Preschool–Grade 6

Achan's Sin

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: I can tell God the truth.
Bible passage: Joshua 7:1–26. Read it yourself before class.
Memory verse: "whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." *Proverbs 28:13 (KJV)*. The old words mean: **whoso confesseth** means whoever tells God the truth about their sins, **forsaketh** means stops doing them, and **mercy** means God is kind to us.
You need: a Bible, a small paper robe, a small blanket or towel, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Joshua 7.

1. Opening game: Peek-a-Boo Robe (5 minutes)

Show the paper robe. Kids cover their eyes while you hide it under the blanket. Then they open their eyes and point to where they think it is. Lift the blanket: "There it is!" Let a few children take turns hiding it. Say: "Today we will hear a true story about a man who hid some things in his tent. But God saw it all."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Joshua 7. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

God said the silver and the gold were His (Joshua 6:19). *(Point up.)*
But Achan took some (7:1). *(Grab with your hand.)*
He took a pretty robe, silver and gold (7:21). *(Count on three fingers.)*
He hid them in the ground in his tent (7:21). *(Pretend to dig.)*
He did not tell anyone. *(Finger on your lips: shh.)*
But God saw it all (7:11). *(Make big eyes with your hands.)*
Say it with me: "God sees everything!"
Joshua said, "Tell me now what thou hast done" (7:19). *(Cup your hand by your ear.)*
Achan said, "I have sinned" (7:20). *(Bow your head.)*
Men ran to his tent (7:22). *(Run in place.)*
They found the things hidden there (7:22). *(Pretend to lift them up.)*
Achan's sin brought big trouble (7:25). *(Make a sad face.)*
Say it with me: "I will tell God the truth!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What did Achan hide in his tent? *(A robe, silver and gold, Joshua 7:21)*
2. Did God see what Achan did? *(Yes, God saw it all, 7:11)*
3. What should we do when we do something wrong? *(Tell God the truth and say sorry, Proverbs 28:13)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "The Bible says, 'whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.' That means when we tell God the truth about our sins and stop doing them, God is kind to us." Teach the motions: point to your mouth on "confesseth" (we tell the truth), turn around in place on "forsaketh" (we stop doing wrong), and hug yourself on "mercy." Say it with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Proverbs 28:13" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Achan's Tent (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a tent. Under it, they draw a robe, silver and gold hidden in the ground. While they color, ask: "What did Achan hide? Did God see it?" Kids who finish early can play Peek-a-Boo Robe again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Dear God, You see everything.
Help me tell You the truth. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep it simple. The lesson says only that Achan's sin brought big trouble (Joshua 7:25 says "the LORD shall trouble thee this day"). It leaves out how he died and what happened with his family, which are not for young children. Spend the most time on "God saw it all" and "I will tell God the truth." Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

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