this land hear that we ran scared from the men of Ai, they will surround us and attack us!"

The Lord said to Joshua, "Stand up! Israel has sinned and disobeyed My covenant. They have taken some of the things I told them not to. This is why they cannot defeat their enemies. I will no longer be with you until you remove from you the things I told you to destroy."

God continued, "Go and tell the people to make themselves clean. In the morning, they should present themselves by tribe. When I pick out a tribe, that tribe should present itself clan by clan. I will select one clan; that clan is to come forward family by family. I will select one family, and that family should come forward man by man. You should punish the man who is caught with the forbidden things. Destroy him and everything he has because he has disobeyed God."

Joshua got up early the next morning. Israel came forward tribe by tribe, clan by clan, family by family, and man by man. Achan was chosen from all the people. He was the one who had taken the forbidden things.

"Confess to the Lord. Tell me what you have done," Joshua said to Achan. "Don't hide anything from me."

Achan replied, "It's true. I have sinned against God. When we overtook Jericho, I saw a beautiful cloak, some pieces of silver, and a bar of gold. I wanted them very badly, so I took them. They are buried in the ground in my tent."

Joshua sent messengers to Achan's tent to collect the things. They laid them before Joshua. "Why have you caused trouble for us?" Joshua asked.

"Today God will trouble you!" The people of Israel killed Achan and his family. They covered their bodies with a big pile of rocks. God was no longer angry with Israel.

**Christ Connection:** The punishment for Achan's sin was death. It seems harsh, but the Bible says that the wages of sin is death. (Romans 6:23) Because we sin, we deserve to die too. Jesus came to die in our place. When we confess our sins and trust in Jesus, we are forgiven and saved from spiritual death.

## **BIBLE STORY REVIEW [about 15 min]**

Encourage the kids to find Joshua 7 in their Bibles. Help them as needed.

**Ask:** In which division of the Old Testament is the Book of Joshua found? (*History*)

Which books of the Bible come before and after Joshua? (*Deuteronomy, Judges*)

What stories have we talked about from Joshua in the last few weeks? (*The Israelites Crossed the Jordan River, The Conquest of Jericho, and Achan Sinned*)

Use the timeline to show kids today's Bible story. Review the Bible story provided or summarize the story with the following dialogue. Invite two guests to play the parts or use your leaders. Ask them to stand across the room from one another and take turns telling their story.

**Joshua:** God had just given us a great victory. He fought for us and we were able to defeat Jericho. Not one Israelite was lost in battle. Then we went to Ai. They were so small. I figured just a few soldiers would take care of them.

**Achan:** We had just defeated Jericho. God told us to destroy the whole city except for gold, silver, bronze, and iron. We were to give that to God. I saw this wonderful cloak, some silver, and some gold. It was such a small amount compared to what was there. No one would know if I took it. Right?

**Joshua:** I don't know what went wrong. We lost the battle. Our soldiers turned and ran. What if all the other people in the land hear and come after us, too? I asked God why this had happened.

**Achan:** I took the cloak, silver, and gold. I knew I was doing wrong. I hid the items in the ground inside my tent.

**Joshua:** God said someone had sinned. Someone took some of the things from Jericho. God even told me how to find out who it was.

**Achan:** I could feel the sweat forming on my forehead when Joshua announced someone had taken something from Jericho. Surely, they would not know it was me.

**Joshua:** I did just as God told me, and finally God pointed out one single man.

**Achan:** I had no choice but to admit I did it. Why didn't I just obey? Surely, these items are not worth sinning against God. But it was too late.

**Joshua:** We had to punish Achan and his family. **God hates sin and punishes sin.**

**Say:** "God knew people would sin, but He loves people. That's why He sent Jesus. Like Achan, Jesus died. However, Jesus was not guilty of anything. Jesus died the death we deserve. He took our guilt and paid for our sin."

Show the big picture question.

**Say:** "Our big picture question reminds us why sin is so serious. **How does God feel about sin? God hates sin and punishes sin.**"

## **PRAYER STATION [about 15 min]**

We really desire for kids to learn to pray, so we have created activities to go along with different aspects of prayer. Choose a Prayer Station box and walk through the activity with the kids. Each will have a set of instructions or “Teacher Card” for you to talk with the kids about as you do the prayer activity and pray with your group of kids. If you find it helpful, you can always split your group up between both volunteers to provide a smaller group for a more meaningful prayer time.

*Remember, kids are learning to pray by your example. The importance and energy you put into prayer will be directly reflected in your class!*

## **KEY PASSAGE/ BIBLE MEMORY TIME [about 10 min]**

It is our desire for the kids to begin to hide God’s Word in their hearts, so we would like the kids to work on memorizing the Key Passage for the Unit, other verses in the Bible and the Books of the Bible. Tickets will be rewarded for memorization, as well as bringing Bibles to church. Tickets will be used in a drawing at the end of each Unit.

### **Choose any of the following activities to start the fun! (Award tickets as you see fit!)**

- Have kids work on the key passage in fun ways (say it loud, soft, jumping up and down, with motions, etc. Any way to make it come alive!)
- Have kids look through the Key Passage Notebook to review and state for memory past key passages.
- Have kids look up Key Passages and highlight them in their Bibles.
- Play Bible Drill Games. Call out a book of the Bible and the first to locate it wins!
- Allow kids to put the books of the Bible in order. (Game materials provided)
- Challenge kids to memorize new verses and retell them to you from memory!

*Be creative and get the kids into God’s Word!*

## **SINK IN ACTIVITY [about 10-15 min each] (Choose one or both!)**

### **Activity #1: Eliminate**

Invite all the kids to stand. Explain that you will give them a statement. If it is true for them, they must sit down. The last one still standing is the winner. For example, “Sit down if you have green eyes” or “Sit down if you didn’t eat breakfast today.” Continue making statements until one or only a few kids are left standing. Play again if time remains.

**Say:** “God eliminated all the Israelites until only Achan was standing as the guilty one. Sin separates us from God. *How does God feel about sin? God hates sin and punishes sin.*”

## Activity #2: Stick House

Provide each kid with six craft sticks. Demonstrate how to glue the ends of four sticks to make a square. Form a triangle on top of the square using the other two. When finished, you have an outline of a house. Invite the kids to trace the outline on a piece of paper. Encourage the kids to cut out the outline and glue it on the back of the stick house. Non-writers may draw a way they can obey God on the inside of the house. Writers may write *Joshua 24:15*.

**Say:** “Joshua chose for his house to serve and follow God. Achan chose to sin. ***How does God feel about sin? God hates sin and punishes sin.***”

**EXTRA ACTIVITY** *(can be sent home as a fun activity for families to work together if you do not get around to doing it)* There is a Coloring Sheet if you need it, depending on the length of the service.

## \*\*\*THE HANDOFF\*\*\*

*As children are picked up, briefly state one of the things that were talked about in class today. You can do this by asking the child a question in front of their parent, or remind them of something they learned. Also, direct parents and kids to the website for the Family Journal page- a way for parents to lead their kids to know Christ at home!*

**Supplies Needed: craft sticks (6 per kid), glue, paper, color sheets**