

Session 5: Sin

(First Pause)

What do you think sin actually is?

Answers will vary

How do people who aren't Christians tend to think about sin?

Answers will vary

(Second Pause)

Read 1 John 3:4-8, Deuteronomy 9:7-24, and James 1:13-15

How does thinking of sin as lawlessness or rebellion change your perspective?

Answers will vary

Why do people prefer to describe sin as a "mistake" rather than rebellion?

Answers will vary – it absolves them of some of the guilt. A mistake can happen to anyone but rebellion is both more deliberate and more serious.

What do these verses reveal about God's holiness and authority?

God's holiness and authority are absolute and cannot be compromised or questioned

(Third Pause)

Read Romans 3:23, Psalm 51:5, 145:8-9, and James 1:16-17

How do you see the effects of sin in everyday life?

Answers will vary – Suffering and interpersonal conflict, as well as societies general unbiblicalness

What does it mean that sin is part of our nature, not just our behaviour?

Sin being a part of us means we are, to our core, rebellious and disobedient -as well as disgusting.

How does God's common grace help us understand why non-Christians can still do good things? Under God's common grace (his grace that he shows to all) he restrains evil so that, even though all humanity has a sinful nature, they aren't as evil as they could be, and are able to do good deeds

(Fourth Pause)

Read Isaiah 14:12-14 and Genesis 3

What strategies did Satan use to tempt Adam and Eve?

He plants doubt (questions God's word) and he lies

How do those same temptations appear in your life or in our culture today?

Answers will vary



What can we learn about the nature of temptation from these passages?

Temptation is designed to lead us astray and lure us in with what seems good to us – none of it is true

(Fifth Pause)

How is unbelief connected to disobedience?

If you don't believe an authority is valid over you, you have no reason to follow it

Can you think of a time when you sinned because you didn't really trust God's goodness?

Answers will vary

What helps us grow in faith so that we resist sin?

Answers will vary – prayer, getting to know God and studying the scripture

(Sixth Pause)

Read James 4:17 and Romans 7:14-24

What's an example of each type of sin in your life?

Answers will vary

Which is easier to overlook, sins of commission or omission? Why?

Answers will vary

What might each type of sin show about what we're failing to believe about God?

Answers will vary

(Seventh Pause)

Why did God require sacrifices for sin in the Old Testament?

God is just and cannot allow sins to go unpunished, and the wages of sin is death

How did those sacrifices point forward to Jesus?

Jesus is the final sacrificial lamb, EG Passover; he fulfills the same role as the old sacrifices

What does this show us about God's holiness and mercy?

From the very beginning God was merciful enough to want to reconcile us, and holy enough to need too.

Why is it important that Jesus faced temptation and didn't sin?

Jesus not only proves it's possible not to sin, but proves his innocence by resisting sin

How does His obedience give us hope in our battle with sin?

Jesus proves he can resist sin, and he can lend us his strength

What does it mean to you that Jesus' righteousness is credited to your account?

Answers will vary

(Final Section)



Take a few minutes to reflect personally or share in pairs:

What's one new insight you've gained about sin today?

Answers will vary

How does seeing sin in light of Jesus' victory deepen your gratitude for the gospel?

Answers will vary

What's one way you can respond this week, in faith, repentance, or worship?

Answers will vary