

*This midweek study will explore why it's important for students to recognize sins effects in the world.  
Use the following outline, activity, playlist, and video ideas to lead a midweek event for your students.*

### Essential Doctrine: Sins Effects in the World

Sin does not only impact our relationship with God; it is also the root of our broken relationships with the people around us. Human sinfulness is the reason the creation groans in anticipation for redemption and deliverance from its bondage to evil powers (Rom. 8:20-22). Sin has infected and redirected the social structures of society, leading to injustice and oppression. The distorting effects of sin are visible all around us, but the good news of the gospel is that the battle against these powers will be won through the work of Christ.

**Scripture:** *Genesis 2:15; 3:23; 4:1-8; Romans 1:18-25; Colossians 1:20-2:3*

### 1 Sin distorts our relationship with others.

(Gen. 4:1-8; Rom. 1:18-25)

Sin has not only negatively affected our relationship with God—it has also negatively impacted our relationships with other people. We see this from the very beginning between Adam and Eve when they sinned against God in the garden, quickly followed with the relationship between two of their sons, Cain and Abel. The biblical storyline gives further evidence to this distortion as it bears witness to enmity, strife, conflict, violence, and war in the world of mankind.

### 2 Sin distorts our relationship with creation.

(Gen. 2:15; 3:23; Rom. 8:20-22)

Not only does sin distort our relationships with others, but it has also disrupted our relationship with the rest of creation as originally intended and designed by God from the beginning. Humanity was given stewardship by God over creation, intended to be co-managers with God over it. Because of sin, however, humanity has failed to rightly steward, resulting in a broken relationship between us and the rest of creation.

### 3 Jesus restores our broken relationships.

(Col. 1:20-2:3)

The gospel not only promises that one day all things will be made new again, but also that a present restoration of these broken relationships begins to take place for those who are in Christ. It is only through the gospel that broken relationships can be restored, that enemies can become reconciled, and a renewed stewardship of our responsibilities as co-managers with God over creation can begin to take place.

### Opening Activity

Fireball contest: Allow volunteers to come to the front and face the audience. Place a bowl of Atomic Fireballs® candy nearby and instruct them to put several pieces of the candy in their mouth when you say go. The contestant who can stand still the longest with the fireball candy in their mouth wins. Allow participants to share about their experience. Highlight the fact that as the candy heated up in their mouths it became increasingly harder to stand still. The same is true in our spiritual lives. If we allow anger and frustration to heat up within us, we will eventually explode either in our words or in our actions.

### Worship/Playlist Ideas

- ▶ “Slow Fade” by Casting Crowns  
(*The Altar and the Door*, Reunion Records, 2007)
- ▶ “Remedy” by David Crowder Band  
(*Remedy*, Sparrow/sixstepsrecords, 2007)
- ▶ “All Things New” by Steven Curtis Chapman  
(*All Things New*, Sparrow, 2004)
- ▶ “Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)” by Hillsong UNITED  
(*Zion*, Hillsong Music, 2013)

### Video Idea(s)

- ▶ “Anger Only Makes Things Worse” *BluefishTV.com*

*This midweek study will explore why it's important for students to recognize the effects of sin in the world. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.*

### Essential Doctrine: Sins Effects in the World

Sin does not only impact our relationship with God; it is also the root of our broken relationships with the people around us. Human sinfulness is the reason the creation groans in anticipation for redemption and deliverance from its bondage to evil powers (Rom. 8:20-22). Sin has infected and redirected the social structures of society, leading to injustice and oppression. The distorting effects of sin are visible all around us, but the good news of the gospel is that the battle against these powers will be won through the work of Christ.

### 1 Sin distorts our relationship with others. (Gen. 4:1-8; Rom. 1:18-25)

Option: Share the following stats from [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov): Homicide was the 2nd leading cause of death of 10-24 year olds in 2010; 31.5% of high school students report having been in a physical fight in the last year; Over 19% of high schoolers report being bullied at school; 16% of all violent crime arrests in 2008 were people under age 18.

#### ► What is at the root of all of these statistics?

Sin has not only negatively affected our relationship with God—it has also negatively impacted our relationships with other people. We see this from the very beginning between Adam and Eve when they sinned against God in the garden, quickly followed with the relationship between two of their sons, Cain and Abel.

#### Read Genesis 4:1-8.

- Why did Cain feel wronged in this situation?
- What warning did the Lord give Cain concerning the danger of sin? What wisdom did the Lord impart to Cain?

God's advice was that if Cain would please God by doing what is right, all would be well. But if not sin would be crouching at his door, ready to overcome him. (*The Bible Knowledge Commentary*)

- What are examples of how sin continues to distort our relationships today? (broken relationships, strife, conflict, violence, war, etc.)

The image of sin crouching at the door is a powerful picture of Satan's relentless attempts to kill, steal, and destroy. The Lord says we must rule over sin.

### 2 Sin distorts our relationship with creation. (Gen. 2:15; 3:23; Rom. 8:20-22)

#### Read Gen. 2:15 and 3:23.

- What was Adam's responsibility in Eden? How did that change after he sinned?

Not only does sin distort our relationships with others, but it has also disrupted our relationship with the rest of creation as originally intended and designed by God from the beginning. Humanity was given stewardship by God over creation, intended to be co-managers with God over it. Because of sin, however, humanity has failed to rightly steward, resulting in a broken relationship between us and the rest of creation.

#### Read Romans 8:20-22.

All of creation suffers under the curse of sin. The fall turned a perfect world into a fallen one. The new reality was that sin, death, disease, decay, loss, and so forth became a part of the world.

- What hope do we have as part of a fallen world?

### 3 Jesus restores our broken relationships. (Col. 1:20-2:3)

- What does it mean to be reconciled?

To be reconciled is to be made right with someone.

#### Read Colossians 1:20-2:3.

- Why were we alienated from God? (see v. 21) How did Jesus change that for us?

Jesus came and died in our place so that we could be reconciled to (made right with) God.

- What is the "mystery" Paul described in these verses?

Jesus gives us the opportunity to know God; Jesus is God revealed in the flesh.

#### WRAP IT UP

The gospel not only promises that one day all things will be made new again, but also that a present restoration of these broken relationships begins to take place for those who are in Christ. It is only through the gospel that broken relationships can be restored, that enemies can become reconciled, and a renewed stewardship of our responsibilities as co-managers with God over creation can begin to take place.