

# All Around Us

## Lesson Overview

According to the Bible, relying on our own steam we cannot please God or do any lasting spiritual good—our sin and rebellion against God short-circuit all our attempts and efforts (Rom. 3:10). Even the best of us on our best days, when we know the right thing to do and we're straining to do it, fall far short of God's intentions, miss the mark and sin (Rom. 3:23). The human condition is that our internal moral compass is broken; we all have a good-destroying sin nature.

Not only we have to battle our own sinful will to ignore or displace God, we also have a cunning, despicable spiritual enemy—Satan, the devil (Acts 10:38) and the “father of lies” (John 8:44). A major theme of the Bible is that history is a protracted spiritual struggle in which God ultimately and profoundly defeats Satan. Satan's ultimate goal is to separate us from God and Christ. He will use any means to achieve that end. A big one is deception—he wants us to buy into his lies so that we will sin.

When Satan tried to deceive Jesus, our Lord used the Word of God to battle him. We have the same resource available to us. When we know what God's Word says, we are less likely to be deceived. But just “knowing” isn't enough. We must also apply His Word to our lives. To get to victory, we need to know what produces defeat. And that brings us to the the issue of the heart: our heart's desires, what we want most deep down inside—that's what we're concentrating on today. Victorious living is accessible when we take to heart today's Scripture Memory Verse, “I treasure your word above all else; it keeps me from sinning against you.”—Psalm 119:11.

## Going Deeper

Sin brings defeat. This is vividly illustrated by Achan's sin against God and against the entire camp. He thought he was doing something for his family but his sin lead directly to Israel's defeat in battle, his own demise and that of his entire family. This lesson is a little bit tricky with children: we want to teach the story and the principles of the story, but we don't want to scare the wits out of kids. Teach this concept while at the same time being careful not to fill the children with fear that God is just waiting to zap them for the smallest infractions of his law. Emphasize God's love and our ability to resist sin instead.



## 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

## Everything You Need

**Note:** For a listing of basic supplies to keep on hand, see page 13.

**Game #1:** Stopwatch or clock with second hand, 20-25 small household objects, large cardboard box, beach towel, 2 whiteboards, 2 markers.

**Game #2:** 2 large oranges.

**Praise and Worship:** *Bible & Praise* DVD.

**Lesson Introduction:** Whiteboard with word P-O-P-C-O-R-N written on it, eraser, popcorn, drinking water, paper bowls and cups.

**Scripture Memory Verse:** Lesson 8 Scripture Memory Verse from *Leader Resources* CD-ROM, pictures of valuable things (houses, cars, electronics, etc.).

**Acting God's Word:** Lesson 8 Acting God's Word script from *Leader Resources* CD-ROM.

**Bible Story:** Large see-through glass baking dish filled with water.

**Object Lesson #1:** Blank transparency, marker.

**Object Lesson #2:** Several feet of chain, lock, matching key.

**Today's Life Story:** Lesson 8 Today's Life Story from *Leader Resources* CD-ROM.

## Welcome

Start your service with high energy as you welcome the kids and open in prayer. See page 18 in this *Leader's Manual* for helpful welcoming tips.

## Game # 1

### Memory Game

#### Review Questions

*(Have children fill in the blanks to recite last week's Power Point and Scripture Memory Verse. Choose one boy and one girl who fill in the blanks correctly to help choose three more participants each to play Game # 1.)*

▶ I will \_\_\_\_ even those who do \_\_\_\_\_ to me.  
(bless) (wrong)

▶ "But I tell you to \_\_\_\_ your enemies and \_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ you."—Matthew 5:44  
(bless) (pray) (anyone) (mistreats)

**Props:** Stopwatch or clock with second hand, 20-25 small household objects, large cardboard box, beach towel, 2 whiteboards, 2 markers.

**Participants:** Eight children (two teams of four children each), two adult helpers.

**Preparation:** At home, gather 20-25 common household objects (box of paperclips, colorful pencil, small stuffed animal, compact disc, DVD, bag of flour, colorful marble, calculator, bottled water.) Place all objects in a large cardboard box and cover the box's opening with a large beach towel so no one can see what's inside. Select two adult or teen volunteers and provide stopwatches to them.

