



God Reveals Achan's Sin

Joshua 7



LESSON GOAL

Students will learn to turn from sin because of God's holiness and sin's terrible consequences.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- Explain why Israel lost the battle of Ai.
- Give the process of how Achan's sin was revealed.
- Describe what happened to Achan and his family.
- Explain how God's holiness is revealed in this lesson.

KEY VERSE

"But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things, for Achan the son of Carmi...took of the accursed things; so the anger of the LORD burned against the children of Israel" (Joshua 7:1).

APPLICATION

- Check to see if you are coveting anything.
- Beware of areas in which you are tempted to sin.
- Fear the promised consequences of sin.
- Trust that God's goodness is better than the satisfaction that sin promises.

NEXT WEEK

Holy Living in the Promised Land
Read Joshua 23–24.

Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

Teacher Planning Sheet

PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to

- _____
- _____
- _____

Three ways students need to apply this passage are

- _____
- _____
- _____

POINT

Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.

- _____
- _____

PROCLAIM

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

Presentation Ideas

- _____
- _____

Praise/Music Ideas

- _____
- _____
- _____

PRACTICE

Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.

- _____
- _____

Materials Needed

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

"Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children" (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

By the end of Joshua 6, Israel's conquest of the Promised land was progressing with surprising force. Even before entering the Promised Land, Joshua received God's promise of success. God encouraged the hearts of His people Israel with Rahab's confession of faith and her reports of the Canaanites' fear. When God miraculously stopped the Jordan River, Israel was further encouraged by God's power and was exhorted to fear Him (Josh. 4:24). The deliverance of the Promised Land into the hands of the Israelites became even more certain when the walls of Jericho crumbled. Israel had faithfully followed God's instructions to circle the city and shout when Joshua commanded. God gave them an amazing victory.

Just when the future conquest of Israel seemed certain, however, Joshua 7:1 reveals some terrible news: "The children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things, for Achan...took of the accursed things; so the anger of the LORD burned against the children of Israel." Israel had disobeyed God by keeping plunder from the ruins of Jericho. As God deals with Israel's sin, Joshua 7 reveals His hatred for sin and the terrible consequences that follow sin.

Consequences of Sin: Joshua 7:1–9

After the dramatic destruction of Jericho at the end of Joshua 6, Israel was expecting a bright future and a swift conquest of the Promised Land. Chapter 7 shatters the hope and joy of the preceding chapter with the depressing announcement (Josh. 7:1) that Israel had failed to obey God's command to destroy everything in Jericho (except for the silver, gold, and bronze, which they were to set apart for the Lord [Josh. 6:18–19]). Sadly, Israel went into their next battle not having the information that the reader has in Joshua 7:1.

Even though God had given Joshua success at Jericho, Joshua still cautiously sent spies to the city of Ai, located about 15 miles from Jericho (Josh. 7:2). The spies, who did not know that the Lord was angry with Israel, did not see the city of 12,000 men and women as a major obstacle. They recommended that only two or three thousand soldiers be sent (7:3). Joshua took their recommendation, but with devastating results. The soldiers were forced to flee from the men of Ai, who killed 36 of the Israelite soldiers (a staggering defeat compared to the fact that Israel suffered no casualties at Jericho). The blow was devastating for Israel. Once the Canaanites' hearts had melted in fear (Josh. 2:11), but now "the hearts of the people [the Israelites] melted and became like water" (Josh. 7:5). Israel was in shock at the defeat they had just suffered.

Although Israel had been warned that they would "become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it" (Josh. 6:18), Joshua didn't imagine the defeat at Ai to be Israel's fault. When Joshua and the elders came before the ark of the Lord in grief over what happened (Josh. 7:6), Joshua came doubting God (7:7–9). He questioned why God had brought

Israel over the Jordan only to be killed by the Canaanites (7:7). Just as Israel had wished so many times to be back in Egypt, Joshua wished that Israel had stayed in the land east of the Jordan. He quickly forgot the Lord's encouragement in the first six chapters of Joshua. He was afraid of what would happen when word spread that Israel had turned its back before its enemies (7:8). In fear, he expected the Canaanites to be encouraged, encircle Israel, and destroy them. While most of Joshua's speech was blaming and doubting God, the end revealed a right concern. Joshua asked God, "What will You do for Your great name?" (7:9). Despite his fears, Joshua had a righteous concern for the glory of God. Little did he know that Israel had suffered defeat because God was concerned for His glory. The holy God must punish sin.

Revelation of Sin: Joshua 7:10–18

The Lord told Joshua, "Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put it among their own stuff" (Josh. 7:11). Although only one man, Achan, had sinned, all Israel was considered guilty. It is difficult to imagine how God justly punished all Israel for one person's sin, but this is exactly what God had promised would happen in Joshua 6:18. If God had not punished the people, then Achan's sin would have gone uncovered. God's justness resulted in His holiness being glorified. Because of the defeat at Ai, the Israelites would learn how wicked sin is and how essential it was that every Israelite embrace and submit to God's holy law.

