



## Life Lesson

# SIN

**PURPOSE:** To show what sin is and where and how it begins. This study is designed to show that we are sinners who need to repent.

**PLAN:** To show that God wants to meet our needs, but we must follow His plan and not our own.

**INTRODUCTION:** What does the word "sin" mean to you?

## WHAT IS SIN?

**JEREMIAH 1:13** God defines two sins here:

1. Turning away from God
2. Trying to satisfy my needs myself

Is it wrong to have needs, such as thirst? *God has made provision for that need, so the need in itself must not be wrong.*

Does God want our needs to be met? *Jer. 5:7 He wants all our needs to be met.*  
What is wrong, then?

**Man refuses to accept God's way of meeting his needs. God has a plan, but we want to have it our way. When we do it our way, instead of God's way we sin.**

## WHERE DOES SIN START?

Name some things you know are a sin. What do we normally tend to focus on when we think of sin? *Actions*

Why are we always more preoccupied with sinful actions like adultery, than sinful attitudes, like greed?

Is having a good appearance easier to achieve than having a good heart?

MARK 7:20-23

*Explain Pharisee's preoccupation with washing hands.*

Is Jesus concerned just with visible actions?  
How many of these sins are just a matter of attitude?  
Where does Jesus say all of these sins originate?

*If you feel comfortable, share from your own life which of these sins you may have committed. Ask the other person if he has seen any of these sins in his life.*

Other than Jesus, is there anyone alive who has never sinned? *Romans 3:23 if there is any doubt.*

## **GOD' S PLAN vs. MAN'S PLAN**

GENESIS 2:15-18

Verse 18. Does God want man to be alone? *"it is not good"*  
Is it wrong for a man to feel lonely? *No*

GENESIS 2:21-24

Does God have a plan to meet man's needs?  
What is his plan?  
How many wives are mentioned here? *If it is brought up, stress that we are not concerned here with how many wives David or Solomon had but with man's need and God's plan for meeting that need.*  
What is God's plan, plain and simple?  
Other than our desire to follow our own plan, is there anything that would stop us today from following God's plan?

MARK 10:6-8

What did Jesus think of man's need for a companion?  
Was Jesus in favor of meeting man's need?  
What did Jesus think of God's plan for meeting that need?  
Is it wrong for a man to be united with a woman? *God has a plan.*  
Did Jesus see it as just the man and woman who made that union happen? *v. 9 The issue here is not divorce and when it is appropriate. The issue here is man's need and God's plan for meeting that need.*

MATTHEW 5:27-32

**God has a plan for meeting man's need for companionship and union with another. Man's desire for that union is part of God's way of bringing it about.**

What happens when man wants a union that is not part of God's plan? *Society tells us it's OK to think about it and want it as long as you don't actually do it.*

What will happen if this person goes on thinking about and wanting someone with whom he knows he shouldn't be united?

- a. He will remain frustrated and unhappy.
- b. He will finally convince himself it is really OK to go involved, do it, and thus involve two people in sin.

Does God have a plan for this person?

What do we call it when someone does not follow God's plan?

**Often we may not feel like following God's plan. It may not make sense to us.**

What should our response be even when God's plan doesn't feel right or make sense to us?

## THE COST OF SIN

ISAIAH 59:1-2

Has God deliberately turned his back on us?

What has separated us from God?

ROMANS 6:20-23

Verse 21 What is the answer to this question? *If you feel comfortable, share a specific example where instead of following God's plan you followed yours. What was the result? Ask the other person to relate an example.*

What are the benefits and results of following God's plan?

What is the ultimate price you pay for sin? Is this just physical death?

## OUR RESPONSE

LUKE 13:1-5

If one man is less sinful than another, is he less likely to die physically? Spiritually?

Will just one sin cause you to die spiritually?

What condition did Jesus give for not perishing? *repentance*

JOHN 7:37-38

Repentance means "to turn around." We must turn away from sin, but who do we turn to? Whose plan must we be committed to following? Who must we follow?

## REVIEW:

What is sin? *When man decides to turn from God and do things his way.*

Where does sin begin? *In man's heart.*

**Jesus is just as concerned with what we think as with what we do.**

Does God want man's needs to be met? **He has a plan for meeting every need we have.**

**Though His plan may not always make sense to us, we must trust Him and follow it.**

What is the consequence of sin in my life? *Spiritual and physical death. Total death.*

How can I hope to avoid this death? **I must begin by repenting of my sin.**

## WORKSHEET Sin

What is sin?

Jer. 2:13

1.

2.

Where does it start?

Mark 7:20-23

God's Plan vs. Man's Plan

Gen. 2:15-18

Gen. 2:21-24

Mark 10:6-8

Matt. 5:27-32

Cost of sin

Isa. 59:1-2

Rom. 6:20-23

Our response

Lk. 13:1-5

Jn. 7:37-38

Review: