



Achan's Sin!

One bad choice can hurt everyone around you.

Story #24 | Ages 4-10 | Joshua 7

1 The Secret Sin!

Scripture: Joshua 7:1, 20-21 | Theme: Sin hides

💰 The Shiny Treasure



Jericho had been destroyed!
God gave a **CLEAR** command:

☀️ **GOD SAYS:**

"Do not take any of the devoted things. They belong to Me."

But one man named **ACHAN** saw something he **WANTED**.

A beautiful robe from **Babylon**.

Two hundred shekels of **SILVER**.

A wedge of shining **GOLD**.

He looked. He **COVETED**. He **TOOK**.

"But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the devoted things, for Achan... took some of the devoted things. And the anger of the LORD burned against the people of Israel." — Joshua 7:1

🏕️ Hidden in the Tent



Achan took the treasure and buried it **UNDER HIS TENT**.
He covered it with **DIRT**.

He smiled and pretended nothing happened.

But sin is like a **SPARK** in dry grass.

It doesn't stay hidden for long!

One man's secret brought **DEFEAT** to a whole nation.

😬 **ACHAN SAYS:**

"I saw. I coveted. I took. I hid."

God always sees. And He loves us too much to let sin stay hidden.

💡 Tiny Truth

Sin **LOVES** to hide. But hidden sin always grows **BIGGER** and hurts more people than we ever imagined!

👁️ God Sees Everything!

Put a small item in a bag. Play a guessing game. Talk about how God never has to guess. He sees everything because He **LOVES** us and wants to help us!

2 Defeat at Ai!

Scripture: Joshua 7:2-5 | Theme: Sin brings defeat

🏹 Running Away!



Next, Joshua sent men to the city of **Ai**.

"Just a few soldiers needed. It's so small!"

But the men of Ai **BEAT** them back!

36 Israelite soldiers died.

The whole army was **SHAKEN**. Terrified!

Why? They forgot to ask God first.

And **God was not with them** because of Achan's sin.

One person's secret sin hurt EVERYONE.

"...the hearts of the people melted and became as water." — Joshua 7:5

⚠️ Domino Effect!

Line up dominoes and knock one over. Watch them all fall!
Sin is just like that. One bad choice can knock down many lives around us.

🙏 Joshua Prays



Joshua **FELL ON HIS FACE** before God.

He tore his clothes. He put **DUST** on his head.

🙏 JOSHUA SAYS:

"Why did You bring us here to die? The Canaanites will hear and destroy us!"

God answered:

☀️ GOD SAYS:

"Get up! Why are you lying on your face? Israel has sinned. Someone took devoted things. Until you deal with it, I will not be with you."

Joshua had to find the sin and **REMOVE** it.

💡 Tiny Truth

When things go wrong, the first place to look is our own **HEART**. God cares about our holiness because He wants to **BLESS** us!

🙌 God is Jealous for Us!

God doesn't reject us when we sin — He **LOVES** us too much to leave us there. He calls us to come clean!

3 Found Out!

Scripture: Joshua 7:16-26 | Theme: Sin affects everyone

Found Out!



God showed Joshua how to find the guilty one.

Tribe by tribe. **Clan** by clan. **Family** by family. **Man** by man.

The lot fell on **ACHAN**!

Joshua said, "Tell me what you have done."

Achan finally **CONFESSED**:

 **ACHAN SAYS:**

"It is true. I have sinned against the LORD. I saw, I coveted, I took. I hid them in the earth inside my tent."

Confession is **HARD**. But it's the first step to **HEALING**.

"I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel... when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a bar of gold, then I coveted them and took them." — Joshua 7:20-21

Sin Hurts Everyone



Achan's sin didn't just hurt **him**.

It hurt his whole **FAMILY**.

It hurt the whole **ARMY**.

It killed **36 soldiers**.

Sin is **NEVER** a private little thing.

It spreads like **POISON**.

That's why God takes it **SERIOUSLY**.

He loves us too much to let sin **DESTROY** us.

