

# Problem.

Week 2 of 8 : [StartingPointGroup.org](http://StartingPointGroup.org)

## INTRODUCTION

During childhood, you may have been handed a faith framework through which you began to view the world. For a lot of us, that childhood framework didn't survive the rigors of adulthood. It's not enough to say, "*The Bible says . . .*," in the face of real-life tragedy. Adults often need a new starting point. But the starting point for Christian faith isn't, "*The Bible says . . .*" ***It's better than that - It's Jesus.***

## LISTENING GUIDE

### Faith.

- "*The Bible Says*" is not an adequate starting point or returning point for many adults.
- The Starting Point for the Christian faith is a question . . . "**Who is Jesus?**"

### SIN.

- In our culture, we've removed the word **sin** and replaced it with **mistake**.

### Mistake.

- Mistake = "insufficient knowledge"
- Sometimes we make mistakes on **purpose**.
- Sometimes we **plan** our mistakes.
- Sometimes we make the same mistakes **over and over**.
- You fix a mistake by making a correction . . . but the problem is **you can't correct you**.

## Sinner.

- *“Somebody who knows better but does it anyway.”*
- Jesus taught us that *“Sin breaks relationships.”*
- Jesus’ purpose in talking about sin was **restoration** not **condemnation**.
- As long as you think you’re a **mistaker** you won’t seek **forgiveness**, because mistakes don’t require forgiveness.
- The only way for the relationship to be **restored** is for the **offender** to acknowledge there was an **offense**.
- **Apology** = *“I’m sorry - I was wrong - It wasn’t a mistake - I did it on purpose. Will you please forgive me?”*

## Jesus.

Jesus said, *“For I tell you that unless your **righteousness** surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”* - Matthew 5:20

*“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder . . .’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment.”* - Matthew 5:21

*“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”* - Matthew 5:27-28

- You will **never** be restored to God until you acknowledge that you **need** to be restored.

## **The Prodigal Son.** (Luke 15:11-32)

*“Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.  
I am no longer worthy to be called your son.”*

But the father said to his servants, *“Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”*

**So they began to celebrate.**

- **Recognition** of sin paves the way to **restoration**.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Do you resist the idea that you are a sinner?  
If so - why? If not - why not?
2. Why do you think our culture is uncomfortable with the word “sin”?
3. Do you see evidence of sin in the world around us? If so, where?
4. During the message, Andy said . . .  
*“Jesus’ agenda in pointing out our sin was not **condemnation** but **restoration**.”*  
Is that statement difficult for you to believe? Why or why not?
5. Did you know that Jesus was attracted to sinners? (*and they were attracted to him*)

## **MOVING FORWARD**

Those who knew Jesus best tell us that he is the starting point of faith. He came to bridge the gap created by our sin - not our unintentional mistakes, but ***our sin***. Recognizing our sin paves the way to restoration and redemption. Jesus isn't put off by your sin. He's ready to forgive your sin and restore God's relationship with you.

## **CHANGING YOUR MIND**

*Romans 3:23-24 - "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."*

**HOMEWORK:** Read Chapter 2 | Answer Reflection Questions

**[StartingPointGroup.org](http://StartingPointGroup.org)**