

MAKING DISCIPLES



STUDY 03 SIN

TEACHER EDITION

SIN

Big Idea: Sin separates us from God. It is a wall that exists for all human beings and it must be removed to be saved. Key words: "dire situation"

1 Peter 2:9-10

Peter is encouraging these Christians with all that they are as Christians. Verse 10 compares what they are versus what they were.

Q. How many categories?

Q. Where would you put yourself?

Darkness Not a People No Mercy	Light People of God Mercy
Lost Not a Christian Not a disciple	Saved Christian Disciple

I. What is sin and what are its consequences?

Isaiah 59:1-2

Q. How does sin affect our relationship with God?

- There is a wall of separation between God and man due to our sin. In a relationship, we care about the feelings and desires of the other person, so we should care about God. We want to develop a heart that asks God: "Show me how I am hurting you?"

Q. What must be done for a relationship to exist between God and anyone?

- The wall of sin must come down. This is the forgiveness of sins.

Q. How would you feel about not having a relationship with God?

Q. Has the wall of sin come down in your life? If so, describe how that happened.

Man Darkness Sin	W A L L	God Light Forgiveness
------------------------	------------------	-----------------------------

Teacher tip: Given the spiritual confusion of the religious world, it is important to help the seeker understand their spiritual journey.

Romans 3:23-25

Q. How is sin defined?

- Sin is falling short of the standard of God, of the will of God for our lives. We are in a "dire situation."

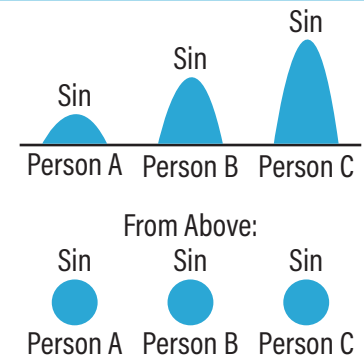
Sin means "to miss the mark." When we sin, we miss the mark of God's required perfection. We fall short of his glory.

Q. How many have sinned?

- Answer: All.

No one is righteous by their own deeds. Two Illustrations:

- Example #1: No one can jump over the Grand Canyon. Everybody would fall short just as everybody falls short of God's perfect standard.
- Example #2: 3 piles of sin. Who is further away from God? All are equal, all are lost. A good moral life does not save you.



II. What does sin look like?

Galatians 5:19-21

Paul tells these Christians that if they live this way, they will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Teacher tip: Make sure to go over the explanations of the sins in this list using the explanations at the end of this study. It is important for the presenter to be vulnerable at this point.



SIN

2 Timothy 3:1-5

There are also sins that might not be as obvious as the list in Galatians 5.

James 4:17

It is also considered sin when we don't do the good we know we should do.

In addition, one can also use sin lists in Mark 7:20-23, Col. 3:5-9, and Rev. 21:8 as needed. Also Gen 6:5-6 which shows that our sin grieves God.

III. Our attitude toward sin

Romans 6:23

Q. What is a wage?

- A wage is something that is earned because of work/effort. Our sins earn spiritual death or separation from God; a break in our relationship. V. 23 shows us what God has done to help us be restored to Him.

Q. What has God provided for us?

- Answer: The gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

God has taken steps to break down the wall of sin so we can receive the gift of eternal life. We take steps to accept the gift of eternal life in order to have a relationship with him and be healed because of our "dire situation."

Conclusion

James 5:16

Q. What does confession of sin bring about?

- Answer: Healing.

The goal for our next study is to confess our sins together.

Teacher tip: Emphasize that God is the one who forgives sin and not the person to whom one confesses.

Teacher tip: The rule of thumb is to have a person leave to think about the sins they have committed and then come back to confess them, so it is not needed for them to confess their sins during this study.

You might suggest they examine their life and heart, their personal sins, and their sin tendencies. At the beginning of the next study he/she can talk about these sins (But it will most probably be a whole study).

Note: Be considerate of the setting.

In addition, one can also use Mark 7:20-23 which shows sin comes from our heart and Gen 6:5-6 which shows that our sin grieves God.

This is a time when we promote healing in our lives through confession. After confession of sins we will then further study what Jesus has done so our sins can be forgiven.

Additional Scriptures: Mk 7:14-23; Rom 6:15-18; Rev 21:8; Rom 1:21-32; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Col 3:5-11; Jas 2:10-11.



SINS OF GALATIANS 5:19-21 EXPLAINED

Sexual Immorality: Fornication, any sexual union outside of marriage. Denotes ungodly sexual acts and relationships- prostitution, rape, homosexuality, sexual touching, adultery, child abuse, bestiality.

Impurity/uncleanness: Any sinful thinking, anything vulgar, wrong thoughts, lust, masturbation, wrong motives, pornography, fantasy.

Debauchery/lasciviousness: Unbridled lust, any misuse of the body. Usually referring to sexual excesses, but in general refer to a readiness to indulge in any pleasure (indecent, lewd dancing). There is no respect for anyone else. In this state, a person is at the mercy of their passions, impulses, emotions, etc. They are completely undisciplined (examples: gives in to gluttony, laziness, smoking, cravings, masturbation, unlimited pleasures).

Idolatry: Worshipping anything other than God. Giving or devoting one's time, substance, talents, and /or self to anything that keeps one from obeying and following God in every way (status, symbols, investments, engrossing sports or hobbies, selfish ambitions, relationships, property, possessions, pleasure and wants, school, work, pride). Also includes praying to anyone other than God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit.

Witchcraft: Seeking or being involved in any spiritual realm other than God's. Includes astrology (example: the stars control, consequently, saying God does not rule), horoscopes, Satan worship, the occult, magic spells, good-luck charms or picture. Praying to saints, drug use, tarot cards, palm reading, channeling (The New Age movement, Ouija Board, etc.)

Hatred: Wishing ill or harm on anyone, looking down on anyone, bitter feelings, resentment, wanting revenge, murder, abortion.

Discord/variance: Anything that breaks up relationships, stirring up trouble, an inability to get along with people, arguing, slander, gossip, malicious talk and criticalness.

Jealousy/emulation: Possessiveness, not sharing.

Fits of rage/wrath: Uncontrolled anger, losing your temper, temper tantrums, quick temper, angry shouting, cussing, profanity, fighting.

Selfish ambition/strife: Living to please self, wanting one's own way, getting what one wants at any cost, desiring to be first at any cost, overly competitive spirit. Not willing to do menial or demanding tasks, refusing to admit being wrong, arrogance, doing things for honor or glory, wanting to look good for others, refusing to compromise, pride, selfishness and independence.

Dissension/sedition: Rebelling against authority, not submitting, habitually disagreeing, arguing, causing division, starting arguments, stirring up trouble.

Factions/heresies: Feeling superior to others, cliques, refusing to associate with anyone because they are different or for any other reason, wanting to be with "own kind," prejudice, bigotry, racism.

Envy: Desiring something another person has while wishing that they did not have it at all (example: wealth, status, ability, physical features, spirituality, relationships).

Drunkness: Anything that causes one to lose control-intoxication, alcohol, drug abuse.

Orgies: Living without restraint. Includes partying, sexual parties, unrestrained sex, vandalism, carousing.

And the like: Lying, stealing, cheating, deceit, etc.

