



*What is sin?*

**Setup:**

Journey back to the days when you were just a young toddler. Many of you were learning independence. You were learning words like: NO! and phrases such as “I do it myself!” From the very beginning we can recognize a desire within us to go our own way. This is called sin nature.

As you’ve continued to grow older the desire to go your own way has remained within you. I bet you can all think of a time this week when maybe a parent or a teacher set a boundary that you wanted to push back on. Maybe you did pish back. That desire to go our own way often leads us to disobey. To sin. To miss the best way, which is God’s way.

When the Bible mentions the word “sin” it is defined as:

- Going beyond a set boundary or limit
- Missing the mark

Out of love and goodness, God has set boundaries for us. He has given us goals and standards to aim for in life. God’s Word does not lay out lists of “Dos and Don’ts”. Scripture reveals to us the spiritual principles by which God lives and this is the same standard of conduct He expects us to live by.

Sin is serious. It is completely contrary to the things of God, His character and His best purposes and plans. Allowing sin creates separation in our relationship with God. Sin is a greater connector to Satan. He is the originator of going his own way. He is a very real being, not just a cartoon character in a red suit. Satan has completely set himself up against God and wages war on everything that is connected to Him. The good news is that our power source is greater, and by it we can be victorious over Satan.

Let me pray for you.



*What is sin?*

**Parent Que:**

This week your students dove into discussion to define sin. Sin is simply choosing a way other than God's. As parents we desire to shape Godly character in our children. Often times we can focus on being modifiers of behavior rather than shapers of the heart. Seek wisdom from God in training the heart of your student. Conversations that center around the "whys" of right choices as opposed to the "why nots" of wrong choices can help you be an encouraging voice to your student that brings understanding to God's best way of living.

Also, model repentance and forgiveness in your relationship with your student. How good are you at saying you're sorry and seeking forgiveness from your student? It's likely if you struggle in modeling repentance and forgiveness they will struggle to extend it to you. Outside of God the Father, there are no perfect parents. Walk humbly with your student and let them first experience the joy of forgiveness in right relationship with you, so they can easily practice it within all of life's relationships.

**Key Scriptures:**

[Romans 3:23, 6:23](#)

[Genesis 3](#)

[1 John 3:4](#)

[Romans 5:12, 18-19](#)

Have you ever struggled with feeling as though you're not good enough?  
Do you ever feel like you aren't good enough for God to love you?



*What is sin?*

### Sins beginning

You may think that sin began in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve, but it actually began with Satan. Starting there, let's consider the question: "Who is Satan?"

God created us to worship Him but gave His created ones the choice to do so. Satan, an angel that God created, wanted to be worshiped rather than to worship His Creator.

#### Read [Isaiah 14:13-17](#)

- Discuss what can be understood about Satan from these 3 verses?

### Satan's Mojo

#### Read [John 8:44](#)

- How does this verse describe Satan?
- Can you think of a way that you have bought into a lie of Satan?

### Sinful Man

Satan arrives on the scene early in creation to tempt and bring destruction to what God's creation.

#### Read [Genesis 3:1-5](#)

- What do you notice about how Satan approaches Eve?
- Can you think of a way that Satan has recently created doubt in your heart or mind?

#### Read [Genesis 3:6-13](#)

- What does verse 6 tell us about why Eve listened to Satan?
- Can you relate to that? Have you ever wanted something so badly that you twisted truth into a lie to get what you wanted?
- What were some things that happened as a result of Adam and Eve choosing their own way?

## Defining Sin

**Read** Romans 3:23, 6:23

- Do any of us completely measure up to God's perfect standard?
- Does sin have a cost?
- Can you think about a time when someone else's sin directly impacted you? Or when your sin impacted someone else?

God is Righteous and Holy – Meaning he is completely separate from sin. He can have nothing to do with sin. So how can He have anything to do with us as sinful people?

## Our need for JESUS

**Read** Romans 3:24-25

- What does God declare us to be?
- How does He have the ability to make this declaration over us?

Because the cost of sin is death, the only way that price could be paid was the perfect sacrifice of Jesus.

**Read** Romans 5:12, 18-19

- How did sin enter the world?
- Compare Adam's disobedience to Jesus' obedience.



Satan is the author of sin and evil. Sin is serious, creating separation between man and a holy God. Jesus was the only perfect sacrifice that could offer a way to bridge that gap created by sin.

## Application

**Read** 1 John 1:9 We will sin, but what can we do in response?

Think about having a fight with a friend where you were clearly in the wrong. If you don't take responsibility for that, apologize, will that impact your relationship?