The Lord warned that Israel would continue to suffer defeat because they had become "doomed to destruction" (Josh. 7:12), even as Jericho had once been. God would not be with Israel until the one who had brought this curse upon the nation had suffered the same destruction that Jericho had suffered (7:12). God commanded that Israel had to "take away the accursed thing from among you" (7:13). God directed that increasingly smaller groups of Israelites, beginning with the tribes and ending with individual families, be brought before Him, and He would separate the group to which the disobedient man belonged (7:14). Eventually, that man "who is taken with the accursed thing [would] be burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of the LORD" (7:15). God revealed that it was Achan who had taken the items from Jericho (7:18), and Joshua did just as God had said.

Confession of Sin: Joshua 7:19–21

Joshua exhorted Achan to give glory to God by confessing his sin (7:19). Joshua knew that when Achan admitted his guilt, the holiness and justness of God in punishing Israel would be revealed. In verses 20–21, Achan confessed his sin (though with no visible repentance), and for the first time in the narrative, his exact sin is revealed. When he saw a beautiful robe, silver weighing 200 shekels (more than 80 ounces), and a bar of gold in the plunder from Jericho, he "coveted them and took them" (v. 21). Achan used the same verbs to describe his sin that Moses used when describing Eve's sin in the garden: she also "saw," "desired," and "took" (Gen. 3:6). Achan hid the items by burying them "in the earth in the midst of my tent" (Josh. 7:21).

Punishment of Sin: Joshua 7:22–26

Joshua sent men, who uncovered the items exactly where Achan said they were (Josh. 7:22). Achan was gathered with all his family, all his possessions, and the items he had stolen. Everything belonging to Achan was brought to the Valley of Achor (7:24). Achan was going to be punished with the same righteous and severe

punishment that the Canaanites would endure. Having taken the possessions of Jericho, Achan and his family were punished like those who had lived in Jericho. He had become accursed. He and his family were stoned, and then their bodies and possessions were burned. While a pile of stones marked God's grace at the Jordan, a pile of stones was raised in the valley to remind the Israelites of God's holiness and punishment. Both should have reminded Israel to fear God. His anger had been satisfied with the punishment of Achan (7:26). When Israel returned to fight Ai again (Josh. 8), He gave them the victory.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth" (Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.

What did God tell Joshua to do to conquer Jericho?

The Israelites were to march around the city once a day for six days, with the priests blowing the trumpets. Everyone else was to be quiet. On the seventh day, they were to march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. After the seventh time around the city, the priests were to blow the trumpets very loudly. After the loud blast, everyone was to shout. When they shouted, the wall would fall down flat so the soldiers could attack the city.

What special instructions did Joshua give the Israelites about all the things in Jericho?

No one was allowed to take any of the things that were in Jericho. They were not to take gold, pots, jewelry, or anything else. If anyone did, there would then be a curse on all the Israelites. God would be very angry with them.

Who gave Joshua victory over Jericho?

God.

What happened to Rahab when God gave the Israelites the city of Jericho and they attacked it?

Rahab's house did not fall down, even though it was on the wall. God protected Rahab and her relatives who were in the house with her. After the wall fell down and the Israelites attacked, Joshua sent the two spies to bring Rahab and her family to live with the Israelites.



Saw, Coveted, Took

Achan's confession in Joshua 7:21 provides an excellent opportunity to discuss the anatomy of sin. When Achan saw things he could not have—the robe, gold, and silver—he coveted them and then took them. These three words ("saw," "coveted,"

and “took”) are the same Hebrew words used in Genesis 3:6 to describe Eve’s sin when she ate the forbidden fruit. To help prepare the students to think about the reasons and way we sin, review with them how Eve sinned in the garden of Eden. Using flashcards or flannelgraph pieces, show how Eve coveted, saw, and then took the fruit. Neither Eve nor Achan listened to God’s commands. If the students in your classroom can read, print those three words onto flashcards. (These words can be used again during the lesson when Achan’s sin is discussed.) After each word, ask the students what Eve should have done. This should teach them how to overcome temptation.



Candy

Before the lesson starts, give pieces of candy to each of the students. (Or you could scatter them around the room and instruct each student to find one piece.) When everyone has a piece, explain to the students that although the candy is good, you do not intend for them to eat it. Go around the room, asking each student to put his piece of candy into the garbage can. Discuss ideas from today’s lesson such as obedience, greed, and lying. Did any student want to hide the candy or lie about having found it at all? Today we will learn about a man who was punished for stealing and lying in disobedience to God’s commands.



