# SALVATION LESSON 3: The Cost of Sin

***After completing this Sunday school lesson, the children will realize that because of sin they are separated from God, and that because God is just, He must punish sin. However, He is also merciful, and does not want to punish us.***

#### TOPICS

Born Again, Salvation, Grace, Justice, Judgement of God, Mercy, Wrath

#### AS KIDS ARRIVE (15 minutes)

# **God's Wrath Revealed (Puzzle)**

**(Crossword) "The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men." (Romans 1:18) Kids look up different Bible verses to solve this crossword puzzle about God's wrath.**

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| TOPICS:Judgement of God, Sin, WrathMATERIALS:Crossword puzzle in KJV  Pencils or markersDURATION:Approximately 15 minutes | Judgements |

#### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Have the children look up and read Romans 1:18. Then, give each child a pencil or a marker and a copy of the crossword puzzle. Explain that in order to pick the right words, they must read each of the verses shown after the clue. For younger children, you may want to have them work in pairs, or do one crossword puzzle as a class project.

OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE (5 minutes)

After prayer, ask the class about their homework assignment. They were to read about the time Cain killed his brother Abel in Genesis 4:1-14.

**Discussion questions:**
1. What were the reasons Cain killed his brother Abel? (Pride, jealousy, lack of faith in a holy God.)
2. How was Cain punished for his sin? (He was banished from the presence of God.)
3. Was the punishment given Cain too harsh, not harsh enough? Explain.

#### MEMORY WORK (12 minutes)

**"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness." Romans 1:18 NIV**Write the entire verse on the board and have the children read it together. Then begin by erasing some of the words, for example the word "the" or all words with only three letters etc. Then have the children read the verse again with the missing words. Then erase a few more words and have them read it again. Erase a few more and read it again. Continue until all the words are erased, and the children are reciting the entire verse from memory.

#### CLASS EXERCISE (5 minutes)

# **Sin Spoils (Object Talk)**

***A little bit of mold can ruin a sandwich. Likewise, without Jesus, even a little bit of sin will keep us out of Heaven.***

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| **TOPICS:**Forgiveness, Salvation, Sin **MATERIALS:**Two pieces of breadGreen food coloring A paper napkin**DURATION:**Approximately 5 minutes | moldy bread |

**PREPARATION:**

Place several drops of green food coloring on one piece of bread. You want to create the appearance that mold is growing on the surface of the bread.

**WHAT YOU WILL DO:**

You will pretend to make a sandwich using a piece of bread that is moldy, to demonstrate how even a little bit of mold can ruin a good sandwich. Compare this to how even a little bit of sin, without Jesus, will keep us from going to Heaven.

**WHAT YOU WILL SAY:**

I am starving! I think I will make a nice tasty sandwich. (Take the good piece of bread and set it on a napkin.) Okay here is the first piece of bread. It is a great start to a tasty sandwich! (Take out the moldy piece of bread and make a yucky face.) Oh, gross! This piece of bread has mold growing all over it! (Show the moldy bread to the students.) I'm not going to eat that! How many of you would eat a sandwich made using moldy bread. Even a little bit of mold would ruin a great sandwich.

Sin has the same effect on us; God will not allow anyone with even a little bit of sin into Heaven. The bad news is the Bible says that all of us have sinned. Romans 3:10 says, "There is no one righteous, not even one." The good news is that God loves us so much that He sent Jesus into the world to forgive our sins. If we ask Jesus to forgive us for the sins we have committed, and ask Him to become the Lord of our lives, He will. Then we can get into Heaven, because Jesus has paid the price for our sins.

SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

**Introduction:**Today, we will be reading from the book of Joshua, right after the Israelites fought and won the battle of Jericho. Jericho was the first city conquered by the Israelites after entering the promised land, so it was especially significant. Every material thing taken from the city was to be devoted to God. However, one man violated these instructions.

**Read Joshua 7:1
Discussion Questions:**1. Who violated the instructions regarding the devoted things from Jericho? (Achan)
2. Who was affected because of his sin? (All Israel)

Later, Israel went to battle against the city of Ai. But this time they were not successful. In fact, about 36 men were killed and the rest were forced to return to camp, afraid and trembling. Then the Lord told Joshua why they failed. It was because Israel had violated the covenant by taking some of the devoted things. Then God told Joshua what he must do.