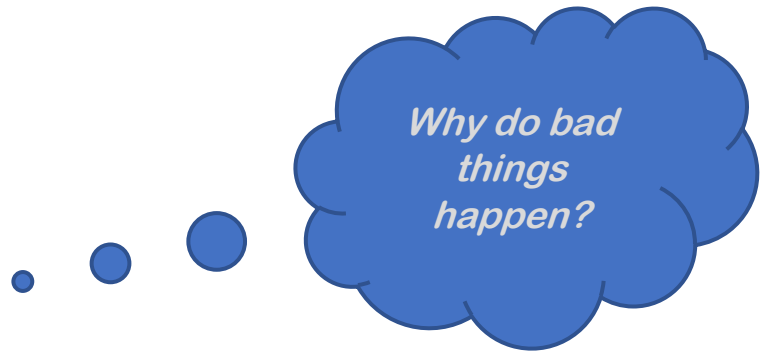
The same is true for us in our relationship with God. We need to keep an open conversation with Him about our wrong choices, because we will make them. Forgiveness is just one ask away.

Let's take some time to let God bring our attention to anything we need to confess to Him.

## Catch up/ Journal/ Pray

**Setup:**

Let me pray for you.





**Parent Que:**

Because we live in a world of 'good vs evil' and 'naughty vs nice' lists it's hard to remember that no matter how good or nice we are, we can't change the bottom line of sin. Sin holds all of us captive in a world that has fallen short of God's perfect plan for humanity. The hope we have is that God crafted a plan of rescue and redemption to take the bad of this world and restore it to good.

Many people wrestle with the question your students discussed this week: "Why do bad things happen?" The answer is simple, yet so hard to grasp. We live in a world that is sinful and evil. God allowed the greatest *good person* that walked the planet to experience the worst *bad thing*. His Son allowed the "bad thing" to happen to Himself in order for the "good thing" to happen for us. This world is not our home. We should all be holding out for the next one that is all good. Encourage your students to trust in the "best is yet to come mindset". Although, it's beyond our scope of full comprehension, the more we make it a part of our conversations the more your student can take hold of it and have an eternal perspective filter to run the hard things of life through.

**Key Scriptures:**

[Genesis 1:31](#)

[Romans 8:28](#)

[2 Corinthians 1:3-5](#)

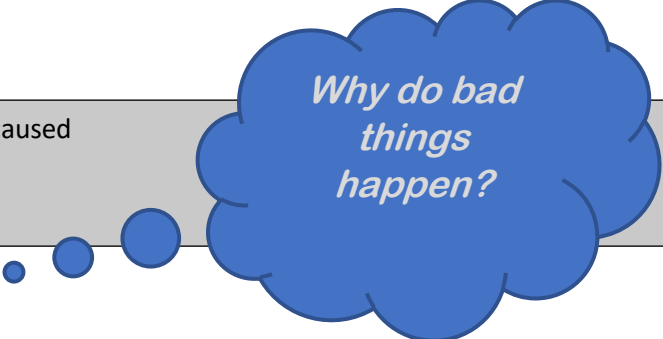
[1 Peter 2:20-23](#)

[Galatians 1:4](#)

[2 Corinthians 4:16-18](#)

[Revelation 21:1-7](#)

Have you ever experienced something bad that caused you to wonder why God allowed it to happen? Why do you think bad things happen?



*Why do bad things happen?*

### God's perfect plan destroyed

Think about the Garden of Eden for a minute. What do you picture?

**Read** [Genesis 1:31](#)

- What did God see when He looked over all that he had created?

### **Discuss**

God had a plan for the world in the beginning that looked very different from the world we live in today. In just one moment everything in all of creation changed. God had warned out of a desire to guide and protect so that paradise would not be lost, but man choose his own way and sin entered our world.

We live in a world that has fallen away from God's best and perfect plan. When sin entered the world, it brought consequences along with it and made things messy.

**BAD THINGS HAPPEN BECAUSE WE LIVE IN A FALLEN AND BROKEN WORLD BUT...**

### God uses bad things for good

**Read** [Romans 8:28](#)

- How can God work everything for good?
- Do we always see that good?

### They give us opportunities to help others

**Read** [2 Corinthians 1:3-5](#)

- What does God do for us when we are troubled?
- How does this help us when it comes to other people?
- Can you give an example of this in your own life? Have you been a comfort to someone in hard experience because you've walked one that is similar? Or has someone been a help to you in a hard situation from their own experience?

### Remember the worst “bad thing” happened to the best good Person

**Read** 1 Peter 2:20-23

- Jesus was truly the ONLY good person on the planet and He experienced the ultimate bad thing. Why?

### God made a redemptive plan

Through Jesus, God would rescue the world and seek to restore it back to His perfect plan.

**Read** Galatians 1:4

- How does this scripture describe why God planned for Jesus to give His life?

### This world is not the end...the best is yet to come

**Read** 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

- What are we supposed to focus on?
- Do you think that type of focus is hard or easy? Why?

**Read** Revelation 21:1-7

- Is it hard to imagine a new earth that will be restored to God’s original plan, with no sin or evil?
- What do you love most about these verses in Revelation?



Bad things happen because we live in a world that has fallen from God’s best perfect plan. God had a plan to redeem the bad things of this world through Jesus.

### Application

After our conversations tonight, how do you think you would explain why bad things happen?

How has the discussion tonight helped you?

### Catch up/ Journal/ Pray