

UNIT 9 | SESSION 6

## GOD TAKES SIN SERIOUSLY

EPHESIANS 2

**KEY PASSAGE:**

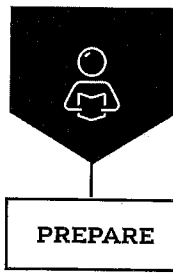
Romans 6:23

**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.



## 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

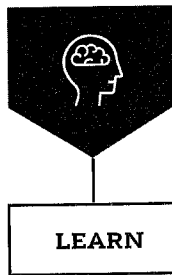
right understanding of the seriousness of our sin, the gospel is good news—the revelation that we who are dead in our sin can have true life as a free gift in Christ.

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



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### INTRODUCE the Bible Story

#### 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** 🗣️ Hey, friends. I'm certainly happy to see you. Raise your hand if you brought a Bible with you. [Allow responses and distribute Bibles to any kids who need one.] If you were ever curious about why we study God's Word, the Bible, every week, it's because the Bible is the way we can know for sure what is true about God and about ourselves. It tells us how we can be forgiven of sin and have life with God forever.

Has anyone ever been separated from their parents? Maybe you were lost in a store or at a park? How did you feel? How were you reunited with them? [Allow responses.] Something even more scary than being separated from our parents is being separated from God forever. Sin does that. Sin separates us from God. Today we're going to learn more about why God takes sin seriously. 🗣️

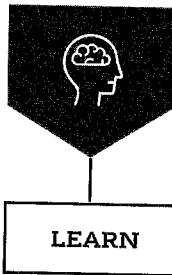
#### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

**SAY** 🗣️ Raise your hand if you have sin in your heart. [Allow responses.] That's right. Everyone should have a hand raised because we all have sin in our heart. Does anyone remember what sin earns us? Let's think about our big picture question: **What is the fair payment for sin?** [Allow responses.] Here's the answer: **The fair payment for sin is death.** That is bad news. As we hear today's story, pay attention to the good news. 🗣️

#### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY** 🗣️ Every story from the last few weeks has helped us understand the big truth about the seriousness of sin. We learned about the judges, whom God used to rescue the Israelites from the consequences of their sin, but the judges couldn't fix the cause of sin. We learned about Samson, whose death led the Israelites to defeat the Philistines. We learned how God used Boaz, a family redeemer, to provide for Ruth. We even learned how God used Samuel to deliver a message of judgment to Eli's sons, who sinned and led Israel away from God. All of these stories help us see that God takes sin seriously. Thankfully, God provided a solution for sin. Let's learn more. 🗣️



## 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.