



K-1st Lesson

Review

Refer to the Lesson 66 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, Joshua and his army attacked the city of Jericho.

- ? Who remembers what the Israelites had to do for six days? *March around the city of Jericho.*
- ? On the seventh day, the people gave a shout, and the priests blew their trumpets. Then what happened to the walls around Jericho? *They fell down.*

That's right! God's plan was different than the normal ways to attack a city. God helped the Israelites win the battle at Jericho, but they had to obey even if they didn't understand.

After God made the walls fall down at Jericho, the Israelites were probably very excited to see that God would help them. But in their next battle, they learned a hard lesson about being completely obedient.

Achan's Sin Affects Israel

You see, there was a problem. The trouble began back in Jericho. Before the army ran up into the city, Joshua commanded the men to destroy everything except for things like gold and silver. These were supposed to be given to the priests as an offering to God.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. There was one man who tried to be sneaky. This man's name was Achan. He disobeyed God's command and took a beautiful cloak, like a robe a king would wear, and some silver and gold from the city of Jericho.

- ? Look at the Flip Chart. What did Achan do with the things he took? *Hid them.*

Right! Achan went to his tent and dug a hole in the ground. He hid the cloak and the silver and

gold under his tent. He thought no one knew about his sin and didn't think it would hurt anyone. But we'll find out today that God always knows when we sin and that our sin can affect others, too.

What does it mean that our sin can affect others? Let's play a game to help us understand this.

Have students stand in a circle with you and hold hands. Explain that you will squeeze the hand of the student on your right or left. When that student feels the squeeze, he must immediately squeeze the next student's hand and so on all the way around the circle. Play one or two rounds then have students sit back down.

When I squeezed your hand, it affected you. You felt it and then squeezed the next person's hand. It went all the way around the circle, didn't it? I only squeezed one person's hand, but you were all affected by it. So, how did Achan's sneaky sin affect the other Israelites? Let's find out.

God is omniscient; he knows everything. And God saw what Achan did, and he was very angry with all the Israelites because of Achan's sin. But Joshua didn't know about it.

The next battle was at a city named Ai. Joshua sent just 3,000 fighting men, not the whole army, to take this city.

Joshua 7:4

- ? Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We're going to read from Joshua chapter 7. Who has the Bible? Will you bring it up, please? *Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Joshua 7:4.*
 - ? What does it mean that the Israelites fled? *They ran away.*
 - ? Did they win or lose the battle? *They lost.*
- That's right. The Israelites lost the battle at Ai. And 36 of their men were killed! What happened? Why didn't God help them win this time? Joshua didn't know, so he prayed and asked God why.
- ? What do you suppose God said to Joshua? Any guesses? *Allow guesses.*

Joshua 7:11

Listen to what God told Joshua in verse 11. *Read the verse.*

- ? What was the problem in the camp? What did Israel do? *Israel sinned.*

God said that Israel had sinned. Someone had taken things from Jericho that were supposed to be offered to God. That was why they lost the battle at Ai and 36 men were killed in the battle. God told Joshua that if they wanted his help in their battles, they had to find the one who took those things and punish him.

- ? Refer to the Flip Chart. Who was that? Who stole things from Jericho and hid them in a hole under his tent? *Achan.*

The next morning, Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together. God showed Joshua that Achan was the guilty man. Joshua asked Achan what he had done, and Achan confessed that he had stolen silver and gold and a beautiful cloak—like a robe a king would wear. Achan should have destroyed the robe and given the silver and gold to the priests. But he wanted these items so badly for himself that he took them.

- ? Show Lesson Illustration #1. Achan disobeyed the tenth commandment. Does anyone remember what the tenth commandment is? *Be content (happy) with what you have. Do not covet.*

When we are no longer happy with what we have and want what belongs to someone else, it's called coveting. Achan wanted that beautiful robe and the money he found in Jericho for himself.

- ? Show Lesson Illustration #2. Achan also broke the eighth commandment. Do you remember what that one says? *Respect other people's things. Do not steal.*

Achan stole from God. He kept the gold and silver for himself when he should have given them to the priests as an offering to God.

This was terrible! Achan's sin affected all the Israelites. Because of Achan's sin, God did not help the Israelites, and they lost the battle at Ai. Thirty-six of their men died. Now Joshua and the people had to punish Achan and his family for his disobedience.

After Achan was punished, God turned from his anger and said he would bless and protect the Israelites again. God told Joshua to take all the fighting men back to Ai. So they went back and tricked the king of Ai—and this time they won!

The Victory during the Long Day

The news about the Israelites spread through the land of Canaan. Five kings marched together against a city called Gibeon. God told Joshua not to be afraid of them and their enormous armies. So Joshua and his men left camp and marched all night and surprised the kings.

Joshua 10:11

Then God did some amazing things to help in the battle. Listen to what he did this time. *Read the verse.*

- ? First, God made the enemy get really scared. Then what did God throw down from heaven at the enemy? *He threw large hailstones.*

Yes! God sent big hailstones down from the sky. The kings and their armies were terrified and began to run away from the battle. Joshua knew that when nighttime came the enemy could escape and hide.

- ? So Joshua prayed for God to work another miracle for them. Can you guess what God did? I'll give you a hint: it has to do with the sun. *Allow guesses.*

Joshua asked God to make the sun stand still. And that's exactly what happened. The sun stayed in the same place for about a day!

Refer to the Flip Chart. Instead of setting at its usual time in the evening, the sun stayed high in the sky for a day longer until Joshua and his men chased down the enemy. Isn't that amazing? God kept the sun up so Joshua could win the battle. God is the omnipotent Creator. He controls everything in the universe, including the sun.

After they won this fight against the five kings, Joshua and the Israelites took over a big part of the Promised Land. They went from city to city taking the land and obeying what God commanded. They had learned the lesson from Achan's disobedience at Jericho. They knew that as long as they obeyed completely, God would fight for them, and they didn't have to be afraid!



Achan **DISOBEYED** God.

God made the **SUN** stand still.