God Doesn’t Change

Discuss change with the students. Ask them if they like it when people change their mind or are indecisive. After talking about how people often change their minds and make bad decisions, discuss the fact that God never changes. After the defeat at Ai, Joshua and the elders went before the ark of the Lord, grieved that God had not given them victory. They had come before the Lord doubting Him. What they had forgotten about God’s character is that He doesn’t change. The defeat was not the result of God changing His mind, but rather of the sin of one of the men of Israel. Ask the students why it is important to remember that God doesn’t change.



Hatred of Sin

Ask the students whether they have ever hated anything. Explain that you don’t mean just disliking something intensely, but rather being so repulsed by it that you can’t even be in its presence. Tell the students to multiply that hatred a million times. God is perfectly holy and hates sin. He hates it perfectly and can’t even be in its presence. In today’s lesson, we will see that God hates sin and requires that it be punished. How much does God hate sin? He hates it so much that He commanded that a sinner and his family be killed for his disobedience in the book of Joshua.



Run Away

This game is similar to “Red Light, Green Light.” The point is for the students to tag the teacher and for the teacher to tag the students. The teacher stands in the front of the classroom with his back to the students. The students should boldly march toward the teacher. But when the teacher turns around, the students should run away to avoid being tagged. Use this game to teach the students that Israel ran away when they marched to the city of Ai. Explain that God had not given them victory because of Achan’s sin.



One and All

Play tag or “Simon Says” with the students, and make a rule that if even one student is tagged or loses, then everyone is out. Mention how quickly the game



ends with this rule. Explain that God gave Israel instructions that they were to all obey, but because of one man's sin, all the people were in trouble with God. Discuss with the students what happened to Israel at Jericho when one man sinned.

Trash the Treasure

Materials: lots of toys in good condition, large garbage can, 10 bricks spray painted gold, 10 bricks spray painted silver, 10 bricks spray painted bronze, 10 iron rods, large box labeled "Treasury of the Lord"

Directions: Hide one of the toys in the classroom before any students come to class. Ask a student volunteer to play the role of Achan. Tell him where the toy is hidden, and instruct him to confess his sin at the appropriate time during the lesson. As students enter class, instruct them to sort through the pile of treasure, throwing away all the nice toys and taking the silver, gold, bronze, and iron to the "Treasury of the Lord." Once the entire pile is either trashed or stored in the treasury, direct students to take their seats. During the lesson, have the student volunteer show the class where he hid the toy. Ask him and the group of students sitting around him (representing his family) to come to the front of the class for their consequence. Pretend that the class stones them and then destroys the toy. Use this illustration to communicate the seriousness of sinning against God.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Reading of the Text

Read Joshua 7.

Introduction

In last week's lesson, we learned about how God miraculously destroyed Jericho. God was removing the people as He had promised He would do so that Israel could live in the land. God gave the people some very important instructions that they were to obey completely. Everything in Jericho was to be destroyed, and only the gold, silver, bronze, and iron were to be kept for the treasury of the Lord. Today we are going to learn what happened because of one man who disobeyed God.



Leadoff Questions

LOQ: What is sin?

Answer: Sin is when you do something that is against God's commandment. If

God says that we should do something, then we should do it. If God says we should not do something, then we shouldn't. When we disobey God, we are sinning against Him.

LOQ: Is it okay to sin or to disobey God?

Answer: No. When we sin, it makes God unhappy with us. We should always try to be obedient because God loves us. It is always good to do what God says. When we sin, it makes it hard for God to bless us because we are doing things against Him.

LOQ: When the Israelites conquered Jericho, what was the special commandment about the things in Jericho?

Answer: The Israelites were not allowed to take anything from Jericho except the silver, the gold, the bronze, and the iron things, which they were to bring into the treasury of the Lord.

LOQ: What would happen if someone took things that he was not allowed to take?

Answer: If someone took something he was not allowed to take, he would cause trouble for all the Israelites. The Israelites would be accursed.

LOQ: Did any of the Israelites take from Jericho things that they were not allowed to take?

Answer: Yes. Achan took things that he was not allowed to take.

LOQ: What did Achan take?

Answer: Achan took a beautiful piece of clothing, some silver, and some gold. The clothing was supposed to have been destroyed, and the silver and the gold were supposed to have been put into the treasury of the house of the Lord.

LOQ: Since Achan was disobedient and took things he was not allowed, what happened to the Israelites?

Answer: God became very angry, and the Israelites had troubles.

LOQ: Why did the Israelite soldiers lose the battle at Ai?

Answer: The Israelites were supposed to obey. God was angry with the Israelites because someone had taken from Jericho things that he was not supposed to. Israel could not win because they had disobeyed God. Because Achan had taken what belonged to God, God did not help the Israelite soldiers. Without God, the Israelite soldiers were not going to win. To win, God had to be on their side, just as He had been on their side when they conquered Jericho.

LOQ: What happened so that God was no longer angry with the Israelites?

Answer: Joshua and the Israelites obeyed God and killed Achan because he had done a terrible thing. Achan had taken the things that were just for God. And God had told the Israelites not to do that or else they would be accursed.

