

Christian Basics Program

Session 1: The Problem of Sin

Facilitator's Guide

Get to know one another

- Share a little about yourself with the person and invite them to share about themselves.
- Get them to download the Bible App: <https://tbibles.com/app> and give brief instructions on how to use it.
- If you are meeting on Zoom, you may also want to show them how to use the <https://www.biblegateway.com> web page.

Important - Please Note: During your meeting, only look up and read the Bible passages that are contained within the boxes. The Bible passage references contained within the body of the information or following the “See Also” text should not be covered during your meeting as it will make the meeting very long. Encourage the participant to look up the passages later and ask any questions they may have at a future catch-up.

Introduction

Have you ever watched the news or looked around you and asked yourself the question, “What is wrong with the World?”. Why is there so much pain and devastation everywhere?

1. The world God made was good

In the first book of the Bible we read that God created the universe, the world and human beings.

Genesis 1:31

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Ask: What do you notice about how God described His creation once He had completed it?

Considering that the World was very good when God created it, and it now has a lot about it that is not very good, something went very wrong.

2. What went wrong?

The Bible teaches that problem started in Heaven where God has always existed.

Before God created the earth, He created beings called angels. One of those angels, became proud and wanted to overthrow God. He became known as the dragon and had the support of some of the angels in heaven. The angels of God led by the angel Michael, fought against and defeated the dragon and all of the angels that followed him. When they were defeated they were cast from heaven to earth.

Revelation 12:7-9

⁷ Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸ But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. ⁹ The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Ask: What do you notice about the other names given to the dragon?

Notice that the dragon is also referred to as “serpent”, “the devil” and “Satan” (which means adversary) and he leads the whole world astray.

In Genesis 2 we learn that after God created everything, He put the first humans Adam and Eve in a garden called the Garden of Eden and He asked them to obey one key instruction in Genesis 2:15-17.

Genesis 2:15-17

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

Ask: What do you notice about what God commanded Adam and Eve?

In Genesis 3, we discover that the serpent (Satan in disguise) comes to tempt Adam and Eve to disobey God’s command.

Genesis 3:1-6

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Ask: What do you notice about how Adam and Eve were tricked into disobeying God? Can you relate to them in any way?

3. The Consequences

In chapter 3 of Genesis, we discover that pain, suffering and death entered the world as a result of Adam and Eve giving into the temptation of the serpent rather than obeying God (Genesis 3:14-19). Disobedience to God’s commands is commonly known as sin and it not only causes suffering and pain on earth but also separates us from God our Creator.

The Bible teaches us that every human being has the problem of being sinful.

Romans 3:23

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Psalm 14: 1-3

¹The fool says in his heart,
“There is no God.”

They are corrupt, their deeds are vile;
there is no one who does good.

² The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind
to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

³ All have turned away, all have become corrupt;
there is no one who does good, not even one.

(See also: Psalm 51:3-5)

Sin is not necessarily just about our disobedient actions, but the posture of rebellion in our hearts towards God.

The Bible teaches that human sinfulness leads to so many of the problems in our world and ultimately to death.

James 1:13-15

¹³When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Romans 5:12

¹²Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

(See also: Romans 6:23)

Ask: Can you think of some examples of where you have noticed that sin has led to death apart from the most obvious sin of murder?

Some examples of how disobeying God's laws can lead to death include:

- the sin of adultery which often leads to the death of a relationship
- the sin of stealing can lead to the death of freedom.

Ultimately the worst death that sin causes is eternal separation in our relationship with God.

Habakuk 1: 13

Your eyes are too pure to look on evil;
you cannot tolerate wrongdoing.

Psalms 5:4-6

⁴For you are not a God who is pleased with wickedness;
with you, evil people are not welcome.

⁵The arrogant cannot stand
in your presence.

You hate all who do wrong;

⁶you destroy those who tell lies.

The bloodthirsty and deceitful
you, Lord, detest.

Ask: What stands out for you from the verses that we have read?

4. **But God...**

However, we also learn in the Bible that God deeply loves every human being and wants to be in eternal relationship with them.

Psalm 36:5-7

5 Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the skies.
6 Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,
your justice like the great deep.
You, Lord, preserve both people and animals.
7 How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

Lamentations 3: 22-23

²²Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
²³They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

(See also: 2 Peter 3:9)

Ask: What do you notice about the nature of God's love in these passages?

God had a huge problem in the sense that He loves every human being, but because every human being is sinful, we cannot be in eternal relationship with the God of the universe who is holy (meaning He is completely pure and there is no darkness or evil in Him).

5. The Solution

The good news is that God, out of His deep love for us, has provided a solution to the problem and consequences of sin in the person and work of His Son, Jesus Christ.

John 3:16

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Looking Forward:

In the last verse we looked at, John shares that anyone who believes in God's one and only Son who is Jesus will have eternal life in the presence of God. In the next sessions we will be learning more about who Jesus is and how He is the solution to the problem of our sinfulness.

Ask:

1. What stood out most for you in our discussion today?
2. What will you do as a result of our time today?
3. Who in your life do you think would be interested in hearing about what you have discovered today?
4. How can I be praying for you this week?