

Sin



Idea: Put verses on slips of paper, distribute them at the beginning of small group, and then have each person read their verse when it comes up in the lesson. This could save time finding verses and involve everyone in the discussion.

COMMON GROUND

What are some things that used to bother you but you've gotten used to?

KNOWN TRUTH

Sin and corruption are not the way things are meant to be, even if they come naturally.

DEFINITION

What is sin? Take ideas from your small group. Try also looking at different definitions from Bible dictionaries or commentaries. A good place to start is [Blue Letter Bible](#).

"Take this rule: whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, or takes off your relish of spiritual things; in short, whatever increases the strength and authority of your body over your mind, that thing is sin to you, however innocent it may be in itself."

SUSANNA WESLEY

WHAT SIN IS NOT

- Status quo - "That's just the way things are."
 - Sin is not the natural order of things but is a corruption of what is right. God made the world and

everything in it to be good but through our selfness we have disordered it.

- **Sickness** - "That's just how I was raised."

- Our upbringings and environments influence our lives but we are still able to make choices out of them. Jesus gives us the power to live new lives no matter where we come from.

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

1 TIMOTHY 1:15-16

- **Slip** - "I didn't mean to."

- Sin is not the result of chance or an unintentioned mistake. Sin is a choice to do what you know is wrong.

If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

JAMES 4:17

- **Suggestion** - "These feelings or desires make me sinful."

- Jesus was tempted in every way. These temptations must have been tempting to him if they were real.
- What is the difference between temptation and sin?

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

MATTHEW 4:1

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet he did not sin.

HEBREWS 4:15

WHAT SIN IS

- **Calculated**

- **Knowledge is responsibility** - we are judged according to what we know

If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.'

JOHN 15:22-25

- **Cruel**

- Sin hurts other people
- Sin hurts the heart of God

The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The Lord regretted that he had

made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled.

GENESIS 6:5-6

- Captivity
 - While doing whatever we want appears to offer freedom from restraint, we end up being slaves to our own desires without real freedom to live.
 - Sin is a slippery slope. If we allow ourselves dishonor God in small ways in our life, each next step away from God will be easier.
 - Are there places in your life that you've grown comfortable?

...but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

JAMES 1:14-15

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey — whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

ROMANS 6:15-16

- Corrosive

Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch — as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 COR 5:6

GOSPEL

When we think about sin, we're quick to imagine other people we know but slow to look at ourselves.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness

1 JOHN 1:8-9

We have all sinned, not lived up to what we know, and dishonored God.

Before small group, think about how to explain the Gospel, how Jesus deals with our sin and breathes into us new life. Give an explanation here.