

CALVARY CHAPEL OF PHILADELPHIA

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**  
**2ND GRADE**  
**TEACHER'S PACKET**

**SUNDAY MORNING**

Study 2

*What is Sin?*



# What is Sin?

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

These are the books of the Bible we will be memorizing. New books for this month are in bold. If a student can memorize all the books up to this month's books, you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

**Objective** This lesson will teach the students that sin is breaking any of God's commands in thought, word, or deed.

## Key Verses

Genesis 2:8-17; 1 John 3:4—Main Teaching Passage

## Books to Memorize

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 King, 1&2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, **Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum**

## Hook

Bring in an item from home that has an instruction sheet or book. Ask the students how you could figure out how to use this device and what kind of rules the instructions could contain. Then ask what would happen if you used the object for another purpose or did not obey the instructions.

God has given us many laws and instructions in His Word. We have these rules because God knows what's best for us and how we can best live in the world He's made. Just like not listening to the instruction manual can lead to your device breaking, when we break God's rules, it will not go well for us. Today, we are going to study sin, which is breaking God's laws.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

# BOOK

Remember that last week, we talked about God creating the first man ever, Adam (we also talked about his wife, Eve, but she was not created yet in the verses we are reading today). God loved Adam and made a garden especially for him in the land of Eden. The garden was filled with all kinds of beautiful trees that were there to provide food for Adam. There was also the tree known as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Adam was given the responsibility to take care of the garden. He was supposed to serve as the gardener. But in addition to responsibilities, God gave Adam one rule. Adam was allowed to eat from any tree in the garden except for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told Adam that in the day he ate the fruit of that tree, he would surely die. In saying this, God had set up the first law for humans to live by. This rule was set up to protect Adam and allow him and his wife to best enjoy the world God had created for them.

In 1 John 3:4, we are told that anyone who sins is also practicing lawlessness, and that sin is lawlessness. Lawlessness refers to breaking a law, so what John is saying is that sin is any time we break God's law.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

# LOOK

As we started studying the Gospel last week, we saw that when God created the world, everything was good. Humans lived in fellowship with God and nothing bad ever happened. Today, this is not the case. Humans get sick, hurt one another, lose friends and family, and eventually die. The earth faces storms, hurricanes, earthquakes, and other disasters. There are lots of problems in our world. These problems are all caused by one thing: sin. Next week, we will study how sin came into the world, but today we will try to answer the question of what sin is.

The verse we read in 1 John 3:4 gives a good definition of sin: sin is breaking the law, and specifically breaking God's law. Last week, we talked about how God created us, and because He created us, He is in charge. He gets to decide what the rules are and what people can or can't do. In Genesis 2, God gave His first rule or law to man: don't eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When Adam and Eve broke the law and ate of the tree's fruit (we will learn more about that next week), they committed the first sin.

## LOOK (Continued)

Now we don't just have one law. God has set up many laws for us. We have the Ten Commandments, Jesus' teachings, the letters of the New Testament, and other places in the Bible giving us laws to live by. We are told to tell the truth, obey our parents, be kind to others, and much more. When we break one of these laws with our thoughts, words, or actions, we sin. It doesn't matter if we think we broke a "big law" (like robbing a bank) or a "little law" (making fun of someone) or if we break the law completely (a bold lie) or barely (a half-truth). No matter what law we break or how much we break it, breaking the law is sin.

Some people think, "Why do we have to obey all these laws? Wouldn't it have been easier for God not to give us any laws at all?" We often think of laws as restrictions that prevent us from doing certain things, when in reality laws are boundaries meant to protect us. God made us, so He knows what's best for us. When someone buys a drill, it comes with instructions to show how to use it so that it doesn't break. The same way, God knows that sin will hurt us, so He gave us His law to protect us from sin. The law shows us how we can best live in the world that God has created for us.

## TOOK

Review the lesson by asking the class what sin is. Ask why God gives us His law and why it is important that we obey.

**Pray:** Thank the Lord for giving us His laws. Ask Him to help us to obey His laws and fight against sin.

**Family Question:** Why does God give us laws and commands?

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

# FURTHER STUDY

## Commentary on Genesis 2:8-17 by David Guzik

### 1. ([Gen 2:8-9](#)) Two trees in the Garden of Eden.

**The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**

a. **The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden:** Eden was a **garden** specifically **planted** by God; it was a place God made to be a perfect habitation for Adam (and later, Eve).

b. **There he put the man whom He had formed:** The details in the creation of Adam and Eve teach us something. After reading [Genesis 1](#), we might have assumed that man and woman were made at the same time, but the text doesn't specifically say so. We assume it. We don't know the details about man's creation until [Genesis 2](#).

c. **Out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow:** The rest of Genesis [chapter 2](#) does not present a different or contradictory account of creation. Rather, it is probably the history of creation from Adam's perspective. This is Adam's experience of creation, which does not contradict the account of [Genesis 1:1-2:7](#) – it fills it out.

i. In [Matthew 19:4-5](#), Jesus referred to events in [Genesis 1](#) and to events in [Genesis 2](#) as one harmonious account.

d. **The tree of life...the tree of the knowledge of good and evil:** These two trees were among all the other trees God created and put in the Garden of Eden.

i. The **tree of life** was to grant (or to sustain) eternal life ([Genesis 3:22](#)). God still has a tree of life available to His people ([Revelation 2:7](#)), which is in heaven ([Revelation 22:2](#)).

ii. The **tree of the knowledge of good and evil** was the "temptation" tree. Eating the fruit of this tree would give Adam an experiential knowledge of good *and* evil. Or, it is possible that it is called **the tree of the knowledge of good and evil** not so *man* would know good and evil, but so *God* could test good and evil in man.

### 2. ([Gen 2:10-14](#)) Rivers in the Garden.

**Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four river-heads. The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. And the gold of that land is good. Bdellium and the onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. The name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.**

a. **Now a river went out of Eden:** The whole feel of this account gives the sense that it was written by an ac-

tual eyewitness of the rivers and surroundings. Adam probably wrote this himself.

b. **The name of the first is Pishon:** These rivers are given specific names which answer to names of rivers known in either their modern or ancient world. However, the names of these rivers can't be used to determine the place of the Garden of Eden because the flood dramatically changed the earth's landscape and "erased" these rivers.

i. We know modern rivers today such as the **Tigris** or **Euphrates** because some rivers in the post-flood world were named after familiar pre-flood rivers by Noah and his sons.

3. ([Gen 2:15-17](#)) God's command to Adam.

**Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."**

a. **Put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it:** God put Adam into the most spectacular paradise the world has seen, but God put Adam there to do *work* (**to tend and keep it**). Work is something good for man and was part of Adam's perfect existence before the fall.

i. "The ideal state of sinless man is not one of indolence without responsibility. Work and duty belong to the perfect state." (Leupold)

b. **Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat:** The presence of this tree – the presence of a choice for Adam – was good because for Adam to be a creature of free will, there had to be a *choice*, some opportunity to rebel against God. If there is never a command or never something forbidden there can then never be choice. God wants our love and obedience to Him to be the love and obedience of *choice*.

i. Considering all that, look at Adam's advantages. He only had *one way* he could sin and we have countless ways. There are many trees of temptation in our lives, but Adam had only one.

ii. God made this command originally to Adam, not to Eve; God had not yet brought woman out of man.

c. **In the day that you eat of it you shall surely die:** God not only made His command clear to Adam, but He also clearly explained the consequences for disobedience.