

## Why Sin Matters

*Genesis 3:1-6*

### Introduction

Sin is serious. Sin is more than a mistake. Sin is when we choose to walk contrary to the will of God or disobey His Word. Sin carries consequences – negative results that affect us and the world we live in. Consequences for sin are ultimately the result of a failure to submit to God’s authority. In Genesis 2:16-17, God gave instructions to Adam and Eve and also disclosed the consequences they would experience if they did not obey. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve did not choose wisely.

God had given Adam and Eve the gift of freedom. While that freedom granted to them the ability to choose, it also came with boundaries. There was nothing wrong with the tree in the middle of the garden, but God told them not to eat of this tree. God gave Adam and Eve limitations to remind them that they were not autonomous and ultimately still responsible to an all-knowing, all-powerful God. They chose the knowledge of good and evil instead of allowing God’s Word to be the basis of their decision making. When Adam and Eve sinned they exhibited their failure to trust in God.

God does not want us to live independently of Him. He doesn’t want us to live by reason but instead by the revelation that He offers through His Word and through relationship. When we obey and do not sin, we are able to enjoy fellowship with God. On the other hand, when we live independently of Him we experience death – separation from God. The only way to maintain fellowship with God and to experience His best in our lives is to walk in dependence on Him and obedience to His Word.

### Getting Started

1. Take a few minutes to reconnect with your group and share your summer experience(s). What was your “high” and your “low” for the summer?
2. Did you attend the Real Life Summer Bible Study? Share what you learned from your time with singles, marrieds, men, or women. How did your summer study positively affect your walk with the Lord?

### Let’s Get Personal

1. What boundaries has God given you that you struggle to honor? Ponder this: Is your struggle connected with your lack of faith in God’s goodness? Why or why not?
2. What consequences can you identify in your present life because you failed to obey God in the past?
3. Have you ever experienced “death” as Dr. Evans described it in this week’s sermon? Was it death in a relationship, death of a dream, or maybe an emotional death that put you at odds with yourself? What happened to cause that death? What choices did you or someone else make that caused the consequence of separation?
4. Where do you see the consequences of sin in the lives of people you care about as a result of their refusal to obey God?

### Take the Next Step

1. In light of this week’s message on the seriousness of sin, what changes will you make in your life this week to align your life and your choices with God’s will and Word?
2. Have you asked God to forgive you from your attempt(s) to live independently of Him? Spend some time with your group in prayer. Talk to God about the areas of your life in which you need to repent from sin.
3. Want to dig deeper? Read and discuss these verses: John 8:44, Genesis 4:1-26, Genesis 6:1-7, 2 Corinthians 11:3, and 2 John 7

### Renew Your Mind

*“So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him;” Deuteronomy 30:19b-20a*

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