

# SIN STUDY

## OBJECTIVE:

To teach the student of the effects of sin, to identify their specific sinful nature, and to bring them to a state of repentance through the Word and the Holy Spirit.

## SIN AND SEPARATION

### **Isaiah 59:1-2**

1 Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save,  
nor his ear too dull to hear.

2 But your iniquities have separated  
you from your God;  
your sins have hidden his face from you,  
so that he will not hear.

1. What does sin do to our relationship to God?
2. How many sins did it take for Adam and Eve to be separated from God?
3. When you committed your first sin you were separated from God and in need of a Savior to be reconciled to Him.

### **1 Peter 2:9-10**

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1. Every Person is either in the darkness or the light. There is no twilight zone.
2. Where are you?

## ALL HAVE SINNED

### **Romans 3:9-18/23**

9 What shall we conclude then? Are we any better<sup>[b]</sup>? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. 10 As it is written:

"There is no one righteous, not even one;

11 there is no one who understands,  
no one who seeks God.

12 All have turned away,  
they have together become worthless;  
there is no one who does good,  
not even one."<sup>[c]</sup>

13 "Their throats are open graves;  
their tongues practice deceit."<sup>[d]</sup>  
"The poison of vipers is on their lips."<sup>[e]</sup>  
14 "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness."<sup>[f]</sup>  
15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood;  
16 ruin and misery mark their ways,  
17 and the way of peace they do not know."<sup>[g]</sup>  
18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."<sup>[h]</sup>

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

- How many people need to be saved from their sins?
- No one can save themselves. We all must be saved by God.
- **Romans 3:10-12.** Analogy of Sweet Aunt Tilly and the Serial Murderer: No one is good enough on their own to go to heaven, no matter how good they seem to us.

## THE WAGES OF SIN

### **Romans 6:23**

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in<sup>[a]</sup> Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. What will happen if we aren't saved from our sins?
2. What have you earned?

## CONFESSING SIN

### **James 5:16**

16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

1. Why do you think that God commands you to confess your sins?
2. Why does he tell us to pray for each other's sins?

## THE SIN LIST

### **Galatians 5:19-21**

19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;  
20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition,  
dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did  
before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

1. Go through this list one sin at a time. Explain what each sin means.
2. Have the Christians confess their sins.

3. Have the student confess his or her sins.

## AND THE LIKE

**Revelations 21:8, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, James 4:17, Ephesians 4:28-5:5, 1 Corinth 6:9-11**

1. For time's sake as you read through these lists just have the student confess the sins in these scriptures that they see in their own lives.
2. Encourage them to go home and make a detailed list of their sins. This will bring them to a deeper understanding and conviction about their sin.
3. Assure them that they can keep the sin list, but you would like to go through it with them in your next study.

## GODLY SORROW AND REPENTANCE

**2 Corinthians 7:10-12**

10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. 11 See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. 12 So even though I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did the wrong or of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are.

1. What are the two types of sorrow that we see a person can have towards their sin?
2. What is the result of worldly sorrow?
3. What is the result of Godly sorrow?

Worldly Sorrow:

1. Justify – “You don’t understand the circumstance.”
2. Minimize – “It’s not that big of a deal”, “Everyone does it.”
3. Blame shift – “They caused me to sin.”
4. Self Pity – “I’m so bad, I’m not even going to try to change.”
5. Hide/Cover up – Revealing only a partial truth or hiding sin completely.

Godly Sorrow:

1. Earnestness – Truthful, genuine, sincere, embarrassingly open.
2. Eagerness – Urgent to repent.
3. Indignation – Disgust and hatred of your sin.
4. Alarm – Shocked at what you have done.
5. Longing – Constant desire to change that stays with you always.
6. Concern – You feel remorse over the pain your sin has caused God and others.

7. Readiness to see justice done – Ready to do or suffer through anything to make your relationship with God right.
  8. At every point you have proved yourself to be innocent – You are equally repentant of every sin committed. You don't feel “horrible” about one, and “not that bad” about another.
- \* **A great example of Godly Sorrow is David in Psalm 51.**

**CHALLENGE:**

What kind of sorrow do you have towards your sin?

Now is a great time to go and pray with them about how they feel about their sin. They need to get in touch with how God feels about it, the consequences it has had in their life and in the lives of others, how desperately they want God to change their heart and their sin. Their prayers will give them hope that they can change as God works miracles in their heart.