**Read Joshua 7:14-26 (Punishment for Achan)
Discussion Questions:**
1. How was Achan discovered as the one who violated God's covenant? (By coming tribe by tribe, clan by clan, then family by family, God was able to show Joshua who the sinner was.)2. What does this tell you about our sins? (You cannot hide them from God.)3. What were the consequences of Achan's sin? (Yes, death.)
4. What do we deserve for our own sins? (Eternal separation from God.)
5. Why was Achan's family killed along with him? (The family may have assisted in hiding the items. Also because Achan did not fear God, that attitude may have rubbed off on his family. In order to cleanse Israel, the entire family needed to be destroyed.)
6. What happened when Israel cleansed themselves of the sin of Achan? (God turned from his anger and wrath.)

#### CLASS EXERCISE (10 minutes)

**Who is Without Sin? (Activity)**

***After taking balled-up pieces of paper and pretending to stone a sinner, the children will compare judging others to having sin in their own lives.***

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| **TOPICS:**Acceptance, Judging, Sin**MATERIALS:**About 25 sheets of 8½" by 11" paperPencils/markers for each child**DURATION:**Approximately 10 minutes | chalkboard |

**WHAT YOU WILL DO:**

First, give each child a blank sheet of paper. Have them roll it up into a ball. Then ask one of the larger kids to volunteer to pretend that they were caught committing a terrible crime. Have them stand in the middle of the room. Tell the class "In Jesus' day, when people were caught committing certain crimes, the punishment may have been to get "stoned to death" by the people living in the village. Should we stone this criminal?" The children will most likely shout yes, but tell them not to throw above the waist and not to throw hard so the child will not get hurt or frightened. Then ask the children how they felt while throwing the "stones". Was it fun? Did you feel good about it? Let them know that their reactions were probably very similar to those in Jesus' time.

Then give each child another blank sheet of paper and a pencil or marker. This time, however, tell them not to roll it up just yet because they will be writing something on it first.

Have the kids think of a recent time that they sinned, such as telling a lie about their homework, arguing with their parents, or a time they were disobedient, etc. Tell them to write that sin on the paper. Next, have the children think of how many times they sinned during the past week. Remind them of all the things that may be considered a sin, and have them write the number down on the piece of paper. Then tell them to ball-up the paper as before and hold on to it.

Next have the children look up and read John 8:3-11. Ask a volunteer to pretend they have committed a crime, like adultery as in the Bible passage, or any other serious crime. Then ask the class, "Should we stone this criminal? Remember in the story Jesus said 'If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone.' Who is without sin in this class?" (Make sure the children understand that they cannot throw the paper because they have sinned.) "That's right, we have all sinned. Even Jesus said that 'everyone has sinned, and falls short of the glory of God'. Before we judge someone else for doing wrong, we need to look at our own lives and ask ourselves if we are any better. Like the woman in the story, we should go and try our best not to sin anymore."

#### Closing CLASS EXERCISE (5 minutes)

**Verse Worksheet 1**
Have the children take Verse Worksheet 1 from their folder, and have them **paraphrase** the last two verses (Isaiah 59:2 and Romans 1:18). When finished, ask for two or more volunteers to share their paraphrases for all six verses. The finished Verse Worksheets may be taken home or kept in the folders.

#### APPLICATION (5 minutes)

So far, we have learned that Heaven is a free gift, and it cannot be earned. No matter how much money someone has, or how many good things they do, they cannot get to Heaven on their own. Last week (yesterday) we learned that no one is perfect, and everyone is a sinner. Because of that sin, we are separated from God.

Today, we learned how deadly that sin really is. Achan's entire family was destroyed because of his sin against God. The Bible says that God is just and must punish sin; however, He is also merciful and doesn't want to punish us. You may be wondering how God could punish our sins but not us. How can we cleanse ourselves from our sins? In our next lesson, we will see how God solved this dilemma by sending His only son, Jesus, to live with us.

For homework this week, I want everyone to read a short passage. Romans 5: 6-11. Read it several times, and be sure to look up any words you are not familiar with. When we meet again for our next lesson on Salvation, have an answer to the following questions:
**1. Would it be difficult to give up your life to save the life of a real "bad" person or someone who sins against you? Why or why not?
2. How did God demonstrate His love for us?**

#### CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)

**Prayer Box**
Have each child take one card out of the box. (If they draw their own name, have them put it back and try again) Have a few minutes of silent prayer, so each child can pray for the person on their card. After praying, have them write their name on the back of the card. Close the lesson with prayer.

When finished, have each child put the card back into the box for next week.