

LESSON PLAN

DOCTRINE OF SIN

Romans 1-3

Lesson Memory Verse: Romans 3:10 - "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one."

Lesson Aim: Teach the children that we are sinners, separated from God; but Jesus died on the cross to remove our sins and bring us into God's family. Now we must believe it and ask Jesus to be our Savior.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Ask the children to name some sins that boys and girls do (lying, cheating, stealing, disobeying parents, hating brothers or sisters, saying things that are unkind to others, etc.). Then ask them to raise their hand if they have sinned. The Bible tells us that everyone has sinned, even the nicest person that we know. Listen as I read Romans 3:10, our memory verse.

HE (for Authority): Our memory means that NO ONE is perfect and has always done what is right (is righteous). Every man and woman, boy and girl has done something sinful in his life. Only one sin makes us a sinner; we are not righteous by God's standard. That means we cannot go to Heaven and live with Him. If we cannot go to Heaven, where do we have to go when we die? (Hell) So it is a serious thing when God says we have sinned and are not righteous.

Explanation of difficult words and phrases:

"As it is written" – the teaching of this verse comes from the Old Testament (Ps 14:1-3; Eccl 7:20).

"None righteous" – no one has kept all of God's commands all of the time, which a person must do to be righteous.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.

Today we are going to see what the Bible says about our sin problem. We know that sin is a terrible problem, but only the Bible tells us exactly what we can do get rid of our sin problem.

OUTLINE OF THE DOCTRINE

I. God is holy; He will not allow sin in His presence – Leviticus 19:2; 1 Peter 1:16.

God is without sin and only those without sin can live in Heaven with Him. This is a big problem for us.

II. All of us are sinners and our sins will keep us away from God and out of Heaven – Rom 3:23.

The Bible says it only takes one sin to make us a sinner and keep us out of Heaven and send us to Hell (James 2:10). It is true that some people sin more than others, but we are all sinners and deserve to go to Hell. So is there any hope for us? There is only one Person that gives us hope. That person is Jesus, who lived a perfect life without doing one sin in His entire life (2 Cor 5:21; Heb 4:15; 1 Pet 2:22; 1 Jn 3:5).

Sin entered the world when Adam disobeyed God's command not to eat the fruit of one particular tree in the Garden of Eden. God told him he could eat the fruit of all the other trees, but if he ate the fruit of this one tree, he would die. Adam ate of that tree and sinned against God. It did not seem like a very big sin, but it was rebellion against God. It caused his spirit to die immediately and much later it caused his body to die. We will talk about that later.

Since Adam was the first human being to live on the earth, we are children of Adam. We receive our bodies from Adam: we have arms and legs, eyes, ears and mouth from Adam. We also receive our sin nature from Adam. We are born as sinners. It is our nature to sin. We begin to sin just like we begin to breathe. We learn how to sin in different ways just like we learn how to walk and talk. So everyone has sinned against God many, many times. If you disobeyed your parents, you are rebellious against God (Eph 6:1-2) and are helping Satan (1 Sam 15:23). If you took a cookie, which you were told not to take, you are a thief. If you told your parent that you did not take a cookie when you did, you are a liar. If you hated your brother or sister even once, God counts that as murder. All of us have sinned against God. Do you see why He cannot let us into Heaven? We would ruin Heaven and make it a sinful place like the earth is now.

WE: We have done wrong. We have sinned against God. Even the good things that we do are like dirty rags to God compared to the good things that He wants us to do (Isa 64:6). It is like a doctor going to a

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hospital in dirty work clothes instead of wearing clean white clothes. He may think his work clothes are good enough, but they are not. They are like the filthy clothes that Joshua, the high priest, was wearing; they had to be removed and clean clothes had to be put on him (Zech 3:3-4). So it is with us; our filthy deeds have to be removed, then God will give good deeds to us. I will explain how that is done later.

