

# SIN DARKNESS

## REVIEW

How is your prayer life & daily Bible reading going?  
Any questions? [Review any homework]

## PURPOSE

Understanding sin & its consequences.

## TEACHING TIPS

Discussing sin may trigger defensiveness, cause sadness or might not be taken seriously at all. It's crucial to create a "safe place" for your friend; be humble by being open & vulnerable yourself. Openness is less likely if the studies have been more *informational* than *relational* up to this point.

## 1 Peter 2:9-10

Which description words in this Scripture would you put in the Light column? Darkness column?

DARKNESS	LIGHT
Not People of God	Chosen
No Mercy	Royal Priesthood
-	Holy Nation
Not a Disciple	People of God
	Mercy
	-
	A Disciple

Everyone is either in the darkness or in the light.  
From what we've studied so far, where are you?

## Isaiah 59:1-3

What is verse 1 saying about God's arms & ears?

God can save/hear anyone, anytime.

But sin separates us from God, like a wall separating two people in a relationship.



Can you remove the wall by yourself? By not sinning further?

You are only reconciled to God if HE removes the wall. HE must forgive you.  
The point in time sin is forgiven is the point a person is saved.

## Romans 3:22-24

3 people represented by mounds of sin.



Who is furthest away from God? All equal, all lost.  
How much sin makes you a sinner? Just one.  
Can good deeds cancel sin out? No, only God's grace can do that.

### 1 John 1:5-10

God is light. We are in darkness because of sin.  
What does "walk in the light" mean? It doesn't mean being perfect, but being perfectly honest & open through confession.

### James 5:16

Who should we confess to? Why?  
Healing comes from God through prayer & confession with one another.

### Proverbs 28:13

Besides confessing, what else must we do to find mercy?  
What does "renounce" mean? To turn away from, give up.

### Galatians 5:19-21

This list of behaviors are just some of the symptoms that show up in our lives when we live according to our sinful nature.  
What is the eternal destiny of the person that continues to live like this?  
We cannot go to heaven if we live according to our sinful nature.

### 2 Timothy 3:1-5

How is this sin list different than the one in Galatians 5?  
Sins of the heart are equally damaging.

### James 4:17

What is an example of this type of sin?

#### TEACHING TIP:

Openness breeds openness: have each disciple briefly share one of their sins from this list. The person you're studying with might want to start confessing their sins at this point - if so, go with it. Others might not - if so, encourage them to share which one sin seems the most difficult to overcome. *[Refer to Appendix A for assistance]*. Everyone reacts differently & those leading the study should be ready to assess & adjust accordingly; including breaking this study into 2 parts.

#### CHALLENGE

Spend some time thinking through the sins you have committed from the list in Galatians 5:19-21, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, & James 4:17.

#### SIN: FURTHER STUDY [CAN BE GIVEN AS HOMEWORK]

James 4:17 Sins of omission.  
Mark 7:20-22 All sin starts in our heart. No one to blame.  
2 Timothy 3:1-5 Sins of the heart are equally damaging.  
Ephesians 5:11-14 Exposing sin sets us free from sin's slavery.  
Colossians 3:5-10 Get rid of the old life, put on the new. John 3:19-21 Walk in the light. Expose 'cockroaches'.