

An^gler N
C H U R C H

— HOPE OF NEW JERSEY —

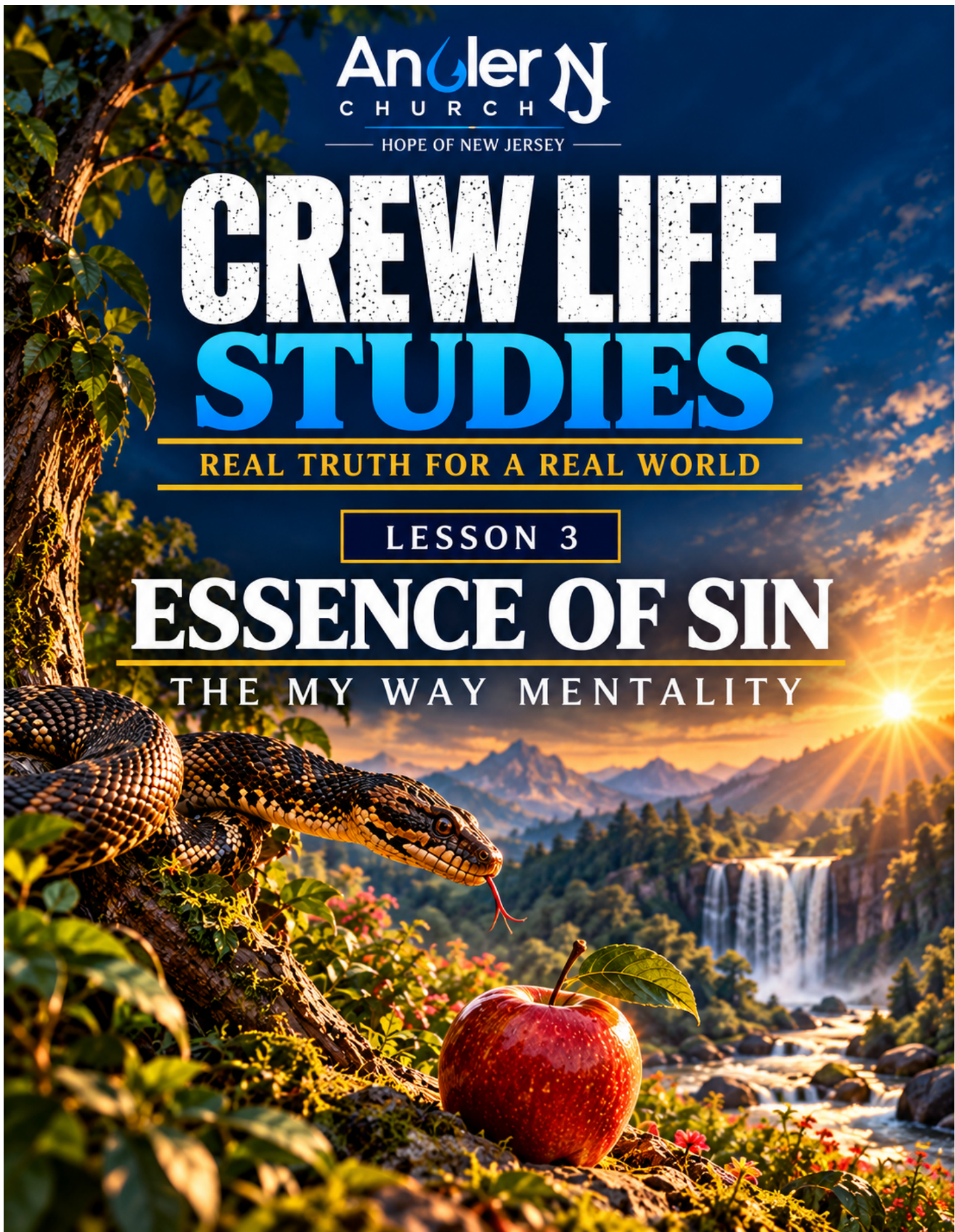
CREW LIFE STUDIES

REAL TRUTH FOR A REAL WORLD

LESSON 3

ESSENCE OF SIN

THE MY WAY MENTALITY



NOTES:

LESSON 3

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THE MY WAY MENTALITY

CONCEPTS:

1. THE ESSENCE OF SIN
2. THE MY WAY MENTALITY
3. THE ETERNAL UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLE
4. GOD'S COVERING FOR SIN

1. THE ESSENCE OF SIN

Romans 3:23 | Revelation 12:9 | Genesis 3:1-6



Q: WHAT DOES "ESSENCE" MEAN?

The core, center, or starting point of something.

