



I Wonder...

LESSON 4: LARGE-GROUP

What is sin and what does it do?

MAIN IDEA

Sin—even a little bit of sin—ties us in knots and makes us unclean with God. God invites us to have our sins washed away through faith in Jesus.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Proverbs 5:22, Hebrews 12:1b
- The Book of Jonah
- Romans 6:23, James 2:10
- 1 John 1:9, suggested Bible verse (Optional)

BIBLE VERSE

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

1 John 1:9, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10 – 15 minutes)



Play large-group games.
(25 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week? Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are any changes and additions needed for the Large-Group Lesson?
- Is there anything specific you need to communicate to the small-group leaders?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Bible
- Roll of duct tape
- Printouts 1-2

Large Group



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10 – 15 minutes)

REVIEW

Quickly review last week's lesson and Bible verses:

- The Bible is extremely reliable because God is the author.
- God has given us instructions about how to live our lives in the Bible.
- Review 2 Peter 1:20-21.

WHAT IS SIN?

Ask the students to raise their hands if they have ever done anything that was wrong. Have they ever lied? Or cheated? Or been unkind? Or taken something that was not theirs?

Explain, **These things (and many others) go against what God has written in the Bible. The Bible calls these things sin. Sin is doing what God says not to do or not doing what God says to do.**

Give an example of each type of sin (both doing something wrong and not doing something right). Remind the students that they looked at some of the consequences of sin (suffering, isolation and nastiness) two weeks ago.

Read Proverbs 5:22 and Hebrews 12:1b. Explain, **The Bible teaches that even things that seem like small sins to us can get us all tangled up and make a mess of our lives.**

OBJECT LESSON: DUCT TAPE

The point of this object lesson is that we cannot undo the effects of sin in our lives. Even a "small sin" affects us permanently.

Take a piece of duct tape, and wad it up into a ball. Give each student a ball of duct tape, and ask each one to undo the ball to make the tape flat and straight again. Tell them it must look exactly the same as when it started out.

Some students will have more success at this than others, but even if a student manages to undo the duct tape and make it completely flat again, it will be a sticky mess.

Explain that this is how sin is. Take another piece of tape, and each time you mention a sin, fold the tape in on itself. Say, **Sin traps us and gets us all tangled up. Perhaps you tell a lie, and you think, "It's just a little lie." But it has a consequence in your life.** (Fold the tape.) **Or maybe you shoved your little sister. You think that she deserved it, but God says it is wrong.** (Fold the tape.) **Maybe your parents ask you to help out with the dishes, and you make an excuse and don't help.** (Fold the tape.)

Explain that no matter how small the sin seems, it is another fold in the tape. Even if we are able to apologize and set things right with the other person, we are still covered in stickiness—we are still unclean before God who is totally perfect.

STORY OF JONAH

Tell students the story of Jonah. Allow one student to be Jonah and act out the story as a leader narrates it. Allow one or more students to be the sailors on the boat (give them paper marked "Boat to Tarshish"). Also consider having one to two students play the fish. Have the rest of the students pretend to be the people of Nineveh. Pause briefly after each paragraph to allow students to act out the story.

God instructs Jonah, a prophet of Israel, to go to the city of Nineveh and deliver a message of repentance (turn away from your wrong ways). **Nineveh was a powerful and wicked city, and God sought to warn its inhabitants of coming judgment.**

Instead of obeying God's command, Jonah attempts to flee in the opposite direction, boarding a ship bound for Tarshish. He hopes to escape the responsibility given to him by God.

God sends a great storm upon the sea in response to Jonah's disobedience. The sailors on the ship, realizing that the storm is a divine punishment, cast lots (similar to flipping a coin) **to identify the source of the trouble, and Jonah is revealed as the guilty party.**

In an effort to appease (calm) **the angry God, Jonah instructs the sailors to throw him overboard. Reluctantly, they comply, and the sea immediately calms.**

Instead of drowning, Jonah is swallowed by a large fish sent by God. Inside the belly of the fish, Jonah spends three days and three nights in prayer and reflection.

Recognizing the error of his ways, Jonah prays for forgiveness and expresses his commitment to fulfill God's original command. In response, God commands the fish to vomit Jonah onto dry land.

Now obedient, Jonah goes to Nineveh and delivers God's message of coming judgment. Surprisingly, the people of Nineveh respond with genuine repentance, fasting, and seeking God's mercy.