### Playing the Game

Divide the eight children into two teams of four children each. Have both teams line up relay style. Set the covered up box full of common household objects in a corner and have two adult helpers with watches or stopwatches stand nearby. Place a whiteboard and marker next to each relay line and face the whiteboards at an angle so opposing teams can't see them.

Explain to the children in the relay race that the first person in each line will run over to the box, uncover the towel, glance inside, and try to remember as many objects as they can in a 5-second time frame. (Adult helpers will time each team member.) When the time is up, the adult helper will cover up the box and both relay participants will run back to their line, write down on their whiteboard all of the objects they can remember before sending the next participant to the box. Continue until all relay members have completed their turn. The team with the most correct objects written down on their whiteboard wins.

## Game #2

### Orange Pass

#### Review Questions

*(Select one boy and one girl who answer the following review questions correctly to choose three more participants each to take part in Game #2. Orange Pass.)*

- ▶ In last week's Bible Lesson, what disease did Naaman have? (*Leprosy.*)
- ▶ What happened to the girl in the story? (*She was kidnapped from her family and forced to become Naaman's servant.*)

**Props:** 2 large oranges (and a few replacements in case a dropped orange bursts).

**Participants:** Eight children (two teams of four children each), two adult helpers.

#### Playing the Game

Have the players come forward and form two relay lines. Assign an adult helper to each team to help the players line up, allowing about three feet between teammates. Give the first player on each team a large orange. Have the first participant in the relay line hold it using only their chin. Explain to the players that they can only use their chins to hold and pass the orange, no hands! When you say, "go," the first player passes the orange using only her chin. She walks to her teammate and carefully passes the orange all the while keeping her arms and hands to her side. Each player on the team repeats the process. If an orange is dropped, the team's adult helper will retrieve it and return it to the chin of the player who dropped it. After the last player in the relay receives the orange, she carries it, using only her chin back to the first player on her team and the team sits down. The first team to complete the relay wins.

## Praise & Worship

Lead the children in a powerful time of entering God's presence using the worship songs from the *Bible & Praise* DVD.

## Lesson Introduction

**Props:** Whiteboard with word P-O-P-C-O-R-N written on it, eraser, popcorn, drinking water, paper bowls and cups.

**Preparation:** Write the word P-O-P-C-O-R-N on the whiteboard (spelled out in all caps) ahead of time.

#### Presentation

*(Explain to the children that you want their undivided attention. Without telling children what you are doing keep track of talking out of turn or other broken class rules. Don't say anything, but if children speak out of turn or act up, quietly go to the board and erase one of the letters that spells P-O-P-C-O-R-N. If any of the letters are still on the board at the end of this introduction, all of the children get to have a popcorn party, if all the letters are erased, no popcorn at this time!)*

Let me ask everyone a question: Who sins? (*Everyone does.*) Does our sin just affect us? (*No, it affects others around me.*) When was a time that someone else's sin affected you? (*Allow responses. You may want to get the children started by asking if a brother or sister's disobedience ever resulted in them missing out on a fun outing.*)

You've probably all made a card house or lined up dominoes. What happens if knock one domino over or remove a card from a card house? (*Allow responses.*) Just like knocking over one domino makes them fall or removing one card from the middle of a card house will make the house fall, the actions of one person can effect everybody. Today, we are going to explore the Power Point: **How I live affects others around me.** Look at the board. You probably didn't notice, but I haven't said anything when someone breaks one of our KIDS Church rules. Instead, I've been erasing the word on the board. What do you think this word [or letters] means? (*Allow responses.*) I wrote popcorn on the board because I was planning a popcorn party for everybody!

*(Check the whiteboard and see if any letters of P-O-P-C-O-R-N remain. If they do, explain that because the class listened well during this time, there is a reward. Pass out the popcorn and water and mention that if the word on the board had*

been erased because of misbehaving, no one would be enjoying this popcorn. If your group has no letters left on the board explain what you had planned and how the actions of a few hurt the rest of the group. Then give the children a second chance for a popcorn party by writing the words back on the board and encouraging good behavior for the rest of the time. Be sure to reward the group with the popcorn sometime during the lesson!)