LOQ: Why is it important to be obedient to God?

Answer: When we are disobedient to God, He is angry at our sin. But when we are obedient to God, He is pleased. When we are disobedient, it can also cause problems for other people such as our parents, our family, and our friends, but it especially hurts our relationship with God, whom we love.

LOQ: When we are disobedient and sin against God, what should we do so that God will be pleased with us?

Answer: We should ask God for forgiveness. God knows that we aren't perfect. He knows that we disobey. But when we find out that we have sinned, we must pray to God and ask for forgiveness. When we ask for forgiveness, we admit that we have done wrong and say that we want to do what is right.

Summary

The commands that the Israelites were not to take anything from Jericho and that the silver, gold, bronze, and iron things were to go into God's treasury were very serious instructions. And because God was angry over Achan's sin, He did not allow the Israelite attack on Ai to be successful, but He allowed some of the Israelites to be killed. While God was angry with the Israelites for their sin, they would not have God's strength. The only way that God's anger would subside was for them to be obedient. So Joshua obeyed, and using lots, found Achan and the goods that he had taken. He then destroyed Achan, his family, all his possessions, and the things that Achan had stolen from the Lord. To receive blessings and prosperity from God, obedience was required. And if the Israelites were ever going to receive the Promised Land, they would have to obey God.

Application

The Israelites' failure to conquer Ai served as a severe reminder that disobedience to God would carry a heavy toll. Without God, they were not going to be successful. They would instead be troubled by the Lord. The children of Israel were to be used by God to judge the inhabitants of the land and represent Yahweh, the God of Israel, by their obedience.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



Treasure Map

Make a treasure map. (If time allows, make a map that leads the students to some type of "treasure" in the room.) Ask the students why people need a treasure map. A treasure map points to where treasure is hidden. There are several possible links to today's story.

1. Ask the students why people hide treasure. Tell them that in today's lesson they will learn about somebody who hid treasure.
2. Tell the students that there is buried treasure in today's lesson, but it was not found with a treasure map. Have them listen for how the treasure was found.
3. Ask the students what types of things are found with a treasure map. Tell them which of those is the buried treasure in today's story.



Hearts like Water (Joshua 7:5)

When Achan sinned, God no longer gave Israel the victory in battle. When the people were defeated, they doubted God, and their hearts were no longer bold as

they had been. The text describes Israel's spirit by saying that their hearts became like water. Various props could be used to illustrate this. Heart balloons could be partially filled with water. Or the students could eat gelatin in a heart shape during snack time. You could discuss what happens when we are scared and how it can feel as though our hearts are like water.

God's Holiness

What does it mean to be holy? One way to illustrate God's holiness and our sinfulness is to use a couple sheets of white cardstock. Demonstrate how we are sinful and how our sin destroys our "holiness" by stating various sins and placing large marks on the paper. God's holiness could then be illustrated with a sheet of cardstock that has no marks on it at all.



Israel's Melting Hearts

Freeze water in the shape of a heart. Take out the frozen heart before the lesson, show it to the class, and review last week's lesson on Jericho. After such a great conquest, the Israelite's hearts must have been strong and full of courage. Tap on the hard ice to symbolize its strength. Read Joshua 2:11 to remind the class that the Canaanites' hearts had once melted in fear. Explain that now the hearts of Israel are going to melt and become like water. Encourage the students to listen to the lesson to find out why Israel now needed to be afraid of their enemies. Display the heart in a dish in the front of the classroom so the students can observe it slowly melting over the course of the lesson. At the end of the lesson, there should be a puddle of water in the container. Read Joshua 7:4–5 to the class to close the lesson, and remind the students that there are serious consequences for sin.



Consequences

There are consequences in life. Discuss some cause-and-effect relationships, and lead into a discussion of the cause-and-effect relationships that come with crime. For example, you can begin by discussing the fact that when you jump into a pool, you will get wet. The discussion can lead to the scenario of someone stealing a car and the consequence being prison. Next, discuss the consequence of sin in the Old Testament (for example, children being stoned for rebellion). Lead the discussion to the consequence of sin being eternal punishment in hell. This would be a great opportunity to share the gospel with the students by explaining that through Christ's work on the cross, all who believe are saved from eternal punishment.



Acting It Out

You could teach this lesson from the point of view of one of the Israelites. This would have been a very memorable experience that would have taught an important lesson about the holiness of God and His expectations of men to obey Him.

Praise and Worship

God Is So Good

Great Are You, Lord

Holy, Holy, Holy

Oh, Be Careful

Shout to the Lord

The Family Prayer Song

The Wise Man and Foolish Man

Trust and Obey

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



What Looks Good

Talk to the students about coveting and being tempted by what looks good to us. Compare this to what is the right thing to do and what God says.



