



LESSON 24

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: Sin affects others

Bible Character(s): Joshua

Scripture Reference: Joshua 7-8



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read Joshua 7 and 8. When we left last week, the walls of Jericho had just fallen. Remember in chapter 6 that all of Jericho was to be devoted to the Lord. God instructed the Israelites not to take any silver, gold, bronze or iron because Jericho was to be the Lord's city. In chapters 7 and 8, we see the consequences of sin and not obeying the Lord. In this story, Achan ("ack-in") disobeyed God's instructions by taking some of the items and hiding them in his tent. His sin did not just impact him, but it impacted all of the Israelites as God held all of them responsible for one man's sin. What does obedience look like in your life? Is there an area in your life where you are not obeying God? How is your sin affecting others around you? How does your sin prevent you from worshipping God? Spend some time thinking and praying about any area(s) of disobedience in your life. Ask God to reveal any sin in your life.

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Supplies:

Box

Dominos (25 per bin)

After greeting the campers, begin by asking each of them to put something they own into the box provided in your bin. Leave everything in the box for an activity later in the lesson.

The Wall of Jericho

Have the campers build the "wall" surrounding Jericho out of the dominos. Review Joshua 6. Talk about the obedience of the Israelites and how they trusted in the Lord and followed His instructions. Ask one camper to push one of the dominos in order to make the whole "wall" fall down. The walls of Jericho would not have fallen down if the Israelites had not followed God's instructions

completely. Remind the campers of last week's skit. The staff member did not follow the recipe completely; he only partially followed the recipe and the apple pie did not turn out well. Discuss how obedience means complete obedience, not partial obedience. Let other kids have a chance to build and knock over the "wall".



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

***Take your cabin flag to Big Group.**

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we continue our study of the book of Joshua. We will look at the disobedience of one Israelite to God's instructions from chapter 6, and we will see how this one man's sin affects the whole community of Israelites. Obedience leads to blessing, but disobedience leads to consequences.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn from Big Group today? How did Peter/Penelope's sin affect you? (You did not get cupcakes.) Do you ever think about how your sin might affect others?

Last week, we learned about how the Israelites obeyed God's instructions on how to defeat the city of Jericho so that they could live in the land God promised to them. God's instructions were kind of crazy, but the Israelites put their faith and trust in what God asked them to do and they were victorious. God's power and faithfulness were seen through the victory.

Let's review one of the commands God gave the Israelites for defeating Jericho. The Bible says in chapter 6.

Joshua 6:18-19

18 "Do not take any of the things set apart for destruction, or you yourselves will be completely destroyed, and you will bring trouble on the camp of Israel. 19 Everything made from silver, gold, bronze, or iron is sacred to the LORD and must be brought into his treasury."

What does this mean? (Allow responses.) These were instructions on how they were to treat the goods of Jericho. The Israelites were not to keep any of the gold, silver, bronze, or iron, and they were not to bring any of the belongings or items of value back to their tents. Jericho was to be God's possession. Today we are going to continue reading in Joshua 7. The Bible says

Joshua 7:1

1 But Israel violated the instructions about the things set apart for the Lord. A man named Achan had stolen some of these dedicated things, so the Lord was very angry with the Israelites. Achan was the son of Carmi, a descendant of Zimri son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah.

What was Achan's response to God's command in chapter 6? (Allow responses.) Achan made a choice to steal some of the things that God commanded the Israelites not to take. By making that choice, he disobeyed God's command. He sinned. Do you think Achan's choice to disobey would only affect him, or would it affect the other Israelites too? (Allow responses.)

Let's find out and continue to read the Bible in Joshua 7.

Joshua 7:2-5

2 Joshua sent some of his men from Jericho to spy out the town of Ai, east of Bethel, near Beth-aven. 3 When they returned, they told Joshua, "There's no need for all of us to go up there; it won't take more than two or three thousand men to attack Ai. Since there are so few of them, don't make all our people struggle to go up there."

4 So approximately 3,000 warriors were sent, but they were soundly defeated. The men of Ai 5 chased the Israelites from the town gate as far as the quarries, and they killed about thirty-six who were retreating down the slope. The Israelites were paralyzed with fear at this turn of events, and their courage melted away.

There was another city that stood in the Israelites way: the town of Ai. Joshua sent men to attack and defeat Ai, but Ai defeated the Israelites instead. God had promised the Israelites this land, so why were they defeated by the town of Ai? Joshua was shocked when he heard of the loss. He and the elders were so shocked that they tore their clothes, threw dust on their heads, and bowed face down to the ground, asking God why this happened.

Let's see what God's answer was as we continue to read the Bible in Joshua 7.

Joshua 7:10-12

10 But the Lord said to Joshua, "Get up! Why are you lying on your face like this? I I Israel has sinned and broken my covenant! They have stolen some of the things that I commanded must be set apart for me. And they have not only stolen them but have lied about it and hidden the things among their own belongings. 12 That is why the Israelites are running from their enemies in defeat. For now Israel itself has been set apart for destruction. I will not remain with you any longer unless you destroy the things among you that were set apart for destruction.

God revealed that the loss was a result of sin. We read in verse one that it was Achan who sinned, but God was judging Israel as a whole. Do you think it was fair of God to judge all of the people of Israel for one man's sin? What were the consequences of Achan's sin that we have seen so far? (Israel lost the battle, 36 men died, God got angry.) Men died and others were fearful from the defeat with the men of Ai. Those men paid a terrible price for Achan's sin. The sin of one person impacted the whole group.