Seeing the sincerity of Nineveh's repentance, God stops his plan to destroy Nineveh.

God demonstrated his compassion and mercy.

God teaches us a lesson about compassion and forgiveness. Through this story, God emphasizes his concern for all people and the importance of mercy.

Have students take a seat.

WRAP IT UP

Tell the students: **Our sin is a very big deal to God.**

The story of Jonah serves as a powerful illustration of God’s full control, mercy, and the call to obedience, as well as a reminder that God’s compassion extends to all, regardless of nationality or wrongdoing.

Explain, **Jonah had good reasons to be afraid and to run away from God. God pursued Jonah and gave him a second chance. That is one of the most amazing things about God—he gives us a chance to be forgiven and to start over. God can untangle our knots and make us clean even though we cannot.**

Note: If you spend more time in depth on Jonah in a large-group, then the small group will be shorter and vice versa.

Share 1 John 1:9 (today’s optional Bible verse). Explain what it means to confess our sins.

When we realize we have made a mess of our lives, we need to go to God and confess our sins with sorrow and ask for his forgiveness through Jesus.

(Optional) You may wish to play some Bible verse games to help the students remember the verse, if time allows.

Pray with the students, and dismiss them into small groups.

Games



Play large-group games.
(25 minutes)

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 1 dodgeball
- 4 cones
- 1 ball or frisbee (flying disc)

LARGE-GROUP GAME: CRAB SOCCER

Materials: One dodgeball, four cones

Object of game: To score the most points

How to play: Two teams will play each other while two teams rest. (You may want to consider having the resting teams play one of the games from the “Classroom and Quiet Games” section.) There will be three, three-minute running-clock games. To set up, place two cones about 15 feet apart against the back wall behind the baseline on each side of the room. To score a goal, a team must hit the wall between the cones at a height of not more than five feet off the floor. The two teams will play using the dodgeball. Normal soccer rules (e.g., no hands) apply, but all players must “crab walk” for the entire three minutes. Assign points for each goal, and take away points for penalties such as “hand balls”. After the first two teams have played, let the other two teams play. Then the two winning teams will play each other for a championship round.

LARGE-GROUP GAME: GUARD YOUR LINE

Materials: A dodgeball

Object of game: To score points by kicking the ball across the opposing team’s line

How to play: Divide the students into two teams. Have each of the two teams stand on opposite sides of the room. Have the players on each team number off from one to however many students there are. Place a dodgeball in the middle of the room. The game’s leader will call a number (or two or three numbers), and the players with this (these) number(s) will run out to the middle of the room.

LARGE-GROUP GAME: LEAP, SAY, AND CATCH

Materials: A ball or frisbee

Object of game: To be the last player left in the circle

How to play: Have all the students stand in a circle. Decide on a topic to be used during the game (for example, the topic could be “animals”). Then, toss the ball to any student in the circle. The student must say a word within the chosen topic before catching the ball (in the animal example, students could say, “Elephant!”). If the student does not say something before catching the ball or does not catch it, they are out.



I Wonder...

LESSON 4: PRIMARY SMALL GROUP

What is sin and what does it do?

MAIN IDEA

Sin—even a little bit of sin—ties us in knots and makes us unclean with God. God invites us to have our sins washed away through faith in Jesus.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Proverbs 5:22, Hebrews 12:1b
- The Book of Jonah
- Romans 6:23, James 2:10
- 1 John 1:9, suggested Bible verse (Optional)

BIBLE VERSE

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

1 John 1:9, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids, and help them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20 – 25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5 – 10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Bible
- 1 piece of facial tissue
- 1 sheet of notebook paper
- 1 pen or marker
- Painters tape
- Round pony beads for each child: 1 black, 1 red, 1 white, 1 yellow, 1 green, 2 clear or blue
- 15" black or brown suede leather lace, 1 per child
- Printout 3, 1 per English-speaking child
- Printout 4, 1 per Spanish-speaking child
- Bible Verse Cards, 1 per child

Connect



Connect with the kids,
and show them that
they are heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group

ICEBREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Option 2: Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

PRAY TOGETHER

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group, or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

OBJECT LESSON: SIN SEPARATES US

Say, **Today we have been talking about sin. Why is sin such a big deal?** (It makes a mess of our lives, traps us so we can't escape, and separates us from God.)

