

# Lesson 8: Achan Sins

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) Understand the severe consequences that can occur when we sin
- 2) Understand that sometimes when someone sins – even others have to pay the consequence
- 3) See why Jericho had to be destroyed and why Achan had to pay for his sin.

**Accommodations:** How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- See Lesson 1 for ideas

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## Supplies:

### Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Word Search – Let students choose either word search or color page sheet – one per student
- Achan Sins Color Page – one per student who does not want to do word search
- Map of Israelites Journey So Far – one for class to share

### Optional:

#### Hangman Game

- Large writing surface – like easel with paper or chalkboard (to play hangman) or piece of paper to show children as you play hangman.
- Marker or pen
- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

### Snack:

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| - Your choice            | 1-2 pieces for each child |
| - Napkins for snack      | one per child             |
| - Juice or water and cup | one per child             |

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## Lesson:

### 1) Introduction to Lesson

2-5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week.

Say to students:

**What book in the Old Testament are we studying now?** Joshua

**Does anyone remember what we studied last week?** We studied that Joshua and the Israelites conquered Jericho by marching around the walls for 7 days – on the 7<sup>th</sup> day, the priests blew the horns while in the presence of the Ark of the Covenant and the Israelites shouted as God had told them to. The walls literally fell and provided a way in for the Israelites so they could conquer those in Jericho. They rescued Rahab and her family as well – just as the two spies had promised.

The Israelites had gone from preparing to enter – to actually entering Canaan and beginning to conquer it!

Say: Today we will look at sin and the consequences of it. Sin is disobeying God's commands. When we sin, there is a consequence. "Consequence" is a big word that simply means what happens after we make a choice. A consequence can be either good or bad, depending on the choice you make. When you sin – the consequence or what happens after is bad. When we do good the consequence is usually good.

Last week we saw that God had told the Israelites to completely destroy the people in Canaan, including Jericho.

Let's spend a minute looking at why God had said this.

Let's turn to Joshua 6:21 and read it again from last week. Read the verse.

What did the Israelites do to the people in Jericho? Kill them all.

Say: The Lord had been very patient with the people who had lived in Canaan. Even before the Israelites were a nation and before their slavery in Egypt, God promised Abraham and his descendants the land of Canaan but had said they could not enter it yet, "for the sin of the Amorites (some of the people living in Canaan) has not yet reached its full measure." Genesis 15:16 This verse means that God was watching the sins of those in Canaan and was going to punish them if and when they continued to sin. Now 600 years later God had determined it was time for them to pay for their many sins. God then said in Deuteronomy 9:4 that it was because of the Canaanites wickedness that the people of Israel were to destroy them.

In the book of Judges, we see how cruel and evil these people really were – it tells in Judges 1:7 that the Canaanite king had cut off the thumbs and big toes of seventy other kings he had captured and made them pick up scraps under his table for their food! Tablets found in Egypt tell of the continual fighting that occurred between the cities of Canaan. There is also evidence of their worshipping other "gods" and being involved in other inappropriate sins as well. In Deuteronomy 12:31 and 18:9-10 we even learn that they sacrificed their children as sacrifices to their "gods"!!!!

We must at all times accept that God's judgment is pure, right and needed.

God determined that the people in Canaan needed to pay for their many sins – that is why Israel was allowed to go in and conquer the people living there.

Now that we studied the sins of the Canaanites and their consequences; let's turn to Joshua Chapter 6 and see an example of God punishing the sins of the Israelites when they did wrong and learn why we should always – ALWAYS obey God and listen to Him.

## 2) Achan Sins – Joshua 7-8

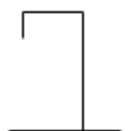
15-20 minutes

**Optional:** Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Optional: Have a blank sheet of large paper or an easel with marker and while asking questions play hangman. (See instructions below)

Ask students to turn to Joshua 6 and read verses 17-19 again. Read **Joshua 6:17-19**.

We're going to play hangman. I am going to draw a gallows (see right for image). I am going to ask you questions as we learn about Achan. Raise your hand, if you think you know the answer. If you get the question right, I don't draw any part of the hangman, but if



**you don't get the question right, I will draw a part of the hangman. If I draw the head, body, arms and legs I win, but if you can more questions correct – you win!**

Discussion Questions:

**What were the Israelites told to do with the items they saw in Jericho?** Dedicate the gold, silver and bronze and iron to God and abstain or stay away from the accursed or devoted things that were in the city.

**Joshua told the Israelites in advance if they disobeyed what was the consequence (See verse 18)?** The person who disobeyed would be cursed and they would also make a curse fall on the Israelite camp and cause trouble to it.

**So how many people did Joshua warn would be affected if one person took something that did not belong to them?** EVERYONE!