Effects of Sin



The purpose is to visually represent the impact of one sin to a whole.

Supplies:

Bottle of food coloring (1 per bin)

Bottle of water (1 per bin)

Clear cup (1 per session)

Take the food coloring and drop one drop of food coloring into the cup of water. Let the campers watch the effect the food coloring has on the water, as all of the water changes to the color of the food coloring. As the campers watch, talk through the tie it together. (Teachers, please dispose of the cup of colored water at the end of your session/service.)

Tie It Together



What happened when just one drop of food coloring was dropped into the whole cup of water? (Allow responses.) That's right, it turned all of the water its color. This is kind of like what Achan's sin did to the whole community of Israelites. His sin caused all of the Israelites to be held responsible for his act of disobedience before God. Because of his sin, God did not bless them in their battle against Ai. They lost, and 36 of them were killed.

Let's continue to read the Bible in Joshua 7 to see what happens next.

Joshua 7:13-15

13 "Get up! Command the people to purify themselves in preparation for tomorrow. For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Hidden among you, O Israel, are things set apart for the Lord. You will never defeat your enemies until you remove these things from among you. 14 "In the morning you must present yourselves by tribes, and the Lord will point out the tribe to which the guilty man belongs. That tribe must come forward with its clans, and the Lord will point out the guilty clan. That clan will then come forward, and the Lord will point out the guilty family. Finally, each member of the guilty family must come forward one by one. 15 The one who has stolen what was set apart for destruction will himself be burned with fire, along with everything he has, for he has broken the covenant of the Lord and has done a horrible thing in Israel."

God is faithful and made a way to make the relationship between Israel and the Lord right again. He wants to be near us, but we're separated from Him because of our sin. If this was Camp Grace going in front of the Camp Director, all the cabins would go forward. Then the guilty cabin would be identified – it could be our cabin. Then each of us would stand until the one who sinned would be found out. (Remember, God sees all and knows all already). That is what happened to Achan. His tribe, clan, and family were all identified as guilty. Achan was then singled out as the one who sinned. The Israelites found the silver Achan had hidden under his tent, and then he and his family died for his sins against the Lord.

Do you think it is fair that so many people are impacted by one person's action? This is not the first time in history that one person's sin impacted others.

Let's take a look at another example.

One Person Impacts All



The purpose is to review how the sin of Adam and Eve impacted all mankind.

Supplies:

Worksheet - "One Person Impacts All" side (1 per camper)

Give each camper a worksheet. Review how Adam and Eve's sin has separated men from God for years now. Their sin was the first sin in the world and it caused everyone to be separated from God. Next, talk about how Achan's sin impacted his family and the other warriors and their families. Lastly, explain that the perfect life and sacrifice of Jesus is for all of us.

Tie It Together



You remember when we were studying Genesis and we learned that God created humans to be in perfect relationship with Him? What happened that cut us off from having a perfect relationship with Him? Sin! Adam and Eve committed the first sin and it caused everyone to be separated from God. So Achan's sin that impacted all of the Israelites was not the first time that one person's sin affected others. It all started with Adam and Eve! Their sin affected all of mankind, and since that sin every human being has had to deal with sin and the effects it has on others. What are some examples of sin in your life that have affected others? (Selfishness, pride, disrespecting others, disobedience to authority, etc.)

God is a good God, though, and He provided a perfect life and sacrifice through Jesus that impacts all of us too. His life and sacrifice make it possible for everyone to come to God, experience the freedom of life that He offers, and live eternally with Him. It is a free gift that every person can receive by choosing to put their faith and trust in Jesus as Lord. The impact of one person is amazing!

Let's continue to read the Bible in Joshua 8 and see how the Israelites ended up.

Joshua 8:1-2

1 Then the Lord said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid or discouraged. Take all your fighting men and attack Ai, for I have given you the king of Ai, his people, his town, and his land. 2 You will destroy them as you destroyed Jericho and its king. But this time you may keep the plunder and the livestock for yourselves. Set an ambush behind the town."

God was faithful to the Israelites in forgiving them. He blessed the Israelites and provided victory over Ai through their obedience in handling the situation with Achan.

A Sacrifice Of One. A Gift For Many



The purpose of this activity is to reinforce how Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the gift of salvation for many – for us!

Supplies:

Worksheet – box diagram side (1 per camper)

Have campers turn to the back of the worksheet. Have them color the bow, and then show them how to cut along the black lines (only – do not cut the dotted lines!). Then help them fold along the dotted lines and tape the flaps to the inside of the box. The section with the bow will end up being the top of the box. Do not tape the top flap if the camper wants to be able to open and close the box. (Teachers, if you feel this activity is too complicated for your class, you can have the campers draw a special gift box in the open space(s) on the worksheet, instead.)

Tie It Together

Once the sin was uncovered and removed (identified and confessed), God provided the Israelites with a victory over the men of Ai. The Israelites were victorious in their battle because the sin in their camp had been removed and the consequence for this sin was paid. We can also have victory in our lives because the consequence for our sins has been paid by Jesus. Salvation is a gift of God that is provided through Jesus' sacrifice. The perfect life Jesus lived and the sacrifice He made has impacted many. It is a gift for us to receive and have eternal life. Let this box be a reminder of God's gift to us through Jesus' sacrifice.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Give the campers and yourself some time pray about any sin in your lives, asking God to reveal the sin so you can repent of it. Thank Him for the gift He has given us in Jesus.



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