



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.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



PREPARE
PREPARE YOUR HEART
TO TEACH; PLAN
THE SESSION



WELCOME
GREET KIDS
and OPEN
THE SESSION



LEARN
TEACH KIDS
THE STORY
OF THE GOSPEL



LOVE
LEAD KIDS TO
LOVE THE GOD
OF THE GOSPEL



LIVE
LEAD KIDS TO
LIVE OUT THE MISSION
OF THE GOSPEL



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, build relationships, 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. ”

1 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. ”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: DEAD OR ALIVE FREEZE TAG



Choose one person to be It. Direct the rest of the kids to run around the room, leaping and shouting joyfully. If It tags someone, the tagged player will lay on the floor silently. Tagged kids may not move until someone who is still alive comes to rescue them by tapping them.

Choose another person to be It every minute or two. Continue playing as time allows.

SAY “ What’s the difference between something that is alive and something that is dead? Did you know that someone can be physically alive but spiritually dead? Jesus’ follower Paul told the church at Ephesus, ‘You were spiritually dead, but He [Jesus] gave us life!’ Let’s learn more about what it means to be spiritually dead and alive. ”

OPTION 2: FAIR PUNISHMENTS

Form groups of about three kids. Assign a 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

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Ephesians 2. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Takes Sin Seriously.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

GOD TAKES SIN SERIOUSLY

“**Paul**, a missionary and follower of Jesus, **wrote a letter to the church in Ephesus. Paul taught the believers that God takes sin seriously.**

First, Paul explained that **people are different before they trust in Jesus and after they trust in Jesus. Paul wrote, “Before you knew Jesus, you were dead in your sins. You used to live like the world, like those who choose to disobey God. We all lived like that, doing whatever felt right to us.”**

Sin has consequences. **The Bible says the fair punishment for sin is death.** Everyone faces physical death, but **people who do not trust in Jesus face spiritual death** too; they are **separated from God forever.** This is very sad news.

But God’s plan for people is good news. Paul wrote about this good news: **“But God, who is full of mercy, because of His great love that He had for us, made us alive with Christ! We were spiritually dead, and He gave us life. You were saved by grace!”** This means **everyone who trusts in Jesus will have spiritual life—life with God forever!**

Then Paul explained what else God has done for everyone who trusts in Jesus. **“God raised us up with Christ and gave us a seat with Him in the heavens.** This way, He can show us grace and kindness—both now and for all time.”

Paul wrote, **“For you are saved by grace through faith,** and this is not from yourselves: **it is God’s gift—not from works,** so that no one can boast. **We are God’s masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus to do the good works God has prepared for us** to do.”

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. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Use a visual aid: Display a baby doll in a manger, a wooden cross, and a replica empty tomb as you tell the story.

Make eye contact: Be sure to maintain eye contact with kids as you tell the story to ensure they are engaged and understanding the story.

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Paul was a missionary and preached the good news about Jesus. Paul even started many churches. Paul wrote a letter about to the church in Ephesus—to the Ephesian believers. Paul gave them a message about sin. Paul knew Jesus’ power to save sinners. Paul was also known as Saul. In the past, Paul had once hated Christians. He had ordered Jesus’ followers to be arrested or even killed. Jesus saved Paul and changed him completely.

Paul wanted the Ephesians to know that God takes sin seriously. Paul explained that apart from Jesus, people are ‘dead in sin.’ We might be tempted to think about Jesus as being a kind of ‘spiritual lifeguard’ who jumps in to save us before we drown. But the Bible makes it clear: we are born in sin.

What is the fair payment of sin? The fair penalty of sin is death. Everyone who sins—and the Bible says all have sinned—is separated from God forever. Paul was clear about the bad news. But he also proclaimed the good news of Jesus! Jesus is God’s Son, and He came to earth to live a perfect life. Jesus did not deserve death; He had no sin. But Jesus willingly died the death we deserve for our sins. On the third day, Jesus rose from the grave, defeating sin and death once and for all.

Since Jesus died for our sin, we don’t have to die. We may face physical death, but He frees us from spiritual death so we can live with God forever. Everyone who puts their faith in Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection is part of God’s family forever. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ 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. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 9, Session 6” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Are some sins worse than others? Why?
2. Why is living with Jesus better than living in sin?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY “ Today, we learned that God takes sin seriously. We deserve death because of our sins, but God offers us mercy and grace through faith in Jesus. That is good news! Missionaries travel all over the world to tell people this good news. Students in high school and college often have opportunities to go and join missionaries in these countries, working alongside them to spread the gospel during short-term trips. Being a missionary can be difficult, lonely, and sometimes even scary, so one of the most important things we can do to help missionaries and students who go on mission trips is to pray for them. We can talk to God and ask Him to take care of missionaries and students who visit

