



May 29, 2022

UNIT 9 SESSION 6

## God Takes Sin Seriously

Ephesians 2

**Key Passage:** Romans 6:23

### Big Picture Question:

What is the fair payment for sin? The fair payment for sin is death.

### Christ Connection:

God takes sin seriously. People deserve to die for their sins, but God loves us and sent His Son, Jesus, to defeat death by dying on the cross for our sins and rising from the dead. Everyone who trusts in Jesus has eternal life.

## LEADER Bible Study

What comes to mind when you think about sin? Consider your emotions—does the thought of sin make you sad? Angry? Indifferent? To fully understand the beauty of salvation and the power of grace, you must take sin seriously.

Consider what our sin says about God. Sin says God may be powerful, but not enough to deserve ultimate authority in our lives. Sin exploits God's mercy and disrespects His patience. Sin says God is not worthy of our obedience. Sin isn't just a mistake; it is serious. Why? Our sins are first and foremost against an infinitely holy God.

In Ephesians 2, Paul describes our state apart from Christ not merely as broken or flawed; he says we are dead in our sin. We are not simply wrong people who need to do better; rather, we are dead people who need to be made alive.

God confronts this bad news with a surprising response. Look at Ephesians 2:4-5: "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses."

The good news of the gospel increases in its gravity as our awareness and hatred of sin increases. If sin seems like no big deal, the cross is not very impressive. When we have a right understanding of the seriousness of our sin, the gospel is good news—the revelation that we who are dead in our sin can have true life as a free gift in Christ.

As you prepare to teach, take a moment to reflect on your sin and to thank God for His mercy. Pray that God would graciously reveal to kids their sinful nature and desperate need for salvation as well as His holiness and provision of Jesus as the Savior they need.

### EPHESIANS 2

**Old life (vv. 1-3):** dead, enslaved objects of wrath, walking among the disobedient, under Satan's dominion

**New life (vv. 4-6):** alive, enthroned, objects of grace, fellowshipping with Christ, in union with Christ

## ► WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, ask kids about their week, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** *Can you think of a time you couldn't do something until someone helped you? Today, we will learn more about the reason we cannot earn salvation, and what God did to give us salvation as a gift.*

### **Activity Page** (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Big Truth Word Search” on the activity page.

**SAY** *You all did a wonderful job finding words today. Each of those words has something to do with the good news of Jesus.*

### **Session Starter** (10 minutes)

#### **FAIR PUNISHMENTS**

Form groups of about three kids. Assign scenarios to each group. Instruct the groups to decide a fair punishment for each sinful action. When the groups finish, invite them to share the scenario and punishment with the rest of the kids. Prompt everyone else to decide if the punishment is fair. Use the following scenarios or come up with your own:

You said cruel things to your neighbor.

You ignored your dad when he told you to take out the trash.

You had your sister do your homework for you.

You hid a device in your room to watch a show after your screen time ended.

**SAY** *The Bible says that God takes sin seriously. God says that the punishment for sin is death. Does that sound fair to you? Let's learn more.*

**LEARN: THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL**

 **LEARN the Bible Story**

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus!

Use The Gospel: God's Plan for Me as a reference.

**Key Passage Activity** (10 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Romans 6:23 together.

Challenge each kid to take turns reciting the key passage. Invite each kid who can recite the key passage aloud to write his name on the key passage poster or provide the kids with sticky notes to sign their name and post on the key passage poster.

**SAY** Our key passage says that sin requires the payment of death. The good news is that God had a plan all along to rescue people from sin through His Son, Jesus. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we can have forgiveness and eternal life.

## **LOVE God by Applying the Story**

### **Bible Skills & Review** (10 minutes)

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Ephesians 2. Explain that Ephesians is found in the New Testament. Paul wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus. We can read 13 of Paul's letters—all inspired by God—in the Bible. Ephesians is one of four letters in the Bible that Paul wrote while he was in a Roman prison.

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Ephesians 2:1-22, or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud. Consider pointing out the location of Ephesus (D6) on the New Testament Mediterranean Map.

**SAY** Paul was a missionary. He told people about Jesus and wrote letters to churches to challenge and encourage them. Paul went to prison for teaching about Jesus. While he was in prison, he wrote a letter to the Ephesians. Paul wanted to the church in Ephesus to live like forgiven sinners who received a new life. Paul's message for the Ephesians is also a message for us. The Book of Ephesians teaches us that God takes sin seriously.

### **Group Discussion** (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the kids to discuss their answers.

**SAY** What makes sin so serious?

Remind kids that sin is anything we think, say, or do that goes against God or His commands. Sin is rebellion against God, who is our Creator and King. Sin separates us from God because God is holy and hates sin. We cannot love God while living in a way that rejects Him. Sin is a serious problem because it is against the all-powerful Creator and King of the universe.

**SAY** How can we be saved from sin?

Guide kids to recognize that there is nothing we can do to save ourselves from sin. Salvation comes only through faith in Jesus. God sent His Son, Jesus, to live the perfect life we fail to live, die the death we deserved for our sins, and rise again on the third day. Jesus defeated sin and death once and for all. Salvation through Jesus is God's free gift to everyone who repents of sin and believes that Jesus died and rose again.

**SAY** What does it mean to be alive in Christ?

Discuss how we can have spiritual life with God. Our hearts are dead in sin until Jesus gives us life through our faith in Him. God gives believers new hearts that want to love and obey Him. He gives believers the Holy Spirit as their Helper. Believers have this hope: One day, Jesus will come back and restore the world, and Christians will live with God forever.

## LIVE the Mission

### Activity Choice (10 minutes)

#### Facing Consequences

Put tape on the floor to divide the room in half. Form two groups of kids. Direct each group to sit criss-cross on opposite sides of the line. Provide each kid with a piece of paper and a pen or pencil. Instruct kids to write about or draw a picture representing some sin they are guilty of. Ask them to crumple their papers into balls.

Give each kid a plastic spoon. Both teams will use their spoon to hit the wad across the line and keep their side clear of paper wads. After about five minutes, announce that any team with paper wads on their side must do 20 jumping jacks.

**SAY** The presence of paper wads on your team's side led to a consequence. We all sin, and we face consequences for our sins. **What is the fair payment of sin? The fair penalty of sin is death.** We all need Jesus. He can save us from sin. When we trust in Him, God looks at us and sees Jesus' righteousness. God takes sin seriously and so should we. But we have hope in a world broken by sin because Jesus offers forgiveness and eternal life.

#### Jesus Saves

Give each kid a black piece of construction paper and have them trace a cross outline with a white crayon. Have them write different sins that can think of they are guilty of writing them on the inside of the cross as shown in the picture. After they have written a few words down. Give them a sheet of red construction paper. They can tear off smaller sized shapes and place them over their sin and covering the cross.

If time they can write:

the key passage Romans 6:23

Ephesians 2:4-5 or

Jesus offers forgiveness and eternal life.



### Reflection and Prayer (5 minutes)

Ask the kids the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

#### Pray with your group!

Lord God, You take sin seriously. Help us to take sin seriously, too. Change our hearts to desire Your ways rather than our own. You are good, and You love us. Amen.

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.