

OVERVIEW

Sin... the dreaded word sin! It is the word that many of us do not even want to hear or talk about. It is uncomfortable, but it is also something that we all struggle with. In this unit we will be addressing the question “What’s the deal with sin?” We will talk about what it is and why we need a Savior to redeem all of us!

Sin entered the world when Adam and Eve decided to listen to a voice that wasn’t God (Satan), telling them to do the exact opposite of the ONE thing God told them not to do (eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge of Good and Evil).

“Sin” really isn’t a religious word at all

Iniquity – behavior that’s crooked

Transgression – breaking trust

Sin – to fail or miss the goal → *we see examples of these things all over in our world today!*

OPENING QUESTIONS

- Go through highs and lows/pows and wows of your week.
- What is one rule that you just don’t understand or have a hard time following? *This is just a fun question to get them thinking. It is not meant to be something serious that they are struggling with, but rather something fun like... maybe the rules of the road (speed limits) or not jumping on the bed.*
- Have you ever had to stick to a specific rule, but then messed up or broke the rule, and in the end had to experience the negative consequences because you didn’t stick to that rule?
- Sin is bigger than just something you shouldn’t do—it’s who we are and the state of the world we live in. **“Sin is about more than doing bad things. It describes how we easily deceive ourselves and spin illusions to redefine bad decisions as good ones...”** (Bible Project, Sin “Khata”) This video used three different words to describe sin: iniquity, transgression, and sin. How would you define these three words? – *(see above)*
- Where do you see signs of our world’s brokenness? – *Maybe help get ideas going by asking about where we see “crooked behavior / breaking trust / failing or missing the goal”*
- What is our only hope in a broken and messed up world? – *A Savior... JESUS!*

WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT

Read: Genesis 3:1-24

Discuss:

- Describe a time when someone tried to blame you for something you didn’t do or when you blamed someone for something you did. How did you / they feel? – *Allow students to share their answers, perhaps share one of your own. Adam and Eve were guilty and rather face up to the issue blamed others.*
 - What motivated the blame? How were the person’s motives like Adam and Eve’s?
- Why do you think God allows evil to exist? Why didn’t God make us puppets, always doing what is right? – *God gave us the freedom to live in His creation and love. With this freedom comes the ability to choose to love or hate. God didn’t create us to be robots that did what he commanded he made us his children to watch learn, succeed, struggle, triumph, and fail. This way we may know his true love!*

- In Genesis 3, the serpent first got Adam and Eve to doubt God, then he called God a liar. They disobeyed. The end result was shame, blame and pain. Find and highlight verses that show each phase of the story, writing the key word in the margin of your Bible where each phase below is found:
 - A. Doubt – (v.6)
 - B. Calling God a liar – (v.8)
 - C. Disobedience – (v.12 & 13)
 - D. Shame – (v.8)
 - E. Blame – (v.12 &13)
 - F. Pain – (v.16-19)
- Where is the grace in this story? – *Read and underline verse 21. Even though Adam and Eve must face the consequences, God still shows his care for them. God never abandons us, God will always be there, waiting.*

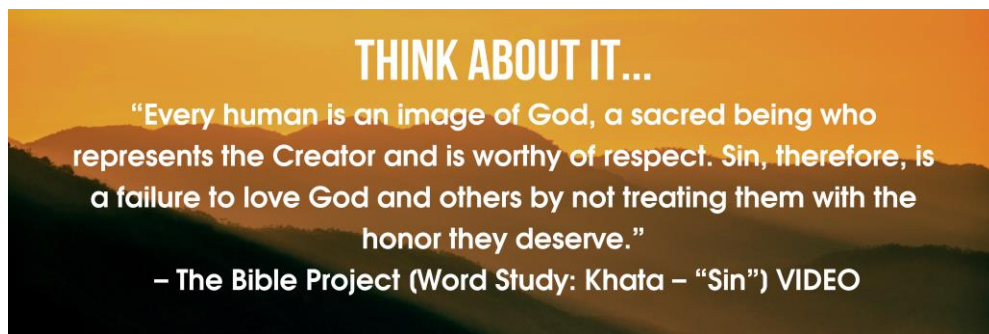
A SECOND LOOK

Compare the effect of man’s sin in the Garden of Eden to the domino effect. Man’s sin started a domino effect of sin in the world, knocking down every person and part of Earth. Because sin entered the world way back then, we see tons of examples though the bible of sin in people’s lives, and we definitely see examples of sin in our lives and in the world today. But Jesus... (**Read: 1 Peter 2:21-24**) Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection stand the dominoes back up, which is something we could never do on our own.

APPLY IT

Discuss:

- Where have you fallen short or missed the goal recently? – *Doesn’t have to be big things, it could be as simple as thinking unkindly about a sibling, or being jealous of a friend*
- What’s one thing you can do this week to follow Christ’s example (1 Peter 2:21), to better reflect our original purpose, to love and honor God, and to love and honor others? – *Maybe it’s going to someone to apologize for a sin you’ve been thinking about during our time together tonight, maybe you’ve thought of a way to better love someone in your life, and therefore love and honor God as well!*
- When are you going to do it?
- Is there someone who can keep you accountable?



MARK OF A DISCIPLE

Recognizing my brokenness, seeing that I often fall short and miss the mark. Daily asking Jesus to help me better reflect His example – to love and honor God and those around me.