## Scripture Memory Verse

**I treasure your word above all else; it keeps me from sinning against you.**

—Psalm 119:11

**Props:** Lesson 8 Scripture Memory Verse from *Leader Resources* CD-ROM, pictures of valuable things (houses, cars, electronics, etc.)

### Practice it

Have Children on one side of the room will the first phrase: **“I treasure your word above all else.”** While saying the phrase kids will raise their hands (raise Bibles if they have them) in the air. Children on the other side of the room will say the second phrase: **“It keeps me from sinning against you.”—Psalm 119:11.** While saying the phrase kids will bring their hands to their hearts (holding Bible if they have one). Repeat the verse a few times and them switch sides and practice a few times.

### Understand it

(*Show children pictures of valuable things.*) These are all things that people might treasure. What things do you treasure? (*Allow responses. Hold up your Bible.*) This verse is telling us that God’s Word is a valuable treasure, even more valuable than some things we might think are pretty important. The reason we need to treasure the Bible above other treasures is that the Bible gives us what we need to live for God. What does this verse say is one practical way the Bible can help us? (*The Bible can help us not to sin against God.*)

### Live it

One way we show that we treasure the Bible is to read it regularly. What are some ways you can do

this? (*Allow responses. Encourage kids to make the Bible a part of their regular routine, like eating and brushing teeth. Explain how a daily devotion can help their spiritual lives as well as keep sin at bay.*)

## Bible Lesson

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

—Joshua 7:1-26

### Acting God’s Word

Use the Acting God’s Word puppet script on the *Leader Resources* CD-ROM before you begin the Bible Story as a visual way to introduce the point of today’s lesson. You can act the segment with puppets, use a drama team, or use the CD audio script with either approach.

*Mindi Lee is still upset about Dr. D. Seaver pawning her family locket. Keona tells Mindi Lee that it could still be at the pawn shop. They both go to the pawn shop and Mindi Lee sees the locket and asks to see the jewelery. She quickly takes the locket and heads toward the door where she is stopped by a hiding Dr. D. Seaver. He sees her attempt to steal the locket and confronts her. Dr. D. Seaver relishes the opportunity to expose her and the Doodad Gang publicly, after he was going to be exposed for his dishonest campaigning for mayor.*

Ask the questions below to discuss the puppet segment.

- ▶ Why was Mindi Lee upset? (*Dr. D. Seaver had pawned her locket that he found at his house.*)
- ▶ What did Mindi Lee try to do? (*Steal the locket.*)
- ▶ What did Dr. D. Seaver he would do? (*Tell the papers about catching Mindi Lee.*)

Mindi Lee made a bad choice by trying to steal her locket that belonged to the pawn shop. The Doodad Gang was about to be honored for their part in exposing Dr. D. Seaver’s crooked campaigning. Now Mindi Lee’s sin could bring shame to the entire Doodad Gang. In today’s Bible story, one man’s very poor choice led to some serious consequences for himself and others.

## Bible Story

**Props:** Large see-through glass baking dish filled with water.

**Preparation:** Fill the see-through glass baking dish with water and set it aside until called for later on in the Bible story.

### Presentation

Boys and girls, a man named Achan sinned. His sin caused defeat for the children of Israel in one of their battles against Jericho. Joshua 7:1-26 tells us what happened. The Lord commanded His people to not take anything from the city, as they battled against Jericho. Achan, however, took gold, silver, and a valuable robe during the battle and he hid the items he stole. To make matters worse, he lied about his sin. Achan's sin caused defeat and destruction and 36 of his fellow soldiers died in battle. When the truth revealed Achan's sin it cost him and his family their lives.

Although it may seem dramatic that so many people suffered or died because of Achan's sin, this example is in the Bible to help us remember that **how I live affects others around me**. Achan learned this the hard way. The consequences to our sins likely won't be this severe...let's hope not. But they can be far-reaching. Let's me show you what I mean.

*(Show the group a large see through glass baking dish filled with water. Call up a volunteer and have him very lightly touch his finger in the center of the water.)* What happens to the rest of the water? *(Allow responses. A ripple effect is created and all of the water moves. Have the volunteer to return to his seat.)* Sin is just like that ripple. It starts in one place, but its ripple effect touches every aspect of life, including all of the people who are in that sin's way. As our Power Point says—**How I live affects others around me**.

