

All Around Us

Small
Group
LessonAges
6-7

Power Point

How I live affects others around me.

Scripture
Memory Verse

I treasure your word above all else; it keeps me from sinning against you.
—Psalm 119:11

Bible Lesson

The sin of Achan caused the whole nation of Israel to experience defeat.
—Joshua 7:1-26

Overview

The Lord told His people that everything in Jericho belonged to Him. But Achan kept back some of the treasure for himself. Soon after, the Israelites were defeated in battle. God told Joshua He could not help His people again until the offender was brought to justice. Achan was put to death for his crime. What we do can have enormous positive and negative effects on the people around us. Encourage your kids to take obedience to God seriously.

Discussion Questions

1. Why was the Lord angry with the Israelites? (*One of them had taken some things that belonged to God.*)
2. What happened to the Israelites during battle? (*God did not help them like He usually did. Some of their soldiers were killed and they fled from their enemies.*)
3. How did Joshua figure out who had sinned? (*The Lord told him to have all the people come forward, and He showed him who it was.*)
4. What was Achan's punishment? (*Death.*)
5. Why do you think we need to obey God to have Him look out for us? (*Answers will vary. Point out that God wants to teach us to listen to Him, and sometimes sin's bad consequences can get our attention.*)
6. Do you think a mistake you make could affect other people? (*Allow responses.*)

God Encounter

Materials: Telephone, telephone cord, baseball glove.

Preparation: Before class, plug the phone cord into the phone. Place the phone at the front of your meeting area.

Do any of you kids like to talk on the phone? (*Name of child*) will play Jamie and (*name of child*) will play Jordan. Jamie loves to talk on the phone. (*Direct Jamie to pick up the receiver and pretend to talk. Jordan stands on the other end and holds the baseball glove.*) In fact, Jamie loves to talk on the phone so much that her mom asked for her help with a telephone call. She was supposed to call her dad at work. Mom had thought she'd be able to pick up her brother Jordan from baseball practice, but she had to stay late. So Mom was counting on Jamie to make that call. And Jamie had planned on it, but she was just so into herself, and all *she* wanted was to talk to her friend. Baseball practice ended, and Jordan's friends were getting picked up by their parents. Jordan and Jamie's dad did not come, because Jamie had never made the call. (*Direct Jordan and Jamie to sit down.*)

How do you think Jordan felt when he didn't get picked up? (*Scared, lonely.*) Jamie was only thinking of herself when she stayed on the phone instead of making that important call. Jamie's parents were pretty upset. She learned the hard way that **how she lives affects others around**

her. Kids, remember that when you don't do the right thing, other people may have to pay for it. You can choose to affect other people in a good way or a bad way. Let's ask God to help us make good choices.

(Have kids break into groups of two or three. Instruct kids to pray for the strength to obey God and remember the needs of other people.)



The Jesus Factor

Love others as much as you love yourself.

—**Matthew 22:39b**

Materials: Clear box or jar, pebbles, colorful pebble-shaped candy.

Preparation: Before class, wash the pebbles in soap and water. Mix the pebbles in with the candy and pour into the jar.

Kids, would you like some candy? Before you say yes, look closely at what's in the jar. That's right—some of these are pebbles! You knew that because you're sharp. But what if you were too little to know the difference? What would you think if someone gave pebbles to a three-year-old, who thought they were candy? He could get sick! *(Look up the Jesus Factor verse and read it aloud.)*

God loves all of us. But He commands us to love other people as much as we love ourselves. We need to think about our actions and ask ourselves, "Am I loving others the way Jesus would?" Sometimes the loving thing is to act, and speak up when a wrong is done. Sometimes, the loving thing is to *not* do something—to say "no" to an action that might hurt someone else. Let's think about those kinds of choices as we sort through those pebbles.

(Scoop out a small handful of pebbles and candy to each child, and have them sort through and throw out the pebbles. Then they may enjoy the candy.)

