

### What is Sin?

**Intro:** It used to be that there were two topics that one did not discuss in mixed company: religion and politics. Today, it's become vogue to speak of either - and often both at the same time. However, there is one topic that remains taboo: the topic of sin. Although the Bible says that all have sinned (Romans 3:23), there isn't a consensus, even within the church, about what is sin and what is not. And so this week you will get an opportunity to explore about what the Scriptures teach about sin. Know that there are a number of Greek/Hebrew words that are translated as "sin." These tend to fall into one of these three definitions. (1) Sin: to fall short. An intention to do good, but not quite making it. (2) Transgression: to go around. An intention to do good, but using wrong methods or taking the wrong path. (3) Iniquity: Intentionally choosing to do what is wrong when you "know better." You may want to keep this in mind as you do the following study. *And don't forget:* the purpose of this study is not just to gather new knowledge, but to be prepared to share your convictions with others.

**What the Bible Teaches:** Break into Groups of Four, read the following Bible verses, and discuss the questions. You may want to jot down notes and thoughts on the back of this page.

**According to these Scriptures, where does sin come from?**

James 3:16; John 8:44; James 1:13-15; Revelation 12:9

**According to these Bible passages, what is sin?**

Deuteronomy 5:6-21; Deuteronomy 23:21-23; Romans 1:29-32; 1 Timothy 1:8-11; James 4:17; Numbers 5:5-7; 1 John 5:17

**What I Believe:** Take ten minutes for silent reflection and thought. Ask yourself what you believe about what sin is. Use the back of this page to formulate a response to the question:

**“What is Sin?”**

Write your final response here: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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**Articulations:** Pair up with one other person and share your response with one another. Take five minutes each. Try to *not* look at your written statement; instead, try to tell your beliefs from your heart. This will prepare you to share whenever you are asked about what you believe.

**Therefore:** Jesus said His followers should Go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). One of the first steps in making disciples is being ready and able to share the reason for the hope we have (1 Peter 3:15), in other words, knowing what we believe, why, and then being able to share it. Sharing your faith is important. This week, find someone—it can be *anyone*—and articulate your belief about this issue. If you have an unchurched/unreached friend whom you can share with, all the better (you can always say you have a homework assignment from church and you'd like to share it with them). Be ready to talk about your experience next week over the meal at your House Church.