

STOWMARKET BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY BIBLE CLUB

12 JULY 2020

HELLO EVERYONE!

Welcome to our next Bible Club story. It is Jackie writing this week.

I hope that you have all had a good week and found interesting things to do? We pray that you and your family are safe and well.

With love from all of us at Sunday Bible Club

So far, we have looked at 7 of the Commandments. How many of them can you remember before reading?

1. Put God first
2. Don't worship idols
3. Respect God's name
4. Keep God's day special
5. Honour father and mother
6. Control your anger
7. Be faithful and kind to each other

How many did you get right?

Now we come to the 8th Commandment. It is found in Exodus chapter 20 verse 5:

"You shall not steal".

We all know that it's wrong to rob a bank, but...

- What if we borrow a pencil or library book and don't give it back?
- What if we find something nice on the classroom floor and don't hand it in to the teacher, but keep it for ourselves?
- What if we take a biscuit from the tin without asking first?

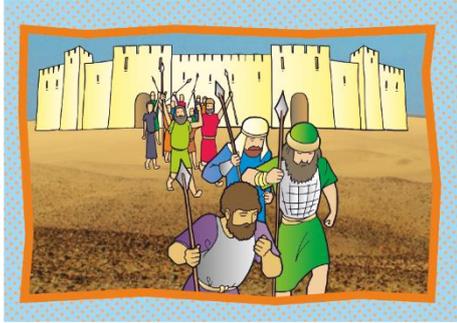
Is all that stealing?

The Bible says that anything we take, that doesn't belong to us, or we take without asking first, is stealing.

Stealing is a sin against God, it means we are disobeying God's instructions.

When people take something, it doesn't just affect them, but it hurts and or disappoints many others too.

The man in today's story thought no-one was looking when he saw some lovely things and stole them, but he was wrong... God had seen him! (God sees everything!)



Do you remember the story of Jericho, when God's people, the Israelites, led by Joshua, followed God's instructions, and marched round the walls of the city for 6 days? On the 7th day, they marched around 7 times and the walls came tumbling down.

God gave them the victory because they did what God told them. But there was another instruction: the city was to be destroyed because of all the bad things that had happened there. Any treasure, silver or gold was to be given to God.

Sadly, one man named Achan, saw a beautiful robe, silver coins and a wedge of gold, and he wanted to take them for himself. He thought no-one would miss them, and he also thought that no-one had seen him take them, so it would be all right. No-one need ever know! He dug a hole in the ground inside his tent and hid them there.



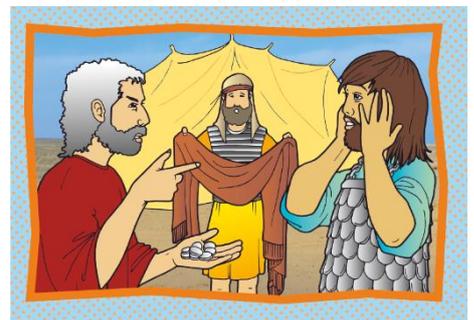
It's true that no man had seen him, but God sees everything, and he knows exactly what Achan had thought and what he had done. We cannot hide anything from God, however hard we try.

Soon it was time for the next battle. Joshua and his army were to march into the city of Ai. After their victory in Jericho, they were full of self-confidence and thought it would be easy to win the battle. This was a BIG mistake because the only reason they were successful in Jericho, is that God was with them and gave them the victory! Now they were trusting in themselves and not in God.

They didn't ask God for help or follow his instructions. Also, Achan had disobeyed God, broken the 8th Commandment by stealing treasure that belonged to God. What a terrible mess they were in! Of course, they did not win the battle at Ai, because God was not with them. Achan's stealing had caused huge problems for them all. God was NOT pleased with them at all. He was angry.

Joshua didn't understand why they had lost the battle, so he prayed to God. God told Joshua that he had to find the guilty man who had stolen from him, and this man should be punished.

Eventually, with God's help, Joshua found out that Achan was the guilty man. He had stolen and hidden the treasure in his tent. He forgot that God would see everything. We cannot hide from God. Achan's sin affected the whole nation of Israel.



Achan was punished because he disobeyed God and lied about it. He broke the 8th Commandment. The stolen things were destroyed. God then forgave his people as they turned to God for help.

Stealing is a sin that separates us from God. It also affects and hurts other people, not just ourselves. God always knows when we break his commands.

But...

When we trust in Jesus to forgive our sins, when we are truly sorry and turn away from wrong things, God has promised he will forgive us and make us part of his family, where we will be loved by him forever. God will then help us to obey him. How wonderful, we don't deserve such amazing love. He is a Great God.

God wants us to show other people, our friends, that we love and trust Jesus, by the way we live. That includes NOT stealing, even when no-one's looking!

Dear Lord

Thank you for the Lord Jesus who died on the cross as punishment for sin. Please help me to say, "no" to wrong things and put my trust in Jesus.

Amen

You can find the story of Achan's sin in the Bible in Joshua chapter 7.