"Two Memorials of Stone"

Materials: copies of "Two Memorials of Stone" craft page, brown construction paper, scissors, glue

Directions: Give each student a copy of the "Two Memorials of Stone" craft page. Instruct him to make stones out of brown construction paper and glue them to each side of the page.



Achan's Sin Is Revealed

Materials: construction paper, aluminum foil, gold wrapping paper or stickers, fabric

Directions: In the center of a piece of construction paper, students can glue down a piece of fabric to represent the robe Achan stole. On top of the fabric, glue a piece of gold wrapping paper to represent the gold Achan stole. On top of the gold, glue a piece of aluminum foil to represent the silver Achan stole. Make a tent out of construction paper and glue it over the top. Glue a printout of Joshua 7:20–21 to the bottom of the page.



1

Beware of Coveting

Use this activity to teach the students about coveting. The students can cut out pictures of an eye, a heart, and a hand and glue them next to the words "saw," "desired," and "took." Explain that this is the process that takes place when someone covets something.



Which Is More Important?

Tell the students to imagine a big room full of money, toys, candy, or whatever else they would love to have. Ask them how much they would like to have those things. What if God told you to take all those things and destroy them? What would you do? Would you destroy them as God commanded, or would you keep them? Would you destroy most of the things but consider keeping some for yourself? Help the students to examine the motives that drive their actions. Are they driven by obedience to God or by selfishness and pride?



"God Reveals Achan's Sin"

Use this work sheet to reinforce the key truths of today's lesson. The work sheet is located at the back of the lesson.



2
3

Journal Page: "The Progression of Sin"

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. The students can complete the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

Coloring Sheets

Give each student copies of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.

MEMORY VERSE

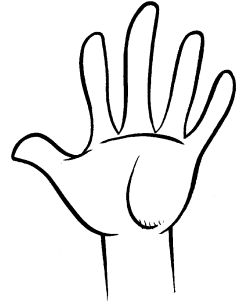
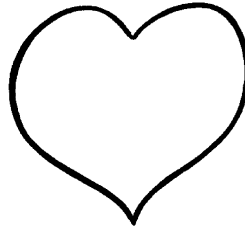
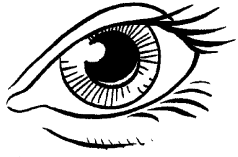
“Eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath” (Romans 2:7–8).

Two Memorials of Stone

Joshua 4:4-9

Joshua 7:25-26

Beware of Coveting



Saw

Desired

Took

“And Achan answered Joshua and said, ‘Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I have done: When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it’” (Joshua 7:20–21).

God Reveals Achan's Sin



Joshua 7

Name _____

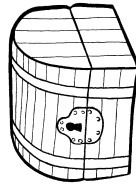
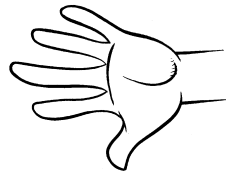
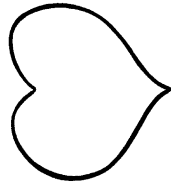
1. The anger of the Lord burned because Achan took _____ (7:1).
2. True or False: The Israelites conquered the city of Ai (7:5). _____
3. After the Israelites' defeat, Joshua cried out to _____.
4. The Lord tells Joshua in verse 11 that Israel had _____.
5. In verse 20, Achan admitted that he had sinned against _____.
6. What three things did Achan take? See Joshua 7:21.

7. What happened to Achan and his family? _____
8. Joshua 7:26 tells us that God relented from His _____.

The Progression of Sin

“When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it” (Joshua 7:21).

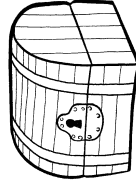
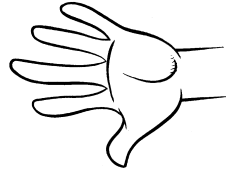
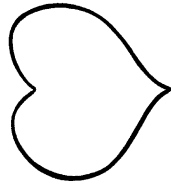
In Joshua 7, Achan tells the progression of his sin. Read Joshua 7:21 and describe the four steps of Achan’s sin by writing them next to the symbols below.



The Progression of Sin

“When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it” (Joshua 7:21).

In Joshua 7, Achan tells the progression of his sin. Read Joshua 7:21 and describe the four steps of Achan’s sin by writing them next to the symbols below.



When Christians sin, their sins follow a progression, too. In James 1:14–15, James tells us the progression. It begins with a greedy desire to have something for yourself. Then, like Achan's covetousness, it brings forth sin and sometimes death. James is explaining that we all have a weakness for particular sins. If you know what tempts you, you can be on the lookout and stop yourself from falling into sin's progression.

My weakness is _____

This week, I will be especially alert and stop sin by _____

A Bible verse that will help me is _____

PRAYER

Ask the Lord to help you recognize sin and to give you the desire to turn away from it. For the sins that you have already committed, ask Him to forgive you. If you are a child of God, thank Him for dying for your sins and for His willingness to help you live a life that brings Him glory and you joy and peace.