## Object Lesson # 1

**Props:** Blank transparency, marker.

**Preparation:** Use the marker to write outrageous "tabloid" type headlines on the blank transparency.

### Presentation

*(Show the transparency on the overhead.)* Maybe you've seen tabloid papers in the supermarket checkout lane. The headlines are a collection of lies like, "Man with Three Heads Discovered in Desert," or "Dogs Can Speak Spanish," and "Aliens Take Over the White House." It's silly, but people still buy these newspapers—even though they know they're buying a lie. Does that make sense? *(Allow responses.)* Why do you think people might buy these kinds of papers? *(Allow responses.)*

Although full of lies, these newspapers are believable to some because they contain SOME truth. It may be a small sliver of truth, followed by a big lie but there is enough truth to make the articles believable to some people. When stories are partially based on truth, it's hard to determine which part is true and which part is not true.

The devil will try and pull you into sin by making you buy into a lie, too. He will tempt you with a small sliver of truth and try to make you believe that you're "helping" a friend by agreeing with her to lie to her mom, for instance. "Just tell my mom that the reason we're late is that we had to stop at your house," she might say, But it's a lie and you know it! The devil wants you to think you're helping your friend, however, you're both sinning. Don't buy into the lie! It's never an O.K. thing to do, as Achan's story clearly demonstrates, and our Power Point says—**How I live affects others around me**.

## Object Lesson #2

**Props:** Several feet of chain, lock, matching key.

**Preparation:** Review the presentation with a helper before the service.

### Presentation

Your enemy, the devil is real. He wants to keep you from fulfilling all of the plans that God has for you. Satan knows that God has a victorious future for you and Satan wants to keep you from God's plan for your life. *(Have the helper come forward and drape the chain around him.)* The enemy wants to trap and deceive you. The more you sin, the more territory you give to your enemy. *(Place the lock on the chain and close the lock.)* Satan wants you to believe there's no way out. The lock represents one of the enemy's greatest weapons. It's fear. You enemy wants you to believe that you're trapped. He wants you to believe that your sin will block you from ever walking with the Lord.

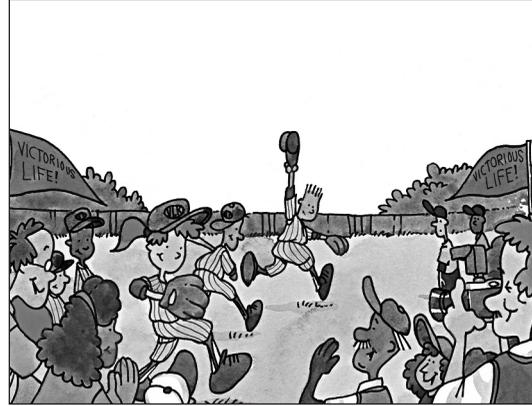
It's a lie! *(Use the key to unlock the lock and take the chain off of your helper.)*

Jesus won the victory over sin. If we confess our sin, the Lord will forgive us (1 John 1:9). Don't let the enemy take away your victory. Your best choice is not to sin. However, when we do sin, we need to remember God's Word that there is no condemnation (none!) for those who are in Christ (Rom. 8:1); that Jesus is our lawyer before God, pleading our case (1 John 2:1); and that we have a way back to the Lord—through confessing our sins to Him and asking Him for forgiveness (1 John 1:9). Don't let the enemy block you with fear. Don't be deceived—Christ has won the victory for you.

## Today's Life Story

### Caught Cheating!

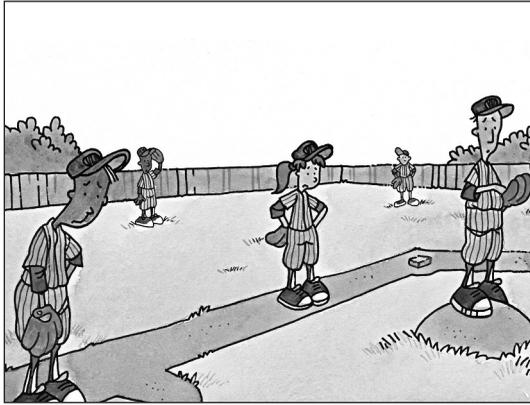
*Illustration 8-1*



► The last game of the season had arrived. The Victorious Life Kids players and coaches ran onto the field with excitement and enthusiasm. Their friends and families filled the stands and were cheering on the VLK team.

