

Discussion Questions

Date: July 19th, 2026

Preacher: Josh Ratliff

Sermon Outline

Talking Points

Sin

Gen. 3:1-24; Rom. 5:12-21; 6:23; 1 John 3:4

What Is Sin and Where Did it Come From? (Rom. 5:12-14; Gen. 3:1-24; 1 John 3:4)

- Sin originated in humanity's first father, and passed to all his children. (Rom. 5:12-14; Gen. 3:1-24)
- Sin is what we do when we break God's law, and it is a part of the human condition. (1 John 3:4; Rom. 7:7-12)
- **Question:** Where are you experiencing sin "lurking at your door," and what is God leading you to do about it? For those who have not yet believed, are you ready to experience freedom from sin's cruel dominion?

God's Solution to the Problem of Sin (Rom. 5:15-21; Rom. 6:23)

- Apart from God's grace, sin only produces condemnation and death.
- By God's grace, sinners are made righteous through Jesus Christ.
- **Question:** For those who have believed, how must we live in light of this free gift? For those who have not yet believed, will you receive the free gift of righteousness offered by Jesus?

Bottom Line: God's grace is greater than human sin!

* Why do you think the modern church tends to lean away from talking or teaching about sin?

* Why is the recognition and acknowledgement of sin vital to our walks with Christ?

* Adam was passive when Eve was being tempted in the garden. How does Adam's passivity challenge your understanding on what it means to step up and protect those we love from being spiritually compromised?

* When we feel guilt or shame from sin, why is it natural or easier for us to hide from God rather than run to Him? Do you find yourself more often running to God in your life, or are you more often afraid to approach Him?

* Share about a time when your actions weren't technically breaking any biblical rules, but your heart or motives were in the wrong place. What happened, and how did God get your attention?

* Why is the image of sin lurking like a wild animal so accurate? Where do you see sin lurking at your door in your own life?

* How does keeping the "wages of sin" in mind make the "free gift of eternal life" so much sweeter?

* Jesus lived the perfect life you could not live and died the death you deserved. How does your daily life reflect this truth? Are you living life justified in Jesus, or are you pursuing justification through works and other helpless means?

What is one area in your life you may feel you are "missing the mark"? What steps can you take this week to approach Jesus and bring this sin to light?

Understanding Scripture

1. Read the passage aloud.

- Question: How would the original audience have understood this passage?
- Question: What was God's desire for them?

2. Reread key verse(s) aloud.

- Question: What does this teach us about the human soul, desires, or behavior?
- Question: What does this teach us about the nature, desires, or behavior of God?

3. Ask if anything is difficult to understand in the passage, or simply point it out yourself.

- Back up from the confusing verse and reread the whole section slowly—highlight the author's flow of thought.
- Ask everyone, "What are some possible interpretations?" Encourage curiosity!
- If needed, provide clarification, but admit if you don't have a satisfactory explanation, and volunteer to research answers. Share your findings over text or at the next meeting.

4. Summarize the passage in 1-3 sentences to refocus the group ("Okay, so far we've seen in Amos...")

- Question: What does this say about our relationship with God and/or each other?
- Question: How do the teachings, actions, or person of Jesus shed light on this passage?

Prayer Requests