Small Group Activity

Treasure Chest

Materials: "Treasure Chest Fold-Up" handout from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM, cardstock, scissors, manila paper (for scrolls), markers, round pencils.

Preparation: Print one "Treasure Chest Fold-Up" handout on cardstock for each child. Make a sample craft.

Who can tell me the Scripture Memory Verse? *(I treasure your word above all else; it keeps me from sinning against you, Psalm 119:11.)* Great job! We need to remember God's word. Do you know how important it is? It helps us know God, and it helps us make right choices. Today we'll make a treasure box with a scroll inside. The scroll is the way people read God's word in Bible times; they didn't have books back then.

(Direct kids to cut the treasure box out and decorate it with markers. Fold in the direction of the arrows, and glue on the tabs. Cut a piece of manila paper, about the width of the treasure chest. Roll it around a pencil, and place the scroll inside the chest. Have children take chests home as a reminder to treasure God's Word.)

Take-Home Challenge

Materials: Lesson 8 Ages 6-7 Take-Home Challenge from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

Hand out this week's Take-Home Challenge and encourage kids to complete the activities with their families. Remind kids that you'll ask them for responses during next week's K.I.D.S. Church service.

All Around Us

Small
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LessonAges
8-10

Power Point

How I live affects others around me.

Scripture
Memory Verse

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Bible Lesson

The sin of Achan caused the whole nation of Israel to experience defeat.
—Joshua 7:1-26

Overview

The Lord told His people that everything in Jericho belonged to Him. But Achan kept back some of the treasure for himself. Soon after, the Israelites were defeated in battle. God told Joshua He could not help His people again until the offender was brought to justice. Achan was put to death for his crime. What we do can have enormous positive and negative effects on the people around us. Encourage your kids to take obedience to God seriously.

Discussion Questions

1. What did Achan do that offended God? (*God had told His people that everything in Jericho belonged to Him. But Achan deliberately disobeyed, taking fancy things for himself.*)
2. As a result of Achan's sin, what happened to the Israelites during battle? (*The Lord was not with them. A small army they would have normally beat ran them down a hill, and thirty-six men were killed.*)
3. How did the people figure out it was Achan? (*God told Joshua to have all the people come forward. God showed Joshua the tribe of the guilty man, then the clan, then the family, then the one who did it.*)
4. Could Achan have confessed to the crime earlier than he did? (*Yes. He could have confessed right away when Joshua brought the tribes to the worship place.*)
5. Can you think of a modern-day example of one person's sin causing other people to suffer? (*Allow responses. Examples might include stealing, murder, dumping chemicals in a body of water, abortion, etc.*)

God Encounter

Materials: "Sin Web" handout from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM, pencils.

Preparation: Before class, print out a "Sin Web" handout for each child.

Kids, how does a spider spin a web? (*He spins strings that connect to other strings.*) As human beings, we're all connected to each other. We all live in the same "web", and when we sin, things can get sticky. Use your finger to follow me through the Sin Web as I tell a story. (*Give a handout to each child and share the following scenario.*)

Put your finger on the blank oval, and imagine a picture of a kid your age in it. This kid is hanging out with a group of friends. One of them decides that candy sounds good, but none of them have any money. Our kid is the most "gutsy," so the others dare her to steal some. So, on Saturday she goes in, she takes a box of candy. She doesn't get caught, but the store manager notices it's gone. Now, move your finger to the middle-aged man. He fires the clerk who was working that day, thinking she did it. Move your finger to the woman with the daughter. The clerk can't find another job, and loses her apartment. The next Saturday, the girl who stole before takes a friend, Kylie, with her. Move your finger to the picture of the young girl. Kylie gets caught and taken to juvenile court, and Kylie's dad loses a promotion at the police department

because of it. Put your finger on the police officer. Then, Saturday rolls around again. Put your finger on the blank oval, and picture the kid who stole at the beginning of the story. She decides to steal again, and gets out with the box of candy, but her little brother finds it in her room. Put your finger on the little boy. She's so scared her brother will tell that she threatens to beat him up. The little brother is so worried that he won't eat, and his mom takes him to the doctor.

