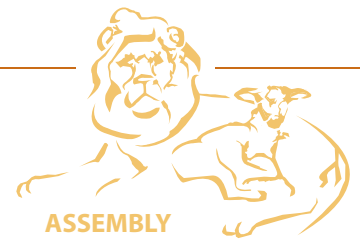


ISRAEL AND AI

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOSHUA 7-8



Feel free to read the story to the children, or retell the story in your own words, using the flannel graph figures to illustrate. The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

HIDE AND SEEK

Supplies:

a large button

This exercise will illustrate that our sinful tendency is to “hide” our sins from God and from others but that God will help us when we tell God and our parents when we sin. Have the children play a game of “Button, button, who’s got the button?”

You may want to lead everyone through the game until they get the idea. Explain that one child will be given a button to hide in their hand. Explain that all children should make their hands into fists and lay them in their laps. Instruct them not to tell who has the button, but to call out “cold,” “warm,” or “hot,” as the child who is “It” walks around the circle, depending on how close they are to the button.

Begin the game by choosing one child to be “It” and have a helper take this child outside the room. Meanwhile you give the button to one child in the room.

Call the child who is “It” back into the room, and have them say, “Button, button! Who’s got the button?”

Have the child who is “It” walk around the circle to look for the person who has the button. Then lead the children in saying “cold, cold” or “hot, hot” until the child who is “It” guesses who has the button. The person who has the button becomes “It” and the game goes on.

After a few rounds of the game, share the following with the children:

Jesus taught his disciples that sin comes from within; it starts with the heart. Often we don’t realize what is in our hearts until we actually do something wrong or say something that hurts others. For example: Achan stole treasure and then he lied about it. His heart was greedy and untruthful and he sinned against God and all of Israel. The sin in his heart was hidden from Joshua and the other Israelites but God saw it all the time.

ISRAEL AND AI

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOSHUA 7-8

WE CAN'T HIDE OUR SIN

Supplies:

cut a large letter **S** out of a piece of cardboard or a piece of foam, the letter should be large enough so that a child cannot easily hide it

The idea is that you are going to give the large letter S to one of the children and have another child guess who has the letter. The point of the exercise is to demonstrate that we can't hide our sin.

To begin, ask for a volunteer to leave the room. While this person is out of the room give the letter S to one of the other children and tell them to hide it so the volunteer cannot find it. (They must hide it on their person. Do not allow them to place it under their clothing.) Obviously the only place to hide it is behind their back or under their arm. When the volunteer comes back in, have them guess who has the letter S (representing sin).

Help the children understand that our sin cannot be hidden from God. Share with them Numbers 32:23 "But if you fail to do this, you will be sinning against the Lord; and you may be sure that your sin will find you out" and Jeremiah 17:10 "I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds."

Where Is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Take time to remind the children that God always punishes sin. Achan was killed for taking the gold and silver. He deserved to be punished for his sin. We all deserve to be punished for our sin as well. The penalty for even one sin is death.

Jesus took the penalty for our sin at the cross so we can be forgiven. All those who trust in the Lord had their sin paid for on the cross. The Bible says, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Joshua offered a sacrifice to God for a peace offering. One day, God would offer up His son Jesus as the ultimate peace offering. Jesus said in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." With the sacrifice of Jesus, there is no longer a need to offer peace offerings for we have peace with God, see Romans 5:1.