The Apple Bowl

Put one over-ripe apple in a bowl of good ones. Check back tomorrow. Talk about how one hidden sin can spread and affect everyone around it.

God Forgives!

But forgiveness starts with **HONESTY**. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us!" — 1 John 1:9

4 God Restores!

Scripture: Joshua 8:1-2 | Theme: Confession brings victory

☀ Do Not Be Afraid!



After the sin was removed, God spoke to Joshua again:

☀ GOD SAYS:

"Do not be afraid. Do not be dismayed. Take all the fighting men with you, and arise, go up to Ai."

God was BACK with His people!

He told Joshua the exact battle plan.

And this time, they would **WIN**.

Because when sin is dealt with, **BLESSING** flows again!

"And the LORD said to Joshua, 'Do not fear and do not be dismayed. Take all the fighting men with you, and arise, go up to Ai.'" — Joshua 8:1

💡 Tiny Truth

God doesn't give up on us when we mess up. He gives us a **WAY BACK** through confession and honesty!

🏆 Victory Again!



Joshua set an **AMBUSH** behind the city.

The king of Ai came out to fight.

Then Israel's hidden army attacked!

The city was completely defeated.

God gave His people the victory!

But only **AFTER** they removed the sin.

God is holy. But He is also **MERCIFUL**.

When we confess and turn away from sin, He restores us!

💡 Tiny Truth

God's forgiveness is bigger than our **BIGGEST** sin!
Confession opens the door for victory to walk back in!

🌙 Confession Prayer!

Every night this week, ask God: "Is there anything I need to say sorry for?" Write it on paper, tear it up, and throw it away. That's what confession feels like!

5 Create, Play & Talk Together!

Joshua 7-8 | One bad choice hurts everyone — confession brings victory!

The Apple Bowl Object Lesson

1. Place one bruised or over-ripe apple in a bowl of fresh ones.
2. Put a lid on it and leave it overnight (or a few hours).
3. Check back: the bad apple made the others start to spoil!
4. Talk about how Achan's sin spread like mold to the whole camp.
5. **Remove the bad apple** and seal the rest in a fresh bowl.
6. Talk about how removing sin and confessing brings fresh life back!

Confession Tear-Up Cards

1. Give everyone a small card and a dark crayon or marker.
2. Write or draw something you want to tell God sorry for.
3. **No one has to share it out loud.** This is between you and God.
4. Say a simple prayer: "God, I'm sorry. Please forgive me. Help me do better."
5. **Tear the card into tiny pieces!** Throw them away together.
6. Decorate a new bright card with "1 John 1:9 — I am FORGIVEN!"

Sing to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It":

*"When you sin and then you hide it, it will grow!
When you sin and then you hide it, everybody feels the blow!
But if you'll confess and leave it, God forgives you —
can you believe it?
When you sin — don't hide — just bring it to the Lord, yo!"*

Family Discussion Time

1. What did God tell the people NOT to take from Jericho?
2. What did Achan do instead of obeying? How did he try to cover it up?
3. What happened when Israel went to fight Ai? Why did they lose?
4. How does one person's sin affect others around them?
5. What did Achan eventually do? Why is confession hard but important?
6. How did God prove He still loved Israel after they dealt with the sin?

Story #24 of the Biblical Adventure Series. Faith-building visual storytelling for family discipleship.

Next Story Preview: The Day the Sun Stood Still! — When Joshua prays, time stops! (Joshua 10)

One Bad Choice Can Hurt Everyone...

But God Restores!

A shiny robe, some silver and gold,
Were buried in the earth so cold.
"No one will know," Achan said,
But God saw all — the living and dead.
Sin always spreads when hidden away,
But Jesus came to wash it clean today!
So don't hide sin — confess and then
Watch God bring **victory** again! 🗿 💰 ✨

📖 Next in this Series:

The Day the Sun Stood Still!

When Joshua prays, God freezes time!

Story #25 Coming Soon

Scripture quotations from the ESV® Bible.
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