Ask for a volunteer or have all the students participate. Take the painter's tape and make a small square. Instruct students to stay in the small square as you continue your discussion on sin.

Ask the students to come up with a list of as many different sins that children their age might struggle with. Write down their ideas on a piece of notebook paper.

Read Romans 6:23 and discuss the fact that sin is very serious. It separates us from God and leads to death.

Say, **Right now this square of tape represents how sin traps us. When you are trapped, you can't get what you want, go where you want or do what you want.**

Sin traps us and keeps us from being in a relationship with God. We can't do anything that fixes our relationship with God. We can't do anything to please God and we can't get to God on our own.

But Jesus is the gift of God. When we believe in Jesus, that he died on the cross and rose from the dead, we will be saved from the punishment of sin and given eternal life.

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20 – 25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

LIFE APPLICATION

Remind students that sin is something that every person struggles with.

Ask, **What if you don't sin very much or if you try to start being better?**

OBJECT LESSON: DIRTY TISSUE

Show the students a clean piece of facial tissue. Pass it around and let each one touch it. Explain that right now you could use this tissue for a number of things. You might clean up a spill from a kitchen counter, for example.

Now blow your nose into it just slightly. Ask the students if any of them would like to touch the tissue now (after you have blown your nose in it). Most likely they will all think that is gross. You can say, **It's just a little snot. Look at how many parts of this tissue are totally clean.**

WHAT DOES SIN DO:

Ask the students to open their Bibles to James 2:10 and read the verse together.

Ask, **How is sin like the tissue?** (Just one sin makes us sinful, and just a little snot ruins the whole tissue.)

Recap with the students covering these points:

- All people have sinned.
- Sin is very serious to God and separates us from him. He is holy and is "grossed out" even by a little sin.
- Sin always traps us and ties us up in knots. We cannot get free from those knots by ourselves. We need God to set us free.
- Death is the consequence of our sin. Jesus died so that we don't have to.
- According to 1 John 1:9, we need to confess our sins to God and he will forgive us and give us a new start.

ACTIVITY: WORDLESS BRACELET

Consider making wordless bracelets while going through the Gospel with students.

How to assemble the wordless bracelet

1. Tie knot #1 on lace.
2. Thread beads onto the lace in specific color order (black, red, white, yellow and green).
3. Tie knot #2 on lace.
4. Thread the two clear or blue beads on one end of the lace. Thread the other end of the lace through the two beads.
5. Tie knot #3 and #4 on lace.



Each color of the wordless book / bracelet represents an important Bible truth about Salvation!

Black Romans 3:23 = All have sinned.

Red 1 John 1:7 = Jesus' blood covers sin.

White Psalm 51:7 = Jesus washes away sin.

Yellow John 14:2 = Believe in Jesus and receive eternal life.

Green 2 Peter 3:18 = Grow in the knowledge of God.

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5 – 10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

(Optional) Review the Jonah story with kids.

Allow kids to take home Printout 3 or Printout 4 so that they can make more wordless book bracelets and share with their families what each color bead represents.

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Ask the students for any additional prayer requests and pray with them.

(Optional) Review the Bible verse (1 John 1:9) with the students.



I Wonder...

LESSON 4: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

What is sin and what does it do?

MAIN IDEA

Sin—even a little bit of sin—ties us in knots and makes us unclean with God. God invites us to have our sins washed away through faith in Jesus.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Proverbs 5:22, Hebrews 12:1b
- The Book of Jonah
- Romans 6:23, James 2:10
- 1 John 1:9, suggested Bible verse (Optional)

BIBLE VERSE

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

1 John 1:9, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids, and help them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20 – 25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5 – 10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Bible
- 1 piece of facial tissue
- 1 sheet of notebook paper
- 1 pen or marker
- Round pony beads for each child: 1 black, 1 red, 1 white, 1 yellow, 1 green, 2 clear or blue
- 15" black or brown suede leather lace, 1 per child
- Printout 3, 1 per English-speaking child
- Printout 4, 1 per Spanish-speaking child
- Bible Verse Cards, 1 per child

Connect



Connect with the kids, and help them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICEBREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Option 2: Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

PRAY TOGETHER

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group, or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

ACTIVITY

Say, **Today we have been talking about sin. Why is sin such a big deal?** (It makes a mess of our lives, traps us so we can't escape, and separates us from God.)

