



THE PROBLEM OF SIN

LEADER'S NOTES

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- The focus of this study is to connect the seeker with how sin impacts their life and their walk with God.
 - This study is designed as a foundation to build toward the following study in which the focus will be confession of sin, but first we must establish a biblical theology of sin
 - It is crucial in this study that we clearly communicate the destructive nature of sin.
 - It distorts our view of God
 - It mutates our understanding of the truth
 - It confuses us and brings doubts
 - It is subtle like a slow acting, yet lethal poison
 - It leads to spiritual relational and sometimes even physical death
- If we can clearly communicate the destructive nature of sin, it will go a long way to the success of the next study in which we will take time to confess.

LEADER'S NOTE #1: LUKE 7:36-50

- This story is longer than what we usually read so after reading through it I will go back and briefly explain the story.
- The focus is on the brief parable in verses 41-42. To help them understand the story and the implication- I will give them a modern-day interpretation- it may go something like this.
 - (When I share my modern-day parable, I often will make one of the characters the person I am studying with, but for this example I will make up some random people.)
 - Two men (Caleb & Josh) were in debt to a lender named Tom. Caleb owed Tom \$50 while Josh owed him \$50,000. Tom decided to forgive them both their debt
 - Caleb is grateful and the appropriate expression of gratitude is perhaps a big hug or a grateful phone call.
 - But Josh' gratitude far exceeds Caleb's because he owed 1,000x more money than Caleb!
 - Josh can't even think of how to thank Caleb, there seems to be no way to properly thank him for the enormity of the forgiveness he has received, a lifechanging amount of money.

- At this stage I like to point out that we've already learned the wages of sin is death and that none of us deserve God's mercy.
- When we are truly connected to the true cost and consequence of sin, and we are aware of our own sin and how much we owe to God- we realize it is an unpayable debt.
- The point: The more aware we are of our sinful nature, the more grateful we are to be forgiven.

LEADER'S NOTE #2: CORE SIN & MOTIVATION

- All of us have sinned in many ways, and next week we'll have a chance to be open and confess.
- The focus should be on discovering our core sin and motivation
- Core sins are the primary sins that hinder our relationship with God, the greatest temptations, the most destructive habits & addictions. Those sins that hold us in bondage.
 - For some this might be sexual in nature, a bitterness & resentment, a selfish ambition, or idolatry.
 - You'll want to encourage them to take special note of the those "core sins" in their life as they study Galatians 5 & 2 Timothy 3.
- Not only is it important to talk about those core sins, but it is also vital to take it a step further into why do they commit that sin?
 - It isn't enough to simply say what the sin is, we must identify what motivates that behavior so we can root it out at the source.
 - We find root causes by starting at the fruit and asking the question "why" until we discover the root.
 - Often at the root of sin we will find the following motivators:
 - Fear, Insecurity, Pride, Selfishness, Laziness, Idolatry.
 - Encourage them to look for these within themselves.

LEADER'S NOTE #3: GALATIANS 5 & 2 TIMOTHY 3

- If time permits you can read through these, but you can also simply reference them and have them read it before your next study
- Encourage them as they read through the passages to look up any words they do not understand or ask the people studying with them.