When Christians sin, their sins follow a progression, too. In James 1:14–15, James tells us the progression. It begins with a greedy desire to have something for yourself. Then, like Achan's covetousness, it brings forth sin and sometimes death. James is explaining that we all have a weakness for particular sins. If you know what tempts you, you can be on the lookout and stop yourself from falling into sin's progression.

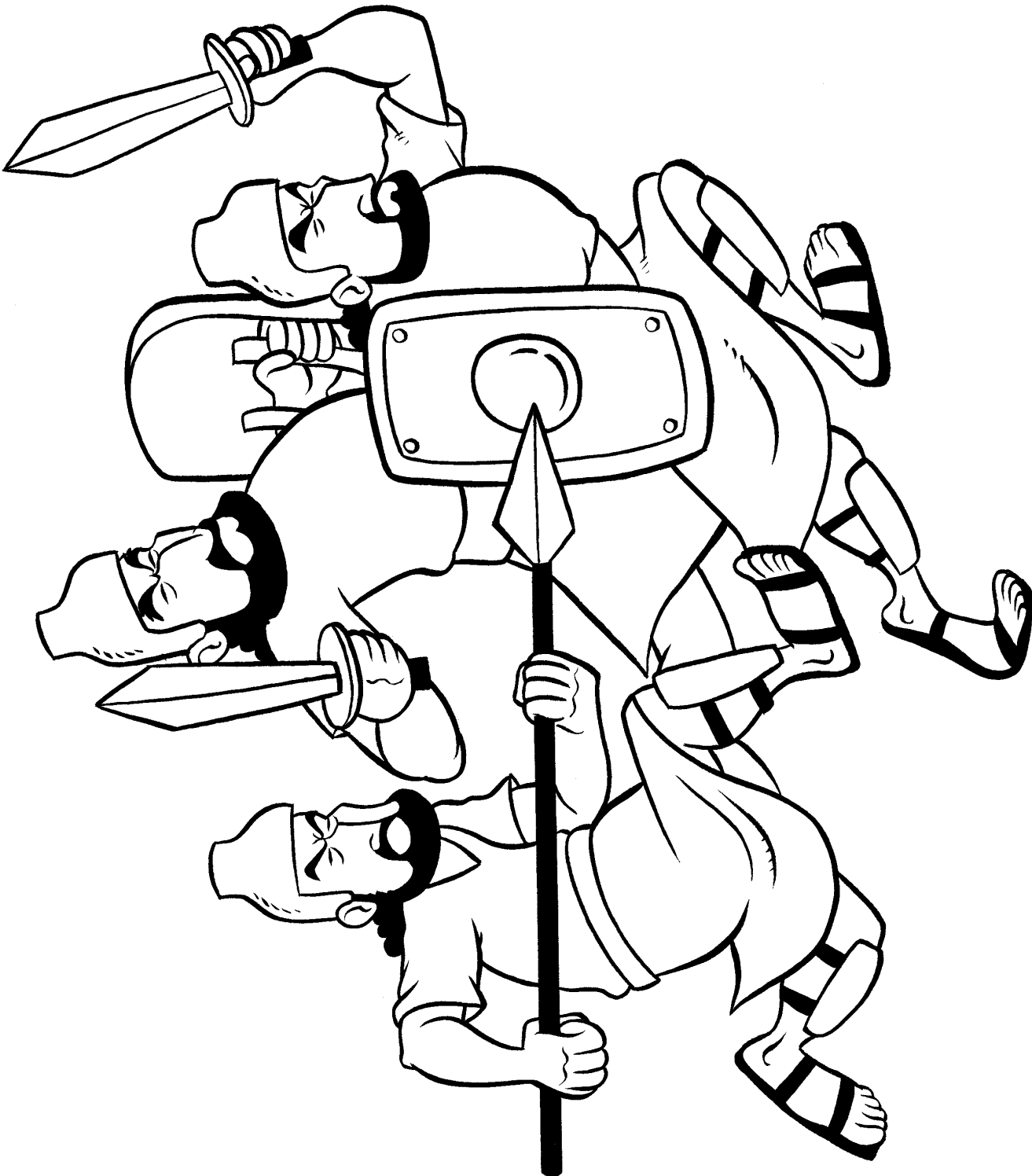
My weakness is _____

This week, I will be especially alert and stop sin by _____

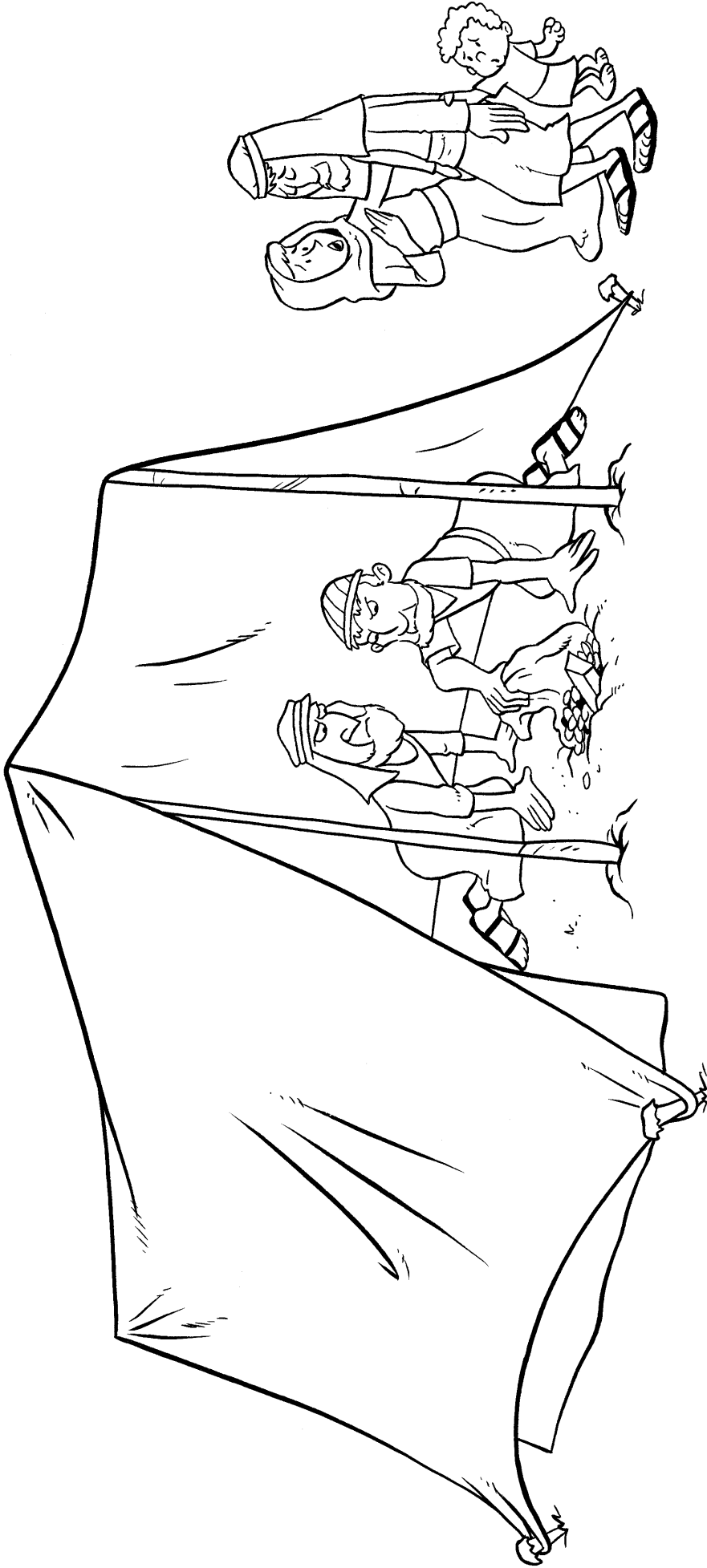
A Bible verse that will help me is _____

