

September 16th, 2026

DAY 1

1. Begin your study time with prayer then read Genesis 1:26-28, Isaiah 43:7, and Matthew 5:16. Why did God create mankind?

2. Read Genesis 3:1-6. What did Adam and Eve choose in the garden of Eden?

3. Read Romans 3:23 and Romans 5:12. What were the consequences of that choice for mankind?

4. Read John 3:16 and Colossians 1:19-20. What was God's plan to rescue us from these consequences?

5. Write out this week's memory verse on a notecard or a piece of paper and post it somewhere you will see often (ex: bathroom mirror, desk, bedroom, backpack, etc).

MEMORY VERSE

"for all have sinned
and fall short of the
glory of God,"

-Romans 3:23

I'M PRAYING ABOUT:

GOD WITH US

DAY 2

1. Begin your study time with prayer and read James 2:10. What is sin?
2. Read Romans 6:23 and Isaiah 59:2. What are the consequences of sin?
3. Where do you see the evidence of sin in the world around you?
4. Where do you see the evidence of sin in your own life?
5. Write out this week's memory verse below.

DAY 3

1. Begin your study time with prayer. How have you tried to deal with sin in your life in the past?
2. Read Proverbs 28:13, 1 John 1:9, 1 Peter 2:1-3, and Matthew 5:29. How should we deal with sin according to the Bible?
3. Read Ecclesiastes 7:20, 1 John 1:8 and Philippians 1:6. Once you have confessed your sin and believed in Jesus, will you stop sinning forever?
4. If we cannot be perfect on our own, what is our true goal? (Hint: Philippians 3:13-14, Colossians 3:23-24, and 1 Corinthians 10:31)
5. Write out this week's memory verse below.

GOD WITH US

DAY 4

1. Begin your study time with prayer. Are there any areas in your life that you are having an ongoing struggle against sin in?
2. What practical steps can you take to help minimize temptations in this area of your life?
3. Who are some believers in your life that you can ask for prayer, advice, or accountability?
4. Write out a prayer to the Lord asking for help in this area of your life. Be encouraged and read Hebrews 2:18!
5. Write out this week's memory verse below.

DAY 5

1. Begin your study time with prayer. Is there an area of your life that you are having trouble trusting the Lord with?
2. What is holding you back from surrendering it to God?
3. How are you hoping to grow this year in your group?
4. What is one question you have about this lesson, scripture, or your faith in general? Write it here and ask one of your leaders next week!
5. Write out this week's memory verse below.

September 16th, 2026 LEADER GUIDE

Weekly Bible Reading Plan

- **Genesis 3**
- **Romans 3:23**
- **Romans 3:19-20**
- **Romans 5:12**
- **Isaiah 59:2**

Series Theme Verse

Hebrews 1:1-3 NASB | God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, **2** in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. **3** And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Genesis 3:3, 14-24 NASB | **3** but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" **14 The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life; 15** And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel." **16 To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you." 17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you** have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; **Cursed is the ground because of you;** In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. **18** "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; **19** By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return." **20** Now the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all *the* living. **21** The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them. **22** Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"— **23** therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. **24** So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

Romans 3:23 NASB | for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 5:12 NASB | Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned

Romans 3:19-20 NASB | Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; **20** because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin.

Isaiah 59:2 NASB | But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden *His* face from you so that He does not hear.

Ice Breaker

Activity: Fishbowl of sin

Have the group sit in a circle on the floor and pick a theme topic from below or make up another one. Each person writes down three phrases or items on three small pieces of paper that relate to the topic.

- Topic ideas: Summer, Fall, Youth Group, school

Place all the pieces of paper in the bowl and number off the group 1 and 2's to divide the group into two teams. You must number every other person in the circle.

You will do three separate rounds. Each round, you go in order around the circle and take turns. Each person gets 30 seconds to guess as many phrases on the papers as they can. Tally the score (pieces of paper) each round; the team with the highest score at the end of all rounds wins. Each round introduces a different rule, described below.

- **Round 1:** Describing the item/phrase without saying the words listed
- **Round 2:** One word to describe the item (again, you cannot say the item).
- **Round 3:** Acting it out (like charades), but this round has a twist. The Leader will add 5 blank slips into the bowl. Each team must work to get every slip out of the bowl. They cannot act out or do anything with those slips since they are blank. Ultimately, it's an impossible task.

Connection:

At the end, you can tell them that the blank slips represent sin. It doesn't matter how hard you try to remove the blank pages; you can't remove them on your own. You need someone to remove them for you. This ties into your discussion about the problem in us: sin. The gospel connection is that Jesus is the one who comes to remove Sin.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What stuck out to you from the message?
2. Where or how do you see evidence of sin in the world?
3. How do you see evidence of sin in you?
4. How do you deal with sin in your life?
5. Do you have any prayer requests?

LEADER GUIDE- Michael speaking

Over the past year, we have explored God's marvelous attributes and character by studying who He is and His deep desire for a relationship with us ([Rev 3:20](#)). In the coming year, we will witness these characteristics fully revealed in the life of Jesus Christ, as seen in the four Gospels ([Hebrews 1:1-3](#)). We'll examine Jesus' life through the four camera angles of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John; following His story chronologically from beginning to end.

Before we dive into Jesus' life, it's important to revisit the Old Testament to understand why His coming was necessary. This begins with understanding the "PROBLEM."

Imagine you're using your phone or computer and receive a warning about a virus or serious problem. Do you address it, or ignore it by hitting "Do Not Disturb"? In a similar way, all of us have warning signs in our lives—indicators that something is wrong. That problem is sin. In the beginning, God created everything, including us, and called it good. He made us uniquely to be His image-bearers, devoted to Him. True devotion requires choice, so God gave us the freedom to choose Him or go our own way. Humanity chose to rebel, resulting in separation from God and a curse on all creation.

We witness the effects of this curse not only in the actions of others but also within our own hearts and minds (**Romans 3:23**). These warning signs reveal the problem, but they cannot solve it. God gave His law as a standard, instructing people to obey, yet ultimately, no one could keep it perfectly (**Romans 3:19-20**). Like a virus alert on your device that signals something is wrong but can't fix it, the law reveals our need for help, not the solution itself.

God's rescue plan was always to send His Son, Jesus, to do what we could not: live a perfectly sinless life, model true righteousness, fully reveal God's character, and conquer sin and death. Over the next few weeks, we will trace the fulfillment of this promise, culminating in Jesus' arrival in the New Testament.

1. What stuck out to you from the message?

2. Where or how do you see evidence of sin in the world?

Leader Follow-up:

It doesn't take long to look around and see the evidence of evil in the world around us. Make sure not to answer this for them, but you can make a suggestion: for instance, wars or others' actions in school (don't let something turn into gossip).

- Sin= anything we think, say, or do that goes against God
- Wars, school shootings, bullying, losing patience with others, drinking, substance abuse, anger, etc.
 - **Galatians 5:19-21**— fruits of the flesh, think how many are evident in the world around us
 - **1 Corinthians 6:9-10** — describes many sins
- What examples can you think of in the Bible?
 - **Genesis 4:1-12** — Cain and Abel
 - **Genesis 6:5-6** — The wickedness of men — The Flood
 - **Exodus 14** — Pharaoh against the Israelites.
 - **Esther 3** — Haman's plot to kill the jews
 - Judas Iscariot
 - Saul killing Christians

3. How do you see evidence of sin in you?

Leader Follow-up

This question turns the mirror back on them. Remember, to understand why you need a savior, you must acknowledge that you are a sinner in need of a savior. Give them time to answer.

- This is a vulnerable question. If they are quiet, you can ask them to write down the sin most prevalent in their lives.
- Verses about how sin is in you:

- Romans 3:10-12
- Romans 3:23
- Jeremiah 17:9
- Romans 5:12

4. How do you deal with sin in your life?

Leader Follow-up

Most people you ask this question will say, "I try to be a good person." This is not how we deal with sin. The point of the problem is that you can't do, and that's why Jesus had to come and do for you.

- There is a variety of responses you may hear. Again, make sure you let the teens verbalize how they deal with sin.
 - Some may ignore the conviction of it, fixate on it causing anxiety, try and do good things to make up for it, make excuses trying to justify it.
- How does the Bible describe how we should deal with sin?:
 - **Matthew 5:3-4**- bankrupt spiritually leads to recognizing your need for God
 - **Ephesians 2:8-9**- saved by grace
 - **Acts 3:19** — Repent
 - **1 John 1:9** — humility to confess and ask for forgiveness
 - **Romans 10:9**— confess and believe
 - **Psalms 103:12** — our sin is not counted against us

5. Do you have any prayer requests?

Challenge:

Hand out the homework/digging deeper.

Upcoming Events:

10/9 (Friday) Worship Night
 10/14 (Wed) War in the Woods
 10/16 (Friday) - High School Cedar Point
 11/8 (Sat)- Community Fall Clean Up
 1/22-24 — High School Winter Retreat
 2/19-20 — Middle School Lock In

