

SIN OF ACHAN Joshua 7, 8

Lesson Memory Verse: Proverbs 15:3 "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

Lesson Aim: Teach the children that God sees all that we do, so we need to please Him by doing that which is good.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Bill was a good boy sometimes and a bad boy at other times. One day he and his friends went to the store to look at some things and while they were there they stole some candy.

The next Sunday, Bill went to Sunday school and his teacher told him that all people were sinners and this included each one in the class. He told them that all deserved to go to hell, but he also told them that Jesus Christ loved them and died on the cross to take away their sins so they could go to His home in heaven.

That day Bill asked his Sunday school teacher how to receive Jesus Christ as his Savior. He wanted God to take away his sins. His teacher told him that he must hate his sins and ask Jesus Christ to take them away. Then he told Bill to ask Jesus to become his Savior. Bill wanted Jesus to save him from his sins. He did all that his teacher told him to do and he was saved.

Afterward he heard about being baptized to show people that he loved Jesus and was saved by Him. He wanted to do this, too, and asked his minister to baptize him. His minister said that he would be happy to do this for him, and Bill was baptized.

Then one day his friends came and asked him to join them in stealing some candy from the store again. What should Bill do? Why? (Bring in the thought that God sees all that we do, and Christians should always try to do things that please Him.)

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse tells us the "the eyes of the Lord are in every place." That means He can see everything in the entire world. Can you think of some things that would be very hard for us to see? (Here are some ideas: things in the dark; things in boxes; things that are done while we are asleep; things that are done when we are alone; thoughts in our minds.) Can God see them?

Our verse goes on to say that God is "beholding the evil and the good"; God **sees** the evil and the good. "What two kinds of deeds does God see? (Evil and good) We may think that God only sees the evil things we do, but He also sees the good things. What do you want Him to see in your life? (If you have time, they may give some suggestions of good things they would like God to see in their lives.)

SEE: (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scriptures for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His word.

In this lesson we shall learn that God saw everything that Achan did, even though no one else did. From this we should learn that we cannot get away with sin. It will only get us into trouble.

I. Anger of the Lord (7:1-5)

God saw Achan steal. He was the only One besides Achan's family that knew about this sin. But that was bad for Achan because God was angry. As a result, He let Israel lose their battle against Ai.

WE: God sees when we sin. God is angry when we purposely sin against Him, like Achan did.. Others get hurt when we sin.

II. Aching of Joshua's Heart (7:6-9)

Joshua fell on his face before the Lord. But Joshua accused the Lord of making them lose the battle (v. 7). This was not good of Joshua. Then he even dared to ask God what He planned to do to protect His great name (v. 9). Joshua did some things wrong when his heart ached.

WE: We should fall on our faces before God when we are in trouble. God wants us to do it. However, we should never tell the Lord that He got us into trouble, and we should never try to put God on the spot to try to embarrass Him.

III. Answer from the Lord (7:10-18)

The Lord scolded Joshua (v. 10).

WE: God will scold us, too; sometimes by our parents, sometimes by our minister or by some Christian leader who speaks to us from the Bible. Or He may scold us as we read the Bible.

Then He told Joshua that Israel was responsible for their own defeat (vv. 11, 12).

WE: The Lord will tell us why we have troubles as we read our Bibles or as we hear it preached and taught.

Then He told Joshua what he must do (vv. 13-15).

WE: The Lord will also tell us what to do from the Bible. If we obey, it will solve our problems.

IV. Action against Achan (7:19-26)

Achan confessed his sin, but it was too late.

WE: Confess your sins before you are caught. (Confess them as soon as you realize that you have sinned.)

When God had to force Achan to confess his sin, then his confession was not sincere. It was not good. So he had to be punished for stealing. The punishment was death by stoning.

WE: Sin had the penalty of death – eternal death in hell. Do not play with sin. Of course, if you are a Christian, you will not want to hide your sins, but rather want to confess them. Only sinners want to hide and keep their sins.

However, not only did he die, but so did his whole family. (They also knew about this sin, and they kept quiet, so they, too, were guilty.)

WE: If you know about sin and do not tell, you are guilty, too.

After the sin of Achan was put away, God was no longer angry with Israel.

WE: Confess and put away your sin. God will once again be pleased with you.

V. Ambush of Ai (8:1-29)

The Lord told Joshua how to defeat Ai.

WE: Listen to the Lord carefully. He will tell you from the Bible how to be successful in defeating Satan.

All of the soldiers were to be used. They were to ambush the city. They were to completely destroy the city and everyone in it because they were so wicked. They could keep the valuable things of the city as a reward for themselves.

WE: God will reward you in different ways as you defeat Satan.

They obeyed the Lord and got the victory.

WE: God also wants you to obey Him and get the victory that He desires to give to you today.

BE (for Action): We have talked about the life of Achan. What do you **remember** about him that you will not want to do in your life? (Let the children freely contribute what they have learned.)

We also talked about Israel's victory at Ai. What do you remember in this story that you will help you to trust in the Lord?

Have the children pray in class and ask God to help them **remember** these lessons. Tell the children to keep on praying throughout the week that they will not forget what they learned in Sunday school today.