III. The punishment for sin is death - Romans 6:23.

The punishment for your sin is physical death and spiritual death. Sometimes people associate death with a person that stops breathing. That is a sign of death, but death is a separation. In physical death your spirit which lives in your body will separate from your body and go to Heaven or to Hell and your body will be buried in the ground. In spiritual death your spirit is separated from God in Heaven. Eternal death means you are separated from God forever and can never be with Him in Heaven. That means you must go to Hell. That is the bad news, but God has good news for you, which I will tell you in a minute.

WE: Before I tell you the good news, we must understand the terrible results of our sins. We must not take sin lightly. We must never laugh at sin. The penalty for sin is much greater than we can imagine. We cannot imagine what it will be like to be separated from God forever and have to suffer in Hell and then in the Lake of Fire forever. We must not think that people will have fun in Hell. That is the lie of Satan

IV. Jesus paid the death penalty for our sins - Romans 5:8.

Now, I want to tell you some good news, God did not want sinners to go to Hell, so He sent His Son to pay the penalty for our sins. Jesus lived a perfect life, He never sinned. Since He never sinned, He did not have to die, but He chose to take our sins and die in our place. He paid the death penalty for our sins, When He was dying on the cross, He cried out to His Father in Heaven, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me" (Mt 27:46)? He was spiritually separated from His Father when He took our sins. God could not look on His Son when He took our sins; they were so horrible to Him. Jesus loved us so much that He died on the cross and paid the penalty for the sins of every sinner (1 Jn 2:2).

WE: We should thank Jesus for dying on the cross in our place. It was a terrible death that He suffered for us. But the greatest suffering for Him was to be spiritually separated from His Father. But this is what He was willing to do to save us from Hell and open the door to allow us to go to Heaven.

V. God raised Jesus from the dead to prove the penalty for all sin was paid – Rom 4:25.

God was pleased that His Son obeyed Him and did everything that was needed to get rid of our sins. He was satisfied that Jesus had paid the penalty for all the sins of the people. Now He could raise His Son from the dead and bring Him to Heaven to sit at His the right hand of His throne. By raising Jesus from the dead, it proved that the payment of our sins was fully accepted by God. This is the gospel of Jesus Christ, the good news that we can be saved from Hell and go to Heaven.

WE: We must believe that God raised Jesus from the dead to be saved. His death paid for our sins and His life is our confidence for eternal life. Spiritually we die with Jesus Christ on the cross and we live with Christ in His resurrection (Gal 2:20; Jn 11:25-26).

VI. God removes our sins when we call on Him and receive Jesus - Romans 10:13; John 1:12.

When a sinner admits that he is a sinner that deserves to go to Hell, but also believes that Jesus died to pay the penalty for his sin, he can be saved. He must turn from His sins and receive Jesus as His Savior by calling on Him to save him from Hell and making him a child in His family. God will remove his sins so he will no longer be separated from Him. Jesus takes the sinner's wrong deeds and He gives him His righteous deeds when he receives Him as his Savior (2 Cor 5:17, 21). Those who do not believe Jesus paid for their sins must pay for their own sins. (Illustrate with thieves on the crosses – one thief believed and met with Jesus in Paradise that very day; the other thief did not believe and went to Hell that very day.)

WE: When we see how bad our sins are and believe the great penalty that must be paid for our sins, we will call on the Lord to save us. It is a great gift that He is offering to us. God wants you to receive it. .

APPLICATION OF THE DOCTRINE

Brian and Johnny hurried along to school. It was very cold and they stuffed their hands in their pockets to keep them warm. Johnny seemed especially happy. Brian asked him why. "Why? Because it's

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Tommy's birthday tomorrow," (Tommy was Johnny's younger brother) "and I've worked very hard to earn enough money to buy Tommy a present. After school I'm going to walk downtown and choose something really nice!"

Brian laughed. "Why spend your hard-earned money on a little kid?" They have good doughnuts at the bakery. Why don't you buy some? They are 2 for 95 cents and we could share them. That would be a great treat at recess."

"Oh, no!" Johnny replied. "Tommy's special and I want to get him a gift!"

WE: Who are we like? Are we like Johnny who was willing to share or like Brian who wanted things for himself?

