

LESSON 45

Israel & Ai

JOSHUA 7–8



BIBLE TRUTH

DESTRUCTION COMES UPON THOSE
WHO DO NOT FOLLOW THE WORD OF GOD

LESSON SNAPSHOT

- 1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN**
SUPPLIES: One large button or similar object
- 2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN**
SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 45)
- 3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN**
Where Is Jesus?
SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare
- 4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN**
SUPPLIES: Snack food/water
- 5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN**
- 6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN**
Coloring Page 45
SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Hide and Seek
SUPPLIES: paper; yellow and gray crayons or markers

We Can’t Hide Our Sin
SUPPLIES: large letter *S* cut from cardboard or foam
- 7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN**

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn how important it is to obey the Lord completely.

Have the children play a game of "Button, Button, Who's Got the Button?"

You may want to lead everyone through the game until they get the idea. Explain that one child will be given a button to hide in her hand. Explain that all children should make their hands into fists and lay them in their laps. Instruct them not to tell who has the button, but to call out "cold," "warm," or "hot," as the child who is "It" walks around the circle, depending on how close they are to the button.

Begin the game by choosing one child to be "It" and have a helper take this child outside the room. Meanwhile you give the button to one child in the room.

Call the child who is "It" back into the room and have them say, "Button, button! Who's got the button?"

Have the child who is "It" walk around the circle to look for the person who has the button. Then lead the children in saying "cold, cold" or "hot, hot" until the child who is "It" guesses who has the button. The person who has the button becomes "It" and the game goes on.

After a few rounds of the game, share the following with the children:

Just like we hid the button from the boys and girls who were trying to find it, it's not that hard to hide our sin. However, we can never hide our sin from God. He always knows where the button is.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 45, "Israel and Ai," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What happened in this story?**
(Achan disobeyed the Lord's command and stole the gold, silver, and robe that were to go into the Lord's treasury [Joshua 6:19].)

- **Did Achan think he could get away with his stealing?**
(Yes, Achan hid these items under his tent thinking no one would know.)

- **How was Achan found out?**
(When Joshua prayed, God told him that Israel had taken some of the things that were to be devoted to the Lord. God gave Joshua a plan to discover exactly who had disobeyed.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- **Did you ever sin and hide what you did from your parents?**
(Accept any answer.)

- **Why isn't that a good idea?**
(Your parents might not know about your sin, but God can see everything and he knows. He can help your parents discover what you did wrong. God is all-knowing; there is nothing he does not know.)

- **What should we do when we realize we sinned?**
(We should freely confess and ask for forgiveness.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: 2 Corinthians 5:21

Take time to remind the children that God always punishes sin. Achan was killed for taking the gold and silver. He deserved to be punished for his sin. We all deserve to be punished for our sin as well. The penalty for even one sin is death. Jesus took the penalty for our sin at the cross so we can be forgiven. All those who trust in the Lord had their sin paid for on the cross.

After Achan was found out and Ai was destroyed, Joshua offered a sacrifice to God for a peace offering (Joshua 8:31). That offering pointed to the day when God would offer up his Son, Jesus, as the ultimate peace offering. Jesus said in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." Today, after the sacrifice of Jesus, there is no longer a need to offer peace offerings because we have peace with God (Romans 5:1).

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 45—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What happened to the Israelites the first time they fought the city of Ai?
(Because of Israel's sin, God was not with them. So, some of the Israelites were killed and the others got scared and ran away.)

- What happened to the Israelites when they fought the second battle with Ai?
(They had obeyed God, and so he helped them to win the battle.)
- What do you think the men of Ai were thinking when their city was being destroyed?
(They were mad, scared, etc.)
- What do you think the people of Ai were thinking about the God of Israel?
(that he was strong; no one could stop God; that God was really smart; etc.)

Hide and Seek

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ yellow and gray crayons or markers

Instructions prior to class: On a sheet of paper draw three circles and a rectangle. Color the rectangle yellow to represent a gold bar and the circles gray to represent the silver coins. Place the sheet of paper facedown in a corner of the room.

Ask for a couple of volunteers to go to “Achan’s tent”—the corner where the paper is. Tell them to search around to see what they can find. When they discover the paper have them bring it back to you. Hold the paper up and show the class what they discovered. Share with the children how even one sin, represented by the gold bar and silver coins, is enough to bring God’s judgment.

Finish the story and then talk to the children about how even one sin separates us from God because he is holy. Then share how Jesus came to take away the punishment we deserve for the sins we commit.

We Can’t Hide Our Sin

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large letter *S* cut out of cardboard or foam (large enough so that a child cannot easily hide it)

The idea is that you are going to give the large letter *S* to one of the children and have another child guess who has the letter. The point of the exercise is to demonstrate that we can't hide our sin.

To begin, ask for a volunteer to leave the room. While this person is out of the room give the letter *S* to one of the other children and tell them to hide it so the volunteer cannot find it. (They must hide it on their person. Do not allow them to place it under their clothing.) Obviously the only place to hide it is behind their back or under their arm. When the volunteer comes back in, have them guess who has the letter *S* (representing sin).

Help the children understand that our sin cannot be hidden from God. Share with them Numbers 32:23 (NIV): "But if you fail to do this, you will be sinning against the LORD; and you may be sure that your sin will find you out," and Jeremiah 17:10 "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