The Victorious Life Kids were playing the Eco-Kids team and it looked like a pretty even match. The coaches for both teams ran their players through a strong warm-up and then had them gather in the dugouts for final instructions and the batting order announcements.

**Illustration 8-2**



► The Eco-Kids team were the first up to bat and the Victorious Life Kids moved into position on the field. Coach Clarke and his assistant coaches, Nina and Arnold were shouting words of encouragement to their players. “Let’s go, team!” Yelled Arnold. Nina added, “You can do it. Keep your eyes on the ball!” “Remember, you are victorious!” called Coach Clarke to his team. The Victorious Life Kids were hearing the words of their coaches and fans, however on the inside they were nervous. The Eco-Kids seemed more prepared and the Victorious Life Kids were a bit scared. The VLK pitcher was having a rough time and it showed in the score. Coach Clarke told Nina to warm up another pitcher—quick.

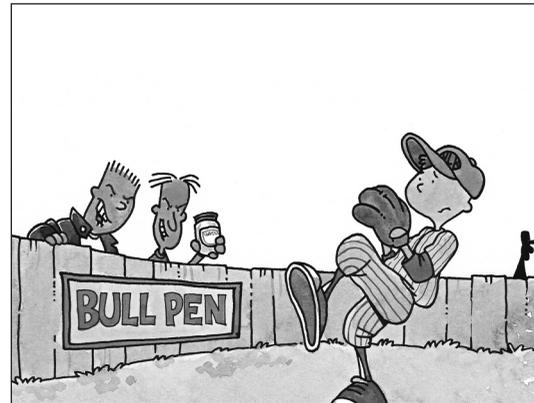
**Illustration 8-3**



► While the Victorious Life Kids took their first time at bat, coach Nina worked with Mark, “It’s time to warm up your arm Mark.” Nina told the player. “You’re going

to pitch the next inning.” Mark protested, “I don’t think I’m ready to play. I don’t think I can do it.” Nina recognized that he needed some encouragement and told him, “Mark, I know you can do it. You’ve done well in practice and you have a strong arm.” With that encouragement, Mark ran to the bullpen to start his warm-up.

**Illustration 8-4**



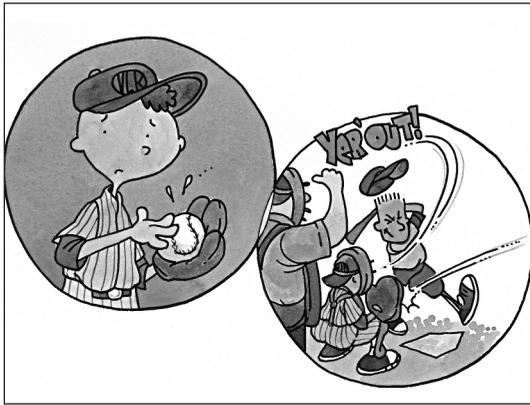
► As Mark warmed up in the bullpen, a couple of characters approached the bullpen fence to watch him. They teased him yelling, “Hey, goofy! You aren’t going to win with sissy little pitches like that! If you wanna win, come over here and see what we’ve got!”

The boys showed Mark a jar of Vaseline and one of them explained, “If you smear some of this on the ball before you pitch it, the Vaseline will ruin the batter’s chance of getting a good hit.” “Yeah said the other character, “This stuff works like magic! It’s a trick the pros use.”

Mark wasn’t sure about what the boys were telling him, but he was tempted to use anything that would help him do better in the game.

Kids, Mark was tempted. It was as though the enemy was offering him some bait and Mark took it. The same thing can happen to you and I. Our enemy wants to draw us into traps in similar ways. He wants us to do wrong things—to sin.

