

# WHAT WENT WRONG?

We are broken by sin.

 KEY PASSAGE

*Genesis 3:1-24*

 KEY VERSE

*Romans 6:23*

# SPARK THE CONVERSATION

Can you imagine a world where everything was perfect—where people loved and cared for one another without thought of selfish gain, where no crime existed, and where suffering and brokenness were not a reality? Imagine what it might have been like to enjoy God’s creation before sin entered the world. Preteens have been learning about their identity in connection to their Creator, who He made them to be, and His plan for their lives. Today’s session engages preteens with the reality of brokenness. All people are broken because of sin and disobedience to God. As you lead preteens to understand their broken identity because of sin, cultivate space for them to understand the weight of sin in their own lives and the lives of people they care about. Remind preteens of the hope found through Jesus and guide them to look forward to the new creation when God will restore and make all things new!

## IGNITE PDG

### YOU WILL NEED

- Preteen Discipleship Guides (1 per preteen)

As preteens arrive, lead them to complete “What Happened?” in their discipleship guides (PDG, 22).

**Ask:** What message did you discover? (Sin changed ...) What is sin? What are some things sin changed that affect your life? How would your life be different if sin had not changed these things? (Allow for discussion.)

**Sin:** to think, say, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands (Genesis 4:7)

**Continue:** We’ve been studying about our identity and who God made us to be. We’ve learned that **God says people are created in His image** and **we are created for God’s glory**. We know that God created everything and said it was good, including us, but something went wrong. Sin entered the world and changed or distorted what God intended at creation, including our identities.

# SHARPEN & STRENGTHEN PDG

## YOU WILL NEED

- Bibles (1 per preteen)
- Preteen Discipleship Guides (1 per preteen)

Direct preteens to Sharpen & Strengthen in their discipleship guides (PDG, 23). Invite the group to follow along as you lead the Bible study.

## **A** WHY IS SIN A BIG DEAL?

**Open:** Have you ever thought about what you might do if you had been Adam or Eve in the garden? We may be tempted to think that we would have been stronger and resisted Satan's temptation. Satan is much more powerful and crafty than we often think. Let's think about that as we read what happened in Genesis 3.

**Temptation:** the urge or attraction to sin and disobey God (Luke 22:40)

*Read Genesis 3:1 or ask a preteen to read this verse aloud.*

**Say:** Notice that the Bible says the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals. The serpent asked Eve a question. It seems as though she was not surprised or fearful because of her response to him