

This midweek study will explore why it's important for students to recognize sin as rebellion against God. Use the following outline, activity, playlist, and video ideas to lead a midweek event for your students.

Essential Doctrine: Sin as Rebellion

Because the Bible portrays people as responsible beings, called to respond in faith and obedience to God's revelation, the Bible often portrays sin in terms of defiance and rebellion toward God the King. Isaiah 1:2 is one of many passages that describes sin in terms of rebellion against God: "I have raised children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against Me." Seen in this light, sin is personal and willful disobedience, the raising of a clenched fist toward the One who made us.

Scripture: *Genesis 3:6-13; Matthew 15:10-20; Romans 1:18-25; 5:12-17*

1 Sin begins in the heart. (Matt. 15:10-20; Rom. 5:12-17)

The Bible is clear that sin isn't reducible to a list of things not to do or actions to avoid. Instead, at the root of every sinful action is a sinful heart that gave fruit to it. Sin starts within the human heart, and it is at the source of the human heart that sin needs to be addressed.

2 Sin leads to willful rebellion. (Gen. 3:6-13; Rom. 1:18-25)

While sin starts within the heart, it quickly surfaces to the level of action and behavior. Not only that, but one of the ways the Bible defines sinful action is with the language of willful rebellion. In other words, sin isn't an accident that we happened to fall into or something that blindsided us. Instead, sinning is intentional, designed, and orchestrated disobedience against God and His purposeful ways.

Opening Activity

Prepare a table filled with a favorite snack students enjoy, such as homemade chocolate chip cookies, popcorn, etc. Place servings of the snack on individual plates with appropriate utensils as needed. Post several signs that state: DO NOT EAT THE SNACKS! Sign your name at the bottom of each posted sign. Enlist another student or leader to use lies and half-truths to "tempt" students to eat the snack. As soon as a student takes one bite of the snack, send him or her to a designated holding area.

After several minutes, call the entire group together. Discuss with the detained students why they ate the snack when it was so obvious they were not supposed to eat it. Why did they choose to rebel against such a simple and clear rule?

Worship/Playlist Ideas

- ▶ "Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)" by Hillsong UNITED
(*Zion*, Hillsong Music, 2013)
- ▶ "This Is Amazing Grace" by Phil Wickham
(*The Ascension*, Fair Trade Services, 2013)
- ▶ "All Things New" by Steven Curtis Chapman
(*All Things New*, Sparrow, 2004)
- ▶ "Your Grace Is Enough" by Chris Tomlin
(*Arriving*, Sparrow/sixstepsrecords, 2004)

Video Idea(s)

- ▶ "Warning" *BluefishTV.com*

This midweek study will explore why it's important for students to recognize sin as rebellion against God. Use the following outline, activity, playlist, and video ideas to lead a midweek event for your students.

Essential Doctrine: Sin as Rebellion

Because the Bible portrays people as responsible beings, called to respond in faith and obedience to God's revelation, the Bible often portrays sin in terms of defiance and rebellion toward God the King. Isaiah 1:2 is one of many passages that describes sin in terms of rebellion against God: "I have raised children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against Me." Seen in this light, sin is personal and willful disobedience, the raising of a clenched fist toward the One who made us.

1 Sin begins in the heart.

(Matt. 15:10-20; Rom. 5:12-17)

Option: Display a variety of random items bearing logos, such as a T-shirt, restaurant napkins, brand name baseball bat, and so forth. Make sure you can identify where each item came from. Call on volunteers to guess the origin of each item, such as the location of the factory where it was made, the restaurant or store where it was purchased, and so forth. Discuss the ease of tracing where each of these items came from, then ask: Where does sin come from?

Read Romans 5:12-17.

Point out that sin entered the world through Adam and Eve. Because of this, all people inherited Adam's sin nature.

- ▶ *How does Adam's sin still affect you and me today?*

Read Matthew 15:10-20.

- ▶ *What evil things come from the heart? What would you add to this list?*
- ▶ *If we can just avoid doing the things on this list, will we be OK? Why or why not?*

The Bible is clear that sin isn't reducible to a list of things not to do or actions to avoid. Instead, at the root of every sinful action is a sinful heart that gave fruit to it. Sin starts within the human heart, and it is at the source of the human heart that sin needs to be addressed.

2 Sin leads to willful rebellion.

(Gen. 3:6-13; Rom. 1:18-25)

- ▶ *When was the last time you did something you knew was wrong? What caused you to act in this way?*

Read Genesis 3:6-13.

- ▶ *What did Adam and Eve do even though they knew it was wrong? Why?*
Eve chose to listen to the serpent and to rebel against God. Adam willingly rebelled by making the same choice.
- ▶ *Do you struggle with temptation in a similar way that Adam and Eve did? Explain.*

Read Romans 1:18-25.

- ▶ *Why are people "without excuse" when it comes to sin?*

Because God has made certain facts about himself known instinctively, people will someday have to give an account before God of why they chose to ignore his existence and his character. (*Life Application New Testament Commentary*)

WRAP IT UP

While sin starts within the heart, it quickly surfaces to the level of action and behavior. Not only that, but one of the ways the Bible defines sinful action is with the language of willful rebellion. In other words, sin isn't an accident that we happened to fall into or something that blindsided us. Instead, sinning is intentional, designed, and orchestrated disobedience against God and His purposeful ways.

- ▶ *What hope do we have of overcoming sin?*
Sin entered the world through one man, but salvation also entered through one man—Jesus Christ. Jesus overcame sin, which leads to death, and offers us eternal life instead.
- ▶ *Do you believe the work of Christ can overcome the sin in your life? Why or why not?*
- ▶ *How would your life be different if you lived every day in the reality of Christ's victory over sin?*