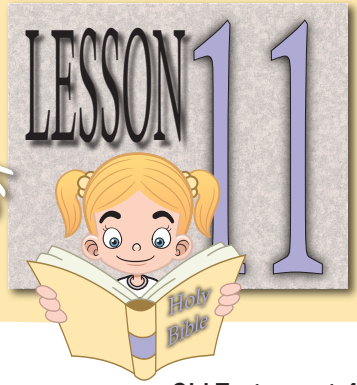


The Battle of Ai; Achan's Sin

Joshua 7



Old Testament 4
Part 2: Joshua Leads God's People

SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 4 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Joshua 7; 1 Timothy 6:9-11,17-19; Colossians 3:5

MEMORY WORK:

“A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches” (Proverbs 22:1a).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- [“Achan”](#)
- [“Achan”](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [God's People and Joshua Bible fact cards](#) (provided under “O.T. 4 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)
- “Summary of the Bible” from “[Kids Prep](#)” CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Joshua A Beka Flash-A-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*)
- Any books or teaching aids on responsibility
- [Map of the Conquest of Canaan](#) (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)
- A tent in the classroom for everyone to sit under during the Bible story

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

What I do affects not only me, but also my family, my friends, the Church, and possibly what others think about God. I must take responsibility for my actions and my reputation.



LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Have you ever done something that got someone else into trouble? In our Bible lesson today, we will learn how one man disobeyed God's law, hurt himself, and many other people too.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Do you think that choices you make ever hurt anyone else? Today we're going to talk about the bad choice of one man (Achan) and how other people suffered because of his bad choice.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Before the Israelites conquered Jericho, Joshua told them that they were to take everything made of gold and silver to put into the treasury of the Tabernacle, as gifts to God. Everything else in the city was to be completely destroyed and the city itself burned to the ground. Joshua warned the people not to be greedy (to covet the wealth of the city) or they would be punished.
2. After Jericho was conquered, the Israelites moved on to the nearby city of Ai. Joshua again sent some spies to see what this city was like. The spies came back and told Joshua it was such a small city that not many fighting men would be needed to destroy it.
3. Joshua chose only 3,000 men to go up against Ai. But the people of Ai fought back with such force that the Israelite soldiers retreated, and 36 of them were killed. Joshua and his soldiers did not expect to be beaten! They were heartsick, angry, and afraid. Joshua spent the rest of the day praying to God and asking why they were defeated. Joshua was very sad that some of his men had been killed, but he was also concerned that the idol-worshipping people in the area would believe God was weak (Joshua 7:9). God told Joshua that He had not deserted His people. The problem was that someone among them had disobeyed God's command not to take anything from Jericho.
4. To find out who the guilty person was, God told Joshua what to do. The next day Joshua told all the Israelites to come before him by tribes. God said He would show Joshua which tribe had the disobedient (guilty) person in it. God had to show His people that He expected them to obey, all the time.
5. The tribe of Judah was separated, then the family of Zabdi. From that family, Achan was shown to be the one who had taken 200 shekels of silver (approximately five pounds), a gold bar (approximately 20 ounces), and a beautiful mantle (robe) from Jericho. Instead of giving those items to the Lord, he had taken them and hidden them in a hole he dug under his tent.
6. Achan decided that having things was more important than obeying God. His family (who should have confronted Achan and told Joshua the truth, instead of going along with Achan), all his animals, and he were stoned to death because of his sin. He had to pay the consequences, to take responsibility, for what he did. The Israelites stacked a huge pile of stones over him to mark the place of his death as a reminder of how one man's sin hurt so many.
7. Achan is sometimes called Achar or Achor, and the place where he was stoned to death was called the Valley of Achor. His name means "trouble," and even today his name or reputation reminds us of what greed can do to one man, and of how one person's actions can hurt others. When people say our name, what do they think of?



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[God Always Thinks Ahead](#)” by Kyle Butt on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion of the superior wisdom, understanding, and counsel of God.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[The Battle of Ai Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Before a game or activity, tell the children you will give each student five pennies (or fish crackers, small candies, etc.) if they complete a simple task. When they have completed the assigned task or game, give them each four pennies instead of five. When they ask about the fifth one, ask them if they think it was fair to keep back a small part of what was promised. Then talk about how one man (Achan) among the Israelites kept for himself what he was supposed to give to God.

1st-2nd Graders:

- “Sword” drills: Make sure each student has a Bible. Have students start with their Bibles closed in front of them. Call out Bible verses, one at a time. The student who finds the verse first should raise his/her hand and then read the verse aloud. (You can divide the class into teams; when a student finds the correct verse, his/her team gets a point.)
- Write the following key words (and others from previous lessons) on pieces of paper, and put them in a Pringles© can or a basket. Let each child draw one word from the can or basket and then give the meaning of the word.