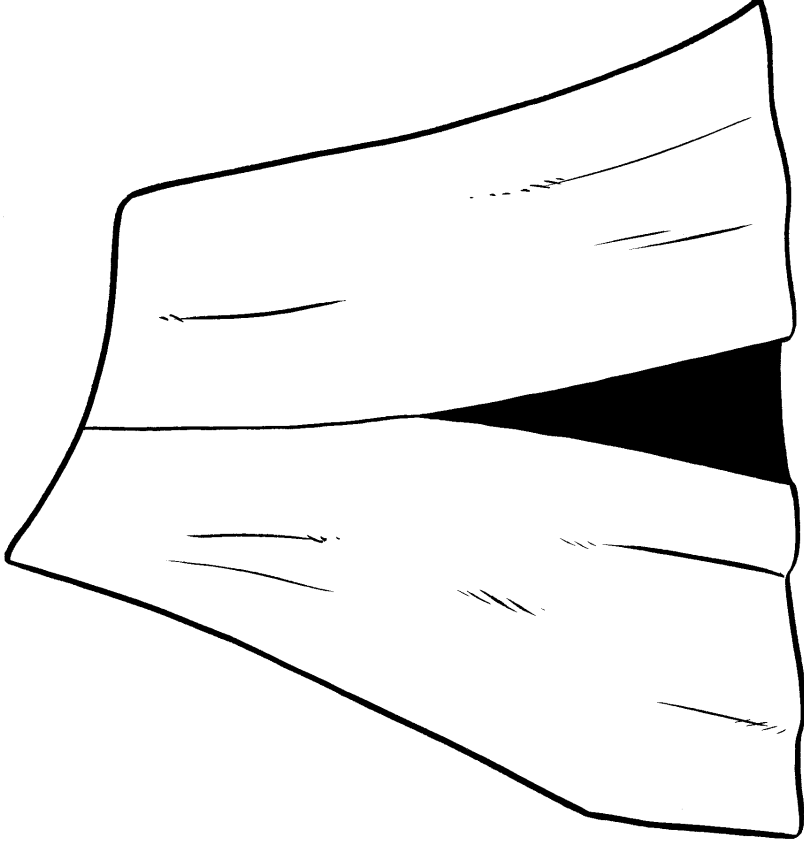
PRAYER

Ask the Lord to help you recognize sin and to give you the desire to turn away from it. For the sins that you have already committed, ask Him to forgive you. If you are a child of God, thank Him for dying for your sins and for His willingness to help you live a life that brings Him glory and you joy and peace.





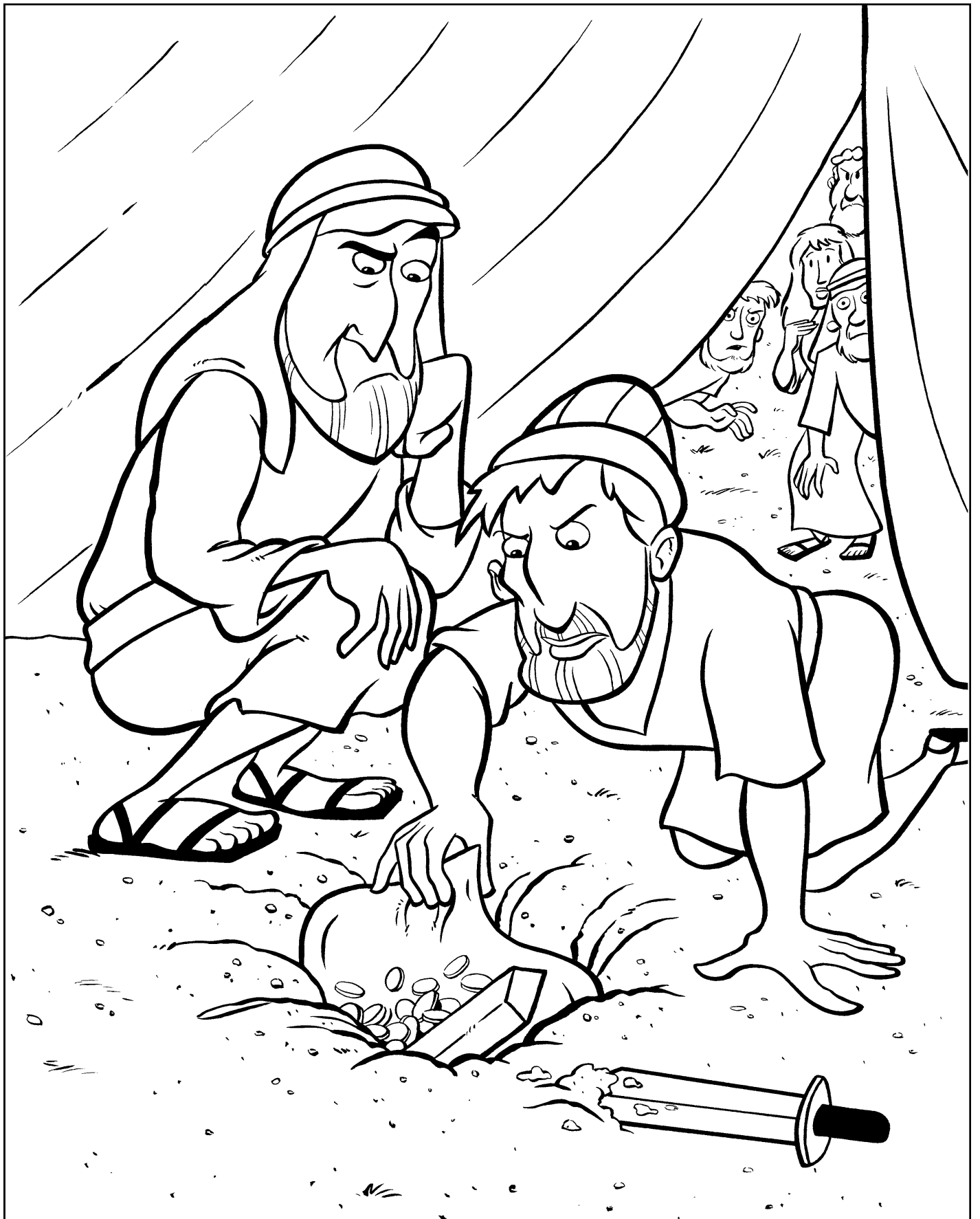




Front flap of Achan's tent



**“So about three thousand men went up there from the people,
but they fled before the men of Ai” (Joshua 7:4).**



“So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver under it” (Joshua 7:22).