Ask the students to get into a circle with their backs to each other and link arms. Have them try to stand up without using their hands or arms to push off the ground. This could also be done with pairs of students.

Once students have completed the activity or you have given them a few minutes ask,

- **Was this an easy or difficult task?**
- **Did the others help you or keep you from standing?**
- **Did you feel trapped?**

Ask the students to come up with a list of as many different sins that children their age might struggle with. Write down their ideas on a piece of notebook paper.

Read Romans 6:23 and discuss the fact that sin is very serious. It separates us from God and leads to death.

Say, **Right now this square of tape represents how sin traps us. When you are trapped, you can't get what you want, go where you want or do what you want.**

Sin traps us and keeps us from being in a relationship with God. We can't do anything that fixes our relationship with God. We can't do anything to please God and we can't get to God on our own.

But Jesus is the gift of God. When we believe in Jesus, that he died on the cross and rose from the dead, we will be saved from the punishment of sin and given eternal life.

DISCUSSION

Read Romans 6:23 and discuss the fact that sin is very serious (it separated us from God and leads to death).

Say, **When you were connected and couldn't use your arms, you probably felt hindered or trapped. This is how sin traps us. When you are trapped, you can't get what you want, go where you want, or do what you want.**

Sin traps us and keeps us from being in a relationship with God. We can't do anything that fixes our relationships with God. We can't do anything to please God, and we can't get to God on our own.

But Jesus is the gift of God. When we believe in Jesus, that he died on the cross and rose from the dead, we will be saved from the punishment of sin and given eternal life.

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20 – 25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

LIFE APPLICATION

Remind students that sin is something that every person struggles with.

Ask, **What if you don't sin very much or if you try to start being better?**

OBJECT LESSON: DIRTY TISSUE

Show the students a clean piece of facial tissue. Pass it around and let each one touch it. Explain that right now you could use this tissue for a number of things. You might clean up a spill from a kitchen counter, for example.

Now blow your nose into it just slightly. Ask the students if any of them would like to touch the tissue now (after you have blown your nose in it). Most likely they will all think that is gross. You can say: **It's just a little snot. Look at how many parts of this tissue are totally clean.**

WHAT DOES SIN DO

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Ask, **How is sin like the tissue?** (Just one sin makes us sinful, and just a little snot ruins the whole tissue.)

Recap with the students covering these points:

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Each color of the wordless book / bracelet represents an important Bible truth about Salvation!

Black Romans 3:23 = All have sinned.

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Yellow John 14:2 = Believe in Jesus and receive eternal life.

Green 2 Peter 3:18 = Grow in the knowledge of God.

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5 – 10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

(Optional) Review the Jonah story with kids.

Allow kids to take home Printout 3 or Printout 4 so that they can make more wordless book bracelets and share with their families what each color bead represents.

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Ask the students for any additional prayer requests, and pray with them.

(Optional) Review the Bible verse (1 John 1:9) with the students.

Bible Verse Cards

BIBLE VERSE

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

1 John 1:9, NLT

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Printout 1

**Boat to
Tarshish**

Printout 2

Large
Fish

Printout 3

HOW TO ASSEMBLE A WORDLESS BRACELET

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Printout 4

CÓMO MONTAR LA PULSERA SIN PALABRAS

1. Haga el nudo n.º 1 en el encaje.
2. Enhebre cuentas en el encaje en un orden de color específico (negro, rojo, blanco, amarillo y verde).
3. Haga el nudo n.º 2 en el encaje.
4. Enhebre las dos cuentas transparentes o azules en un extremo del cordón. Pasa el otro extremo del cordón a través de las dos cuentas.
5. Haga los nudos n.º 3 y n.º 4 en el encaje.



¡Cada color del libro/pulsera sin palabras representa una verdad bíblica importante sobre la salvación!

Negro

Romanos 3:23 = Todos pecaron.

Rojo

1 Juan 1:7 = La sangre de Jesús cubre el pecado.

Blanco

Salmo 51: 7 = Jesús lava el pecado.

Amarillo

Juan 14:2 = Cree en Jesús y recibe vida eterna.

Verde

2 Pedro 3:18 = Crecer en el conocimiento de Dios.