I'm going to ask each of you to look at the faces on our Sin Web. Think about how your choices could affect those people, for good or for bad. Then, I want you to draw your own face in the blank oval. Remember that **how you live affects others around you.** (*Distribute pencils, and have kids draw a picture of themselves in the blank oval. Have one child pray for the group, asking God to teach us live in a way that blesses others.*)



The Jesus Factor

Love others as much as you love yourself.

—Matthew 22:39b

Materials: Bushel-type basket (as seen at a farmers' market), apples (enough for each child plus one extra), plastic worm, orange zester.

Preparation: Before class, take one apple and press it against a hard surface to smash an entire side. Use the orange zester's sharp end to make a hole in the bruise, and place the worm inside.

Kids, have you ever heard the expression, "One bad apple spoils the barrel?" Maybe there's a bad apple in my bunch. (*Have a volunteer look for the rotten apple and pull out the worm to get the kids' attention.*) Today, a lot of the fruit at the grocery store comes from states or countries where it's warm year-round. But a long time ago, they didn't have trucks and planes to bring that fruit. You picked a barrelful of apples and they had to last for a whole year. If one apple is yucky like this one, what happens to the others around it? (*They can grow mold; the worm can get into them.*)

(*Have a child look up the Jesus Factor verse and read it aloud.*) Jesus commands us to love others. (*Hold up the bad apple.*) When we choose sinful

behavior, we're not loving others because they get exposed to the "yuck" of our sin. **How we live affects others around us.** I will give each one of you a beautiful, unbruised apple to take home. Let it remind you of God's desire for us to be holy, and to be a positive influence on others.

Small Group Activity

The Color of Our Actions

Materials: White, basket-style coffee filters (two per child), cardboard/card stock pieces (one per child), black and colored markers, newspaper to cover tables, spray bottles of water, hair dryers, glue sticks.

(*Set a coffee filter, a black marker, a yellow marker, and a spray bottle in front of you. Have children gather around you.*) I'm going to use a coffee filter as a painting canvas. Coffee filters are made of a unique type of paper. (*Draw a squiggly line on the filter with a black marker.*) Water travels right through it. (*Spray the mark with water.*) See how water makes the black marks spread? This is like how our choices can spread to affect the lives of others. But the positive choices we make spread around, too. (*Draw on a still-dry portion of the filter with the yellow marker, spray it with water, then hold it up.*) Each of you will get two coffee filters. Color one with dark, negative colors, and the other with bright, positive colors. Then spray them with water and watch the positive and negative effects spread! Let this remind you that **how you live affects others around you.**

(*After children have colored and soaked both filters, dry them with the hair dryer. Then have children glue them onto a piece of cardboard to take home.*)

Take-Home Challenge

Materials: Lesson 8 Ages 8-10 Take-Home Challenge from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

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All Around Us

Small
Group
LessonAges
11-12

Power Point

How I live affects others around me.

Scripture
Memory Verse

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—Psalm 119:11

Bible Lesson

The sin of Achan caused the whole nation of Israel to experience defeat.
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Overview

The Lord told His people that everything in Jericho belonged to Him. But Achan kept back some of the treasure for himself. Soon after, the Israelites were defeated in battle. God told Joshua He could not help His people again until the offender was brought to justice. Achan was put to death for his crime. What we do can have enormous positive and negative effects on the people around us. Encourage your kids to take obedience to God seriously.