**What were some consequences you or someone you know have experienced when they have done something good?** Let students answer

**What were some consequences you or someone you know have experienced when they have done something bad?** Let students answer.

**Do our choices affect others?** Let students answer.

**Usually what we do, not only affects us, but those around us. When we do good – other's also benefit. When we do wrong – others also pay the price.**

**An example could be if you are trying to go to a gymnastics lesson and your mom speeds to get you there and a police officer stops to give her a ticket for speeding. You, your mom and your family now have the consequence of that sin..... You – because you will now be late for your gymnastics class, your mom because she will have a ticket and have to pay it, and your family because now money that could go to something else – has to now go to pay the ticket.**

**See how our actions have consequences? Let's turn to Joshua 7 and see a real account of the effects of our actions when we sin. Can I get two volunteers to read Joshua 7:1-12?**

**What happened because Achan stole some of the items he was told not to?** Israel was not able to win against Ai and 36 innocent men died.

Read **Joshua 7:13-15**. Ask for a volunteer to read or read yourself.

**What did God say was the consequence for the man who had sinned?** He should be burned with all that he has because of his sin.

**How serious do you think God takes sin in our lives?** Very serious.

Say, **"We won't necessarily be burned because of a sin – but God still does take sin very seriously. When we do sin – we need to turn to God and confess our sin. Now, thanks to Jesus when we are baptized, our sins will be forgiven and God will not hold our sins against us, we will still have to face consequences of our sins – like the mom with the speeding ticket, but now we have Jesus who helps us and guides us. But if we sin and don't ask God for help, and if we don't stop sinning in that way – God will not help us and guide us – as what happened to the Israelites when they tried to fight the people in Ai. Without God – we cannot be successful. Let's remember to pray to God for help to avoid a situation like Achan caused."**

**Finally, let's read Joshua 7:19-8:2**

**What happened to Achan and his family?** They were stoned and their bodies burned.

**What did God say the Israelites could do with the things they found when they conquered the city of Ai?** They got to keep and share them.

**What does this show about the futility or pointlessness of Achan's sin? Or why is this ironic?**

Achan, 36 men and his entire family died because he took some things that God said not too. If he would have waited until the next city he and all the Israelites would have had even more items to share and keep and so his sin was even more futile because he would have gotten even more, if he had only waited and trusted in God and stayed away from the temptation. And he wouldn't have hurt himself, his family, the Israelites and more importantly God.

\*Show the map of Israelites Journey so far to the class. Read each number of events and point to Jericho and Ai as the locations the Israelites had now conquered.

**3) Optional Hangman Questions Game**

**10-15 minutes**

Before class get a large easel or chalkboard with marker or chalk to show kids while playing the game of hangman. If neither are available sit around a table and hold up a page with the gallows and slots for the words underneath so all children can see – use a marker to fill in each letter as you write them.

Play hangman with key words from the bible story – when kids discover the word – ask them to explain why that word was important if they can, or you can explain if they can't.

This is a different version of hangman in that you will ask a question, rather than ask for a letter. If one of the students answers correctly, you will randomly fill in one of the letters of the word you want them to discover. If they get it wrong, you draw a part of the body. Keep going until either the body is all drawn – “hangman” or they solve the word they are supposed to discover.

**Game instructions: Ask students if they know the game, if not explain to them the following:**

1. Start the game by choosing a word from the list below –don't let the children know what word you have chosen and don't let them see your list of words.
2. Place one dash on the bottom of a piece of paper for each letter of the word or words chosen. Leave a space between words. Example: Jacob – you would write \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ at the bottom of the page you are using to show the students.
3. Draw a "gallows" at the top of the paper - draw a horizontal line at the bottom, a vertical line coming up out of its center, and then a short line off to the right at the top (so that you now have an upside-down "L" on the horizontal line). Draw a short vertical line off the end of the top line - this is your "noose."  
Example:



4. Ask a question from the list below. If they get it correct you fill in a random letter on the word they are to discover. If they get the question wrong – you fill in a body part for the hangman. They need to guess the entire word or words before you fill in the entire body.
5. The body on the hangman's noose would consist of drawing a head attached to the short vertical line (the "noose"). Add body, right leg, left leg, right arm, then left arm.
6. When a student guesses the word ask them to explain something that they know about the word.