Genesis (beginning)

Moses (drawn out [of water])

Exodus (the going out)

Jacob (deceiver)

Deuteronomy (second law)

Eve (the mother of all living)

Achan (trouble)

- “[Achan’s Sin True or False Activity](#)”: Make a large “T” and a large “F” to put on the wall or chalkboard. Write true and false statements about the lesson on strips of paper or cardstock. (See suggested statements below.) Be sure to include a Scripture reference with each statement. Each student will read one statement and decide if it is true or false. If it is true, he should place the statement under the large “T.” If it’s false, he should place the statement under the large “F.” The student may look up the answer using the biblical reference if needed. (Can also be played in teams, with a person from each team choosing a statement and deciding if it’s true or false.)
- “[Achan’s Sin Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- “Sword” drills: Make sure each student has a Bible. Have students start with their Bibles closed in front of them. Call out Bible verses, one at a time. The student who finds the verse first should raise his/her hand and then read the verse aloud. (You can divide the class into teams; when a

student finds the correct verse, his/her team gets a point.)

- Write the following key words (and others from previous lessons) on pieces of paper, and put them in a Pringles© can or a basket. Let each child draw one word from the can or basket and then give the meaning of the word.

Genesis (beginning)

Moses (drawn out [of water])

Exodus (the going out)

Jacob (deceiver)

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Eve (the mother of all living)

Achan (trouble)

- “[Achan’s Sin Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Achan’s Sin True or False Activity](#)”: Make a large “T” and a large “F” to put on the wall or chalkboard. Write true and false statements about the lesson on strips of paper or cardstock. Be sure to include a Scripture reference with each statement. Each student will read one statement and decide if it is true or false. If it is true, he should place the statement under the large “T.” If it’s false, he should place the statement under the large “F.” The student may look up the answer using the biblical reference if needed. (Can also be played in teams, with a person from each team choosing a statement and deciding if it’s true or false.)

True Statements:

1. Joshua 7:1 Achan took some gold and silver from the city of Jericho.
2. Joshua 7:3 The spies told Joshua it would be easy to capture Ai because there were only a few people in Ai.
3. Joshua 7:4 Joshua sent 3,000 men to capture Ai.
4. Joshua 7:5 The men of Ai killed about 36 Israelite men.
5. Joshua 7:16-18 Joshua questioned each man of Israel beginning with those in the tribe of Judah.
6. Joshua 7:26 After Achan was punished, the Lord was not angry any more.
7. Joshua 7:26 The name of the place where Achan was stoned was named the Valley of Achor.

False Statements:

8. Joshua 7:1 The Lord was happy with Achan and the people of Israel after Jericho was destroyed.
9. Joshua 7:2 Joshua sent out 3,000 men to spy on the city of Ai.
10. Joshua 7:5 Joshua’s men chased the men of Ai and no Israelites were hurt.
11. Joshua 7:24-26 The Lord forgave Achan for his sin.
12. Joshua 7:5 Joshua and the Israelites conquered the city of Ai easily.
13. Joshua 7:24-26 We do not have to worry about obeying God, because He will forgive us, no matter what we do.

- Have the children read the following:
 - Joshua chapter seven
 - *If Everybody Did*, by Jo Ann Stover

SONGS:

“ACHAN”

Author: Jewel Kendrick

(Words: See *Sing a Story: Volume I*, by Jewel Kendrick)

“ACHAN” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Jesus Loves Me”)

Achan took a wedge of gold,
Silver, and a robe we’re told.
Buried them inside his tent,
About his business then he went.

CHORUS:

Yes, Jehovah noticed,
Yes, Jehovah noticed,
Yes, Jehovah noticed,
That Achan stole the gold.

When we steal or disobey,
Lie or fight or fail to pray,
Someone knows just what we do.
Where we are and why too.

(CHORUS)

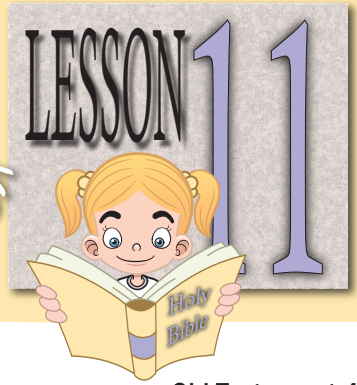
*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



The Battle of Ai and Achan's Sin

Joshua 7



Old Testament 4
Part 2: Joshua Leads God's People

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Old Testament 4 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Joshua 7; 1 Timothy 6:9-11,17-19; Colossians 3:5

MEMORY WORK:

“A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches” (Proverbs 22:1a).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

What I do affects not only me, but also my family, my friends, the Church, and possibly what others think about God. I must take responsibility for my actions and my reputation.



INTRODUCTION:

Review [O.T. 4 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under “O.T. 4 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson (see [O.T. 4 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
2. Emphasize again that our actions have consequences, so we must make good choices.
3. Give students different age-appropriate scenarios in which the students must make important decisions. Discuss bad consequences of their choices. (Example scenarios: lying to your parents; cheating on a test; breaking a friend’s toy on purpose; talking badly about someone; watching shows on TV that have bad language; taking something that doesn’t belong to you/stealing; disobeying your parents, etc.).

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning’s lesson

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