Ages 3-**6: Achan's Theft Act**-it-out

Materials Needed

copy of *The Lord Puppet* (2 per page) for each child; *Achan's Treasure 1-3*; paper or fabric to cover treasure; markers or crayons; scissors; tape or stapler; puppet handles, e.g. popsicle sticks, pencils cardboard strips, plastic spoons, etc.

Prepare in Advance

Print *Achan's Treasure* and *Lord Puppets.* Cut apart the *Lord Puppets.* Gather other supplies. Set up a tent by draping a sheet over several chairs. Choose a location for "Jericho" and place *Achan's Treasure* there.



Children will take the story of Achan's theft to heart by acting it out with a puppet of the Lord and simple props the teacher sets up in advance.

1. Who saw what Achan did as he was doing it? (The Lord.) Yes, the Lord is always with us, protecting us and reminding us about what we should do.
2. We will start by making a puppet to remind us that the Lord is always with us. Give each child a *Lord Puppet* and markers of crayons. Have children draw a picture of the Lord. Use tape or a stapler to fasten the Lord to a "handle". Children will hold their puppets throughout the activity.
3. Where was Achan when he saw the beautiful garment, the gold and the silver? (Achan was fighting in Jericho.) Let's go to Jericho and see if we can see what Achan saw. Walk to "Jericho" and look for *Achan's Treasure.* Was the Lord watching Achan? (Yes.) What did Achan do? (He took the treasure.) Did Achan know it was wrong to take the treasure? (Yes.)
4. What did Achan do next? (He took the treasure to his tent and buried it.) Let's take the treasure and hide it in the tent. Go to the tent and put the treasure in it.
5. What happened next? (Israel lost a battle.) How did Joshua find out what had happened? (The people drew lots, and Achan was chosen.) Send someone to "find" the treasure in Achan's tent.
6. Who already knew that the treasure was in the tent? (The Lord.) The Lord sees everything. He is always with us, looking after us.

New Church Concept
Teacher Background

If evils are not put away in one's external self, lusts with their delights grow and proliferate. The more thieves steal, the greater their lust to steal, until at last they cannot desist. See *Divine Providence* 112

Insofar as a person refrains from stealing as being a sin, so far they love honesty, because stealing is also fraud, and fraud and honesty are two opposites. Consequently, insofar as a person does not engage in fraud, so far they deal honestly. See *Doctrine of Life* 82

New Church Concept
Teacher Background

"In the celestial sense, thieves mean those who take away from the Lord His Divine power; also those who claim for themselves His merit and righteousness. These, even if they adore God, still do not trust in Him but only in themselves, and also do not believe in God, but only in themselves." *True Christian Religion* 319

The literal meaning of the commandments is that one should honor one's parents, not kill, commit adultery, or steal, and so on. But the internal sense is that one should worship the Lord, not harbor hatred, falsify what is true, or claim for oneself what is the Lord's. These are the ways in which those four commandments are understood in heaven. See *Arcana Coelestia* 7089

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THE LORD

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Achan's Treasure 1



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Achan's Treasure 2



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Achan's Treasure 3



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