

HOW DO I DEAL WITH SINNERS IN MY LIFE?

Matthew 18 and other passages

TAKE SIN SERIOUSLY

God takes sin seriously

Jesus seriously took our sin

GOD IS GOD AND I AM NOT

You are not the final Judge - God is.

You are not the faithful Savior - Jesus is.

RELATE TO SINNERS GRACEFULLY

Don't be shocked when sinners sin - it's their nature.

Don't stay silent when saints sin - it's NOT their nature.

Forgive fast and first

Remain humble and honest

Keep a safe distance and reach with the gospel

Keep a safe distance, not a complete absence.

Keep a safe distance, not complete acceptance.

Group Discussion Guide

- Can you recount a time in your life when you needed to deal with someone in unrepentant sin?
 - What was the context?
 - What was the outcome?
 - What made the difference?
- Can you describe some stories from the Bible that illustrate the truth that God takes sin seriously?
- How would you explain why sin is so serious?
- Do you think people in church today see sin as serious? Why or why not?
- In what ways do people take the role of the “final judge?”
- In what ways do people take the role of the “faithful savior?”
- How does this become hurtful instead of helpful?
- **Read Matthew 18:15-17.** What are the steps you would list from this passage in dealing with a brother or sister that sins against you?
- How can you help keep yourself from being influenced by sinners and instead influence them with the gospel?
- Would you be willing to share the names of two ‘sinners’ we can pray for?
- How will you plan to relate to them gracefully this week?