

# The Journey of Faith

## Session 12



Sin

# Teaching Chart

## DEALING WITH THAT WHICH SEPARATES US FROM GOD

"Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay."  
- Author Unknown

SESSION 12: SIN

### Discipline (Hebrews 12:6-11)

God's discipline proves His love (v.6)
God's discipline confirms your sonship (vv.7-8)
God's discipline is meant to make us holy (vv. 9-10)
God's discipline trains us in righteousness (v.11)

### Confession

Concealing sin leads to deeper sin (Proverbs 28:13)
True confession is agreement with God (Psalm 51:3-5)
Confession doesn't avoid consequence (Galatians 6:7-8)
Confession leads to cleansing (1 John 1:9)

### How Can I Avoid Sin?

Don't place yourself in situations where sin is easy (Proverbs 7:6-9)
Train yourself to look past the moment in order to see the future (Proverbs 7:18-21)
Pay attention to those who have traveled the path before you (Proverbs 7:25-26)
There is always a way to escape temptation and avoid sin (1 Corinthians 10:13)

## Lesson

- Overview:** One of the biggest battles you will fight in life will be fought internally instead of externally. There is a struggle that goes on within every believer – the war between the old nature (sinful) and the new nature (righteous). The old nature wants you to live according to your own fleshly appetites and desires; however, the new nature wants you to live a life according to God's standards. This battle caused Paul to write the following words in Romans 7:19-20, "For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. He recognized that sin is the result of obeying the old, sinful nature.
- Purpose:** To instruct the believer how to recognize, handle, and overcome sin
- Verses:** (Romans 3:23) ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...  
(Romans 6:23) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
(1 John 1:9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- I. What is sin?
  - A. Sin is breaking God's law.  
(1 John 3:4)
  - B. Sin is unrighteousness.  
(1 John 5:17)
    - 1. Pride is sin.  
(Proverbs 21:4)
    - 2. Evil scheming is sin.  
(Proverbs 24:9)
    - 3. The Bible lists many things that are sin.  
(Proverbs 6:16-19)  
(Galatians 5:19-21)
    - 4. The Ten commandments (Exodus 20) – no polytheism, no graven images, no swearing, keep the Sabbath (nullified), obey parents, do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not lie, do not covet
  - C. Sin is anything not done in faith.  
(Romans 14:23)
- II. Why do we sin?
  - A. We were born into sin.  
(Psalms 51:5)
    - 1. Adam passed his sinful nature to all of his descendants.  
(Romans 5:12)
    - 2. "Therefore, man is not a sinner because he sins, but man sins because he is a sinner" – John MacArthur
  - B. We possess a sinful nature that fights against our spiritual nature.  
(Romans 7:22-23)
    - 1. We choose which nature to obey.
    - 2. Sin results when we choose to obey the sinful nature.
- III. How does God view sin?
  - A. All of our sin was taken care of at the cross.  
(2 Corinthians 5:21)
    - 1. Before we were saved, we were viewed as sinners.
    - 2. When we trusted Christ, God views us as righteous.
      - a. Jesus Christ took our sin when He died on the cross.
      - b. A transfer took place – Jesus received our sin and we received His righteousness.
  - B. God must discipline a believer for any sin in his life.  
(Hebrews 12:5-7)

- IV. What should I do when I sin?
- A. Confess your sin to God.  
(1 John 1:9)
    - 1. Confession of sin does not mean to simply feel bad about your sin.
    - 2. True confession carries the idea of agreeing with God about the seriousness of your sin.
  - B. Turn away from your sin.  
(Proverbs 28:13)
    - 1. Confessing and forsaking of sin never means that you will escape the consequences of sin.  
(Galatians 6:7-8)
    - 2. All sin is equal in God's eyes (murder or gossiping); however, each sin carries different consequences.
- V. How can I win the battle against sin?
- A. Admit and accept responsibility for your sin.  
(Genesis 3:11-13)
    - 1. Our human tendency is to find someone else to blame for our sin.
    - 2. A genuine confession involves accepting full responsibility for your actions.
  - B. Recognize that God alone can help you win the battle.  
(1 Corinthians 10:13)  
(Philippians 4:13)
  - C. Remove any obstacles that tempt you to sin.  
(Romans 13:14)
  - D. Study and apply the Word of God in your life.  
(Psalms 119:9-11)
  - E. Continuously pray for the Holy Spirit to point out any evidence of sin in your life.  
(Psalms 139:23-24)

# Review

1. Explain how sin is breaking God's law.
2. Where did sin enter the world (use scriptural support)?
3. Man is not a sinner because he \_\_\_\_\_, but man sins because he is a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. What are the two natures living within every believer?
5. When does sin result?
6. When Jesus Christ died on the cross, what did He exchange for our sin (use scriptural support)?
7. What steps should you follow when you sin?
8. Does confession of sin mean that we will always escape the consequences for that sin? Why or why not?
9. List five steps you should take to overcome sin.
10. Our human \_\_\_\_\_ is to find someone else to \_\_\_\_\_ for our sin.
11. Briefly describe the purpose of this lesson.

## False Teachings

*Some churches, organizations, or groups are promoting the following false teachings:*

- There are "big" and "little" sins.
- Sin causes me to lose my salvation.
- Your sin is not always your fault.
- Other men can forgive our sin if we confess them to him.