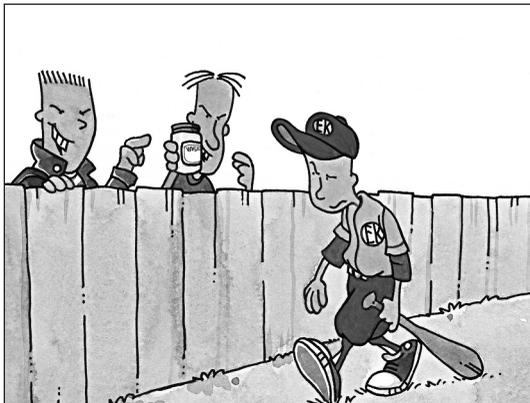
**Illustration 8-5**



- ▶ Mark took his position on the pitcher's mound. "This is my moment," thought Mark, "This is my chance to be a hero. All I have to do is grease up this ball and send it over home plate. The batter won't have a chance!"

Mark hid the ball in his glove and greased it. It only took him five pitches to strike out the batter and Mark was really excited. He knew that the Vaseline on the ball had given him the edge he needed to be successful on the mound.

**Illustration 8-6**



- ▶ As the Eco-Kids batter dragged his bat back to dugout, the characters that had taught Mark how to grease his pitch yelled to him. "Hey batter! The VLK pitcher was cheating. He greased the ball with Vaseline before he pitched to you." The Eco-Kids batter looked at the characters and asked, "What are you talking about?" "This,"

shouted one of the boys. "It's one of the oldest tricks in baseball. The VLK pitcher greased the ball before pitching to you. It's illegal!" The batter ran back to the umpire and told him to examine the ball.

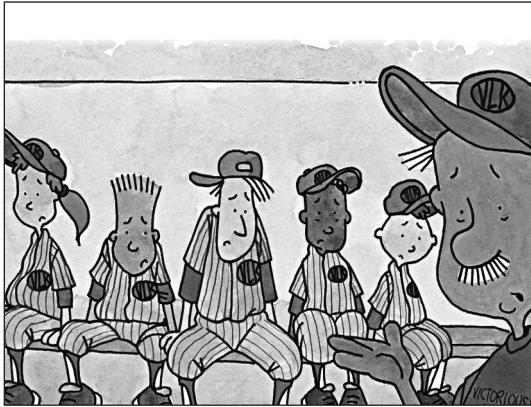
**Illustration 8-7**



- ▶ The umpire examined the ball and found that it was greased. He called both head coaches to the homeplate for a conference. Mark could tell that he was in trouble. "I'm stopping this game," the umpire announced to the coaches. He turned to Coach Clarke and said, "Your pitcher has violated the rules of the game. This ball is greased and under our league rules, the Victorious Life Kids must forfeit the game. I declare the Eco-Kids the winner of today's game." Coach Clarke called his team into the dugout for a meeting and the players slowly came off the field.

Mark dropped his head in shame. He wanted to be a hero but he had become a traitor. He caused his team to forfeit their first game. His sin had brought defeat for his team.

**Illustration 8-8**



► While the Eco-Kids celebrated their victory, the Victorious Life Kids sat looking like the most defeated team in the world. Coach Clarke knew he could get his players past this awful incident but it would require God's help and power. He spoke to his players, "We play as a team. Win, lose or even in a forfeit, we play as a team." Coach Clarke kept his players in the dugout for a long time. Mark apologized for his wrongdoing but many of the players really didn't want to forgive him. The coach did his best to quiet the reactions of the other players. He closed the session in prayer, asking God to help the team overcome the loss and to become stronger in always doing the right thing.

Kids, it's a hard experience to go through, but the truth is, sin does cause defeat. We can be victorious by following and obeying God. And, in the times were we do sin, we need to be quick to pray and ask forgiveness. Don't let your enemy get between you and God. Keep the victory that Jesus won for you!

## Closing Prayer

Today's Power Point ***How I live affects others around me*** is a good reminder. Sins and lies I tell don't just make life difficult for me but also harm others.

Dear Jesus,

Help us to please You always and remember that there is no such thing as a small lie. Any untruth is displeasing to you. Most of all help us to remember that ***how I live affects others around me***. When I sin, thank You for providing forgiveness and restoration. This week, help me to live for You!

In Jesus' name. Amen.

## Small Group Lesson

Using the *God Encounters Small Group Lessons* (see page 10 in this *Leader's Manual*), divide your children into one of three elementary-age groups: ages 6-7, ages 8-10, ages 11-12. These groups allow deeper exploration of the Power Point and life application.

Instruct small-group leaders to hand out this week's Take-Home Challenge.

