

C¹ onechurch

bigIdea



stained

All of us have a past. All of us have been stained. All have been soiled by poor choices or tarnished by choices of others. So many times, we try to fix our stains, but we only make it worse.

BIG IDEA: When we try to fix our stain, it get's worse.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's something you did as a kid that got you into trouble?
2. Talk about a time in which you got in trouble, and trying to fix it just made it worse.
3. All of us have heard the idea that *Good people go to Heaven*. Why do so many people believe this? What makes this appealing to many people?
4. Read *Job 9:30-31, Proverbs 20:9, Jeremiah 2:22, Romans 3:23 and 1 John 1:8*. What do these passages say to us? How are they similar? How are they different?
5. Do you think most people today need to be convinced that they are stained with sin? Why or why not?
6. Read *Romans 3:10-12*. This verse clearly says that everyone is stained. How do people try to remove their stain and making themselves right with God today?
7. Read *Romans 3:20 and Romans 5:20*. Does following the law and the 10 Commandments make you right with God? Why was the law given? When you see a 'Wet Paint' sign, does that make you want to touch the paint? Why or why not? How is that principle similar to Romans 5:20? What if the book of Romans ended with 3:20. How would you feel about yourself? About God?
8. Read *Romans 3:23*. When did you come to the place that you realized you had fallen short of God's standard? What did you do about it?
9. Read *Isaiah 59:2*. What breaks our relationship with God? Does God listen to the prayers of everyone? How has sin cut short a relationship you have had in the past?
10. Chris said that people try to fix their sin-stains either by determination, good works, or running to religion. Which one of these have you tried in the past? Why didn't it work? How did it make things worse?
11. There is a tension that all of us are stained with sin and we can fix it. Chris didn't give the answer this Sunday about how to become clean. Did that make you uncomfortable? Why or why not?
12. How do you deal with the sin-stain in your life right now?

THINK ABOUT IT

All of us think that we can fix our problems—either by determination, good works, or running to religion. But life just get's even messier. The lines get blurred. Doing good, going to church, following the 10 commandments, running to religion will all make things worse. Bottom line? I can't fix my stain. You can't fix your stain. You can take your best shot at removing your stain, and you will just make it worse. Nobody will measure up.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

If we can't fix our stain, then we have to stop trying and look for the One who can remove our stains. This week, keep a list of the sins—big and small—that you do or think. Bring them to group next week. You won't be asked to share these with anyone; they will just represent your sin-stained condition. You're group leader will inform you next week what to do with them.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

You welcome those who gladly do good, who follow godly ways. But you have been very angry with us, for we are not godly. We are constant sinners; how can people like us be saved? We're all sin-infected, sin-contaminated. Our best efforts are grease-stained rags. Isaiah 64:5-6