Discussion Questions

1. How did Achan offend God? (*God had said that all the belongings from Jericho needed to be destroyed. But Achan kept some for himself and hid them.*)
2. As a result of Achan's sin, what happened to the Israelites during battle? (*The Lord was not with them. A small army they would have normally beat ran them down a hill, and thirty-six men were killed.*)
3. How did the people figure out it was Achan? (*God told Joshua to have all the people come forward. God showed Joshua the tribe of the guilty man, then the clan, then the family, then Achan.*)
4. God told Joshua, "I can't help you anymore until you..." (*"Do what I say." In other words, find the guilty party and punish him.*)
5. Could Achan have confessed before he did? Do you think God would have gone easier on him? (*Allow responses. Remind kids that the punishment is often easier if you confess.*)
6. Do we still get the consequences for other people's sin today? Why or why not? (*Yes, we do. It is unfair when an innocent person is the victim of a crime. However, God gave each of us a choice to do good or do evil. This idea will be explored more during the God Encounter.*)

God Encounter

Materials: "Sin Web" handout from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM, pencils, butcher paper, tape, markers.

Preparation: Before class, print out a "Sin Web" handout for each child. Tape the butcher paper to the wall.

(*Give a Sin Web handout to each child.*) How do spiders make a connection between two places? (*They spin a web.*) There's a web connecting all the people in this handout, too, and it's called a Sin Web. When we make poor choices, we often get other people tangled up in the consequences. Let's create a Sin Web ourselves to see how this works. Let's begin by naming a sin that a person might commit. (*Write the sin on the butcher paper.*)

(*Brainstorm a Sin Web Scenario based on the faces pictured. As ideas are volunteered, write them, draw a bubble around them, and draw an arrow to the next person and how the original sin affected them. Praise kids for logical and creative responses.*)

Do you see now how easy it is to get trapped in a sticky web? Even the “little” sins in our lives can create a trap for other people. We can prevent Sin Webs like this one by making right choices that are above the world. Do you care enough about others to shield them from the consequences of your sin? Remember, **how you live affects others around you.**

(Distribute pencils and have kids draw their own faces in the blank oval. Ask them to keep their eyes open as you pray over them. Pray that God would give them strength to live righteously and free from the entangling effects of sin.)



The Jesus Factor

Love others as much as you love yourself.

—Matthew 22:39b

Materials: Soccer ball, Bible.

(Pass a soccer ball around.) Hey, do we have any soccer players in the house? Who would like to show off their moves? *(Allow kids to demonstrate soccer moves as space allows.)* What does it take to be a part of a sports team? *(Talent, hard work, a willingness to get along with others, etc.)* Would a coach allow someone to stay on the team if he deliberately hurt another player? Pushed them down, or aimed the ball straight at their head? *(No—she wouldn't want the other players to get hurt.)*

(Hand a Bible to a volunteer and have her read the Jesus Factor verse aloud.) Loving one another is one of the rules Jesus gave to those who play on His team. Achan was taken off the team because his actions hurt others. What can we do to have a positive effect on our most important “team”—our brothers and sisters in Christ? *(Responses might include obeying God's commands, considering the feelings of other Christians, etc.)* Remember the expression, “There's no ‘I’ in TEAM”? That is certainly true of God's team. Play on God's team in a way that honors him and your teammates. **How I live affects others around me!**

Small Group Activity

The Color of Our Actions

Materials: White, basket-style coffee filters (two per child), cardboard/card stock pieces (one per child), black and colored markers, newspaper to cover tables, spray bottles of water, hair dryers, glue sticks.

(Set a coffee filter, a black marker, a yellow marker, and a spray bottle in front of you. Have children gather around you.) I'm going to use a coffee filter as a painting canvas. Coffee filters are made of a unique type of paper. *(Draw a squiggly line on the filter with a black marker.)* Water travels right through it. *(Spray the mark with water.)* See how water makes the black marks spread? This is like how our choices can spread to affect the lives of others. But the positive choices we make spread around, too. *(Draw on a still-dry portion of the filter with the yellow marker, spray it with water, then hold it up.)* Each of you will get two coffee filters. Color one with dark, negative colors, and the other with bright, positive colors. Then spray them with water and watch the positive and negative effects spread! Let this remind you that **how you live affects others around you.**

(After children have colored and soaked both filters, dry them with the hair dryer. Then have children glue them onto a piece of cardboard to take home.)

Take-Home Challenge

Materials: Lesson 8 Ages 11-12 Take-Home Challenge from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

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