Just then they reached the school. As Johnny pulled his hands from his pockets, a dollar bill dropped to the floor. He picked it up and put it back into his coat pocket. Brian watched but said nothing.

After class had begun, Brian sat at his desk thinking about the dollar bill in Johnny's coat. Johnny was mean, he thought, to refuse to share his money. Suddenly Brian thought of what his mother would say if she knew what he was thinking. He could just about hear her say, "Why, Brian, what does the Lord Jesus think about this? He's watching you, you know."

WE: Brian was being tempted. Have we ever been tempted to take something that did not belong to us?

Brian shrugged the thought of his mother away. He didn't want to think about it. Mother thought Brian was a Christian, but he knew that he had never really asked Jesus to save him. He wasn't that bad a boy – not any worse than the others in his class.

WE: Are there people who think we are Christians though we know we are not? We may think we are pretty good, and we may be able to fool other people, but remember, God knows what we are like inside. And He hates the sin that He sees.

Brian frowned at the math paper his teacher had passed out. He tried to concentrate on it, but all he could think of was that dollar bill. He would know the right way to spend it if it belonged to him. Then he had a thought: why, it could be his! He would take it!

At recess time the children lined up to go to the gym. Brian made sure he was last. As the boys and girls walked past the coat rack, Brian stooped down and pretended to tie his shoe. "Are you coming, Brian?" the teacher called. "Yes, Mrs. Lakeland. I'll be right there." "Well, hurry. Meet us at the gym." "Okay." That was just what Brian wanted. No one was in the room but him. He spied Johnny's coat and, slipping his hand in the pocket, he grasped the dollar bill and shoved it into his own pants pocket. Then he ran to catch up with the rest of the children.

That night Johnny was sad as he headed home. He couldn't figure out what had happened to his money. He must have lost it on the playground at noon or something.

Brian, too, was sad. All day he'd been thinking about what he had done. He knew that someone had seen him take the money – Jesus sees everything.

WE: Jesus sees everything that we do, too. If we are sinning, Jesus knows.

Jesus knew what a sinful boy Brian was. Brian's sins felt heavy. He knew he was carrying them all alone. Before bed Brian went to the living room. It was time for family devotions. He slouched down in a chair and waited. "Let's read some verses from the book of Romans tonight," Father was saying. "Pastor Bingham asked that we learn these to use in telling others about Christ." Father began: "Romans 3:23, 'For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.' Romans 6:23, 'For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.'" Brian began to cry.

"Why, Brian, what is wrong?" Mother asked. Brian couldn't stand it any longer. "Oh, Mother, Dad," he sobbed, "I am an awful sinner!" Then he told them the terrible thing he had done. Before Brian went to bed that night, he knelt with his father and mother and, admitting his sin, he asked Jesus to save him. Brian was very happy. He knew that God had removed all of his ugly sins.

WE: We, too, can have our sins removed when we confess them to Jesus and ask Him to save us.

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Brian could hardly wait for morning! He wanted to tell Johnny he was sorry and give back the dollar bill. He also wanted to tell Johnny that Jesus loved sinners and that He had saved him. Brian smiled as he snuggled down for the night. He was happy now. Jesus was carrying his burden of sin. In fact, Jesus had taken it all away.

BE (for Action): Close the lesson by asking the children the following questions:

1. What sinful things did Brian do? (a. He acted selfishly by asking Johnny to forget his brother and use the money to buy doughnuts. b. He became angry. c. He tricked his teacher by pretending to tie his shoe. d. He stole the dollar bill.)
2. Have you ever been selfish? (All of us have.)
3. Who saw Brian do these things? (Jesus)
4. What did Brian do about his sins? (He confessed them and asked Jesus to forgive him. Then he planned to tell Johnny he was sorry and give him his dollar bill.)
5. Why did Brian do this? (Because he realized how awful his sins were in God's sight.)

Boys and girls, if you are not saved, Jesus wants to save you and remove all of your sins today. If you have already accepted Jesus as your Savior, but are doing sinful things, Jesus wants you to confess your sins, turn from them and live for Him. If you need help, please stay after class and I will pray with you.