**List of Words to Use**

**(Possible suggestions for things they might know about that word):**

**Achan** – man who sinned against God and caused the Israelites and his family to suffer because of it  
**Consequence** – what happens when we make a choice – Achan’s sin led to a huge bad consequence  
**Commands** – are things God and Jesus have set in place for us to help us lead good, godly lives  
**Sin** – going against God’s commands and leads to bad consequences  
**Burned** – what happened to Achan and his family for his sin  
**Destroy** – what God said to do to the people of Canaan for their sins

**Questions to ask:**

- 1) **What were the Israelites told to do with the items they saw in Jericho?** Dedicate the gold, silver and bronze and iron to God and abstain or stay away from the accursed or devoted things that were in the city.
- 2) **Joshua told the Israelites in advance if they disobeyed what was the consequence (See verse 18)?** The person who disobeyed will be cursed and they would also make a curse fall on the Israelite camp and cause trouble to it.
- 3) **So how many people did Joshua warn would be affected if one person took something that did not belong to them?** EVERYONE!
- 4) **What was the name of the man who stole?** Achan.
- 5) **What place did the Israelites try to conquer and failed because of Achan’s sin?** Ai
- 6) **What place did the Israelite’s conquer previously?** Jericho
- 7) **What did God say was the consequence for the man who had sinned?** He should be burned with all that he has because of his sin.
- 8) **What did Achan steal?** A piece of gold, silver and a robe
- 9) **What happened to Achan and his family?** They were stoned and their bodies burned.
- 10) **What did God say the Israelites could do with the things they found when they conquered the city of Ai?** They got to keep and share them.

**4) Practice Memory Verse**

**Deuteronomy 31:6** – Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Have students repeat this verse with you a number of times. Say a few words, then have them repeat a few times. Once everyone has that done, go to another few words and have them repeat, keep going until they have said the entire verse a few times. The goal is to learn this verse by the end of the quarter.

**5) Achan and Jericho Sin Word Search or Color Page**

**15-20 minutes**

Hand out one sheet to each student along with pencils. Let them choose which activity sheet they would like to do. hand out crayons and/or pencils and read any directions and the words aloud. Help students find the right answers if needed. Talk about why each word on the list is important to what they learned today about sin and its consequences while they work.

Word Search – Achan and Jericho 51  
 Look for the words below in the following word search. The words can be left, right, up, down, backwards, or diagonals.

F I D O T O N E D E V T  
 A C C U R S E D E R C A I  
 C A O H A N C I T E M L I  
 H I D D E N G O L D S I L V E R  
 O I C H N V T I M C H C U  
 R B D E N A H C T R O V I  
 F H A D C H N Y T I C V L  
 B U R N E D D R A R E V  
 D A C H A N R E S E R P A C  
 E I H C E I I V I D A A D  
 A H O R T I L O V E M A N  
 T H A R H A T E W I T U  
 H C O N S E Q U E N C E S  
 E V O L U T I O N S I V T I  
 T R O V L E C N E S U C  
 C E C N E U O E I N O C O

BURNED DESTROY CITY ACCURSED SACRED  
 DEVOTED COMMANDED SIN ACHAN TENT  
 SILVER HIDDEN GOLD STONED DEATH  
 TROUBLE CONSEQUENCE VALLEY FAMILY ADVICE

**6) Optional – Snack: Your Choice****5 minutes**

Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water or juice. Explain that, “**Today we saw the consequence of sin – when we sin, not only does it affect us and our relationship with God – it can very well affect others too. Achan’s family paid the price for Achan’s sin as did the 36 men who were killed in Ai because God was not with them because of Achan’s theft. What are some ways sin can affect us in our lives? Let’s talk about that while we eat our snack.** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss any questions while snacking.

**7) Optional – Songs****5 minutes**

Have children sing songs with you. An example is:

**Exodus 20 – 10 Commandments**

*(To the tune of Jingle Bells)*

No other gods, no idols

Don’t misuse God’s name.

Keep the Sabbath holy, that’s God’s special day, HEY!

Honor your Mother and Father

Don’t murder, lust or steal

No false tales, no envy this is God’s great deal, HEY!

\*Ask students – **what three commandments did Achan break when he sinned?** He stole, he lusted or envied after things that did not belong to him, and then he lied about it.

**8) Close in prayer**

\*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Dear God thank You for Your might and power, thank You for Your everlasting ability to always take care of us as You did Joshua, Rahab and the Israelites. Thank You that we can be strong and courageous because of You and Your Son being there for us. Help us in our faith to always remember that You are there with us and that we need to remember to pray, study and focus on Your Words day and night to gain strength for our days ahead.

Father be with our families and friends and those who were unable to be here today because of problems or sickness. Bring those people back safely next week. Help us to be strong and courageous in sharing the good news that Jesus is alive and able to save all who come to Him through baptism. Thank you for Rahab and Joshua and their examples that we can look to for encouragement. Help us not to steal, lie or want things that do not belong to us. Help us to love and respect You because You are mighty and awesome. Help us to take sin seriously as it not only will affect us but others as well when we sin. Bless us as we enter this new week, keep us from sin and temptation. We pray that you will lead us this week and that Your perfect will be done in our lives. Thank you for being our wonderful God, in Jesus precious name we pray, Amen!

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Thank you for serving Christ in this way!