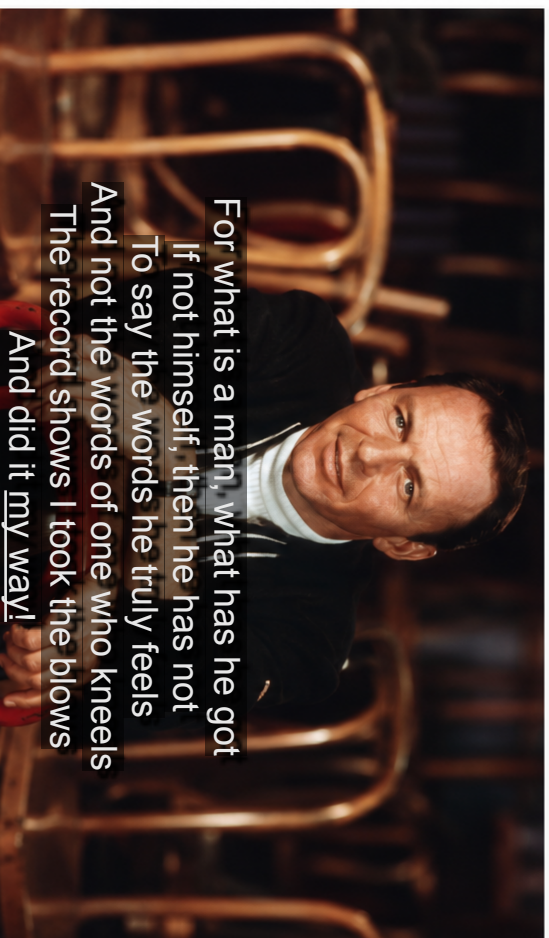
THE ESSENCE OF SIN:

"I will decide what is right and wrong."

- I am my own authority.
- I make the rules.
- I will do things my way.

LESSON 3

THE MY WAY MENTALITY

Genesis 3:7-11

When we knowingly sin it is human nature to,

1. Cover it up
2. Hide ourselves, or withdraw from God.

MAIN CONCEPT:

- Even when Adam & Eve did things their way, God was still willing to come to the garden that day.
- No matter what happens in our lives, no matter the mistakes, God is always willing to offer His love and grace by providing a covering.

LESSON 3

3. THE ETERNAL UNIVERSAL

Romans 6:23

**THE ETERNAL UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLE**

- The wages of sin is death.
- Sin brings death.
- Wherever there is sin, there is death.

BUT GOD PROVIDED A COVERING

John 1:29 | 1 Peter 1:18-19

4. GOD'S COVERING FOR SIN

Genesis 3:21

**Q: HOW DID GOD COVER ADAM AND EVE?**

Adam and Eve tried to cover themselves. God provided the covering they needed.

MAN'S WAY

"I can cover my sin my way."

GOD'S WAY

God provides the covering.

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1. THE REALITY AND ROOT OF SIN

ALL HAVE SINNED

Romans 3:23

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Sin is not just a few isolated mistakes. It is a universal condition. Every person, at some point and in some way, has chosen their own way over God’s way. Sin separates us from the perfect holiness of God and brings spiritual death.

THE SOURCE OF SIN

Revelation 12:9

“And the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

Satan is the source and originator of sin. He is a deceiver who seeks to distort God’s truth, leading people to question, reject, and redefine what God has said. His goal is to draw us into rebellion against God.

THE BEGINNING OF SIN

Genesis 3:1-6

1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”



THE ESSENCE OF SIN

At its core, sin is the desire to be like God — to decide for ourselves what is right and wrong. Satan’s lie in the garden was subtle but powerful: *“You shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”* (Genesis 3:5) That is the essence of sin — self-rule instead of God’s rule.

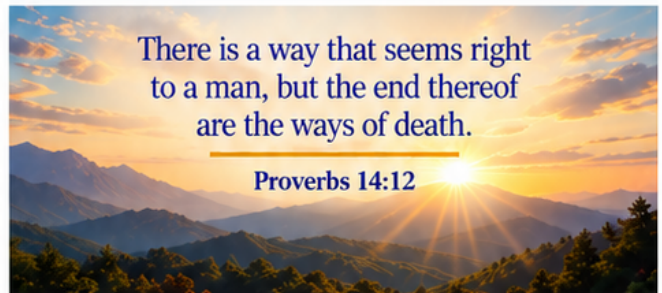
THE MY WAY MENTALITY

The “my way” mentality says, “I know better than God.” It rejects God’s authority and replaces His truth with our own opinions, desires, and definitions. This is the same mindset that entered the world in the garden, and it is still at work today in every heart that chooses self over God.

Q: HOW DOES THE “MY WAY” MENTALITY SHOW UP TODAY?

There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Proverbs 14:12



2. THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

SPIRITUAL DEATH

Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Sin brings spiritual death — separation from God. Spiritual death means our relationship with God is broken. We are no longer in His presence, and we cannot fellowship with Him until the problem of sin is dealt with.

PHYSICAL DEATH

Genesis 3:19

“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”

Sin also brought physical death into the world. Adam and Eve, and all humanity after them, would now experience sickness, aging, and death. Their bodies would return to the dust of the earth.

A CHANGED WORLD

Genesis 3:17-18

17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;”

Sin affected more than just people — it changed the entire creation. The ground was cursed, and now there was hard work, thorns, and struggle. The world is not the same as it was before sin entered, and we still see the effects of that today (Romans 8:20–22).



SEPARATION FROM GOD

Isaiah 59:2

“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”

Perhaps the greatest consequence of sin is separation from God. Sin creates a barrier. We cannot know Him, fellowship with Him, or enjoy His presence until sin is forgiven.

MAIN CONCEPT

Sin brings separation from God,
spiritual death, physical death,
and a changed world.

Q: WHAT DO THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN TEACH US ABOUT HOW SERIOUS SIN IS?

The consequences show us that sin is not a small thing. It affects our relationship with God, our lives, and the entire world. Sin must be dealt with.

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3. GOD'S JUDGMENT ON SIN

GOD IS HOLY AND JUST

Habakkuk 1:13

"Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity..."

God is perfect, holy, and just. He cannot ignore sin. His holiness demands a response to evil. Because He is righteous, God must judge sin. This shows us that sin is not a small thing — it is serious, because it offends a holy God.

JUDGMENT BEGAN IN THE GARDEN

Genesis 3:8-19

Immediately after Adam and Eve sinned, they experienced the first effects of God's judgment. They hid from His presence (v.8), were confronted by God (v.9-13), and received consequences for their sin (v.14-19). Judgment did not end their lives immediately, but it began a process that brought pain, hardship, and death into the world.

SIN BRINGS DEATH

Romans 6:23

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

The just consequence of sin is death — spiritual death (separation from God), physical death (eventually the body dies), and eternal death (separation from God forever). Sin always leads to death because it breaks our relationship with the source of life.

GOD'S JUDGMENT IS FAIR

Romans 2:5-6

"But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; 6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:"

God's judgment is not random or unfair. It is right and deserved. Every person will one day stand before God and give an account for their sin. This should lead us to take sin seriously and recognize our need for a Savior.



JUDGMENT CONTINUES TODAY

Hebrews 9:27

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"

The judgment that began in the garden is still real today. Every person will face God's judgment. This reminds us that sin has eternal consequences and that we need to take God's Word seriously.

MAIN CONCEPT

MY WAY

I can ignore or minimize sin.
I don't think it's that serious.

GOD'S WAY

Sin is serious.
God must judge it because He is holy and just.

Q: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO TAKE SIN SERIOUSLY?

How does the reality of God's judgment affect the way we live today? What does it show us about our need for Jesus Christ?

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4. RESPONDING TO THE REALITY OF SIN

WE ALL HAVE A CHOICE

Joshua 24:15

“...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Like Adam and Eve, every person faces a choice. We can follow our own way, or we can choose to follow God’s way. The “my way” mentality always leads to sin, but God calls us to trust and obey Him.

REPENT AND TURN TO GOD

Acts 3:19

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...”

The right response to sin is not to ignore it or excuse it, but to repent — to turn away from our own way and turn to God. Repentance means changing our mind, admitting we are wrong, and choosing to follow God instead of ourselves.

RECEIVE GOD’S FORGIVENESS

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

When we repent and trust in Jesus Christ, God forgives our sin. His forgiveness is complete, not based on our good works, but on what Jesus did for us on the cross.

WALK IN A NEW WAY

Romans 12:2

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

God calls us to a new way of thinking and living. Instead of following our own desires, we can ask God to help us think His thoughts, desire what He desires, and live for His glory. This is the “Thy way” life — a daily choice to follow God.



GOD OFFERS A NEW WAY

Isaiah 55:7

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”

God does not leave us in our sin. He offers a new way — a way of mercy, forgiveness, and life. When we turn from our own way and return to Him, He is ready to forgive and give us a fresh start.

MAIN CONCEPT

Sin is serious, but God offers a new way. We can choose to repent, receive His forgiveness, and walk in a “Thy way” life instead of a “my way” life.

Q: WHAT STEP CAN I TAKE TODAY TO TURN FROM MY WAY AND FOLLOW GOD’S WAY?

The truth about sin should lead us to a decision. We can repent, trust in Jesus, and choose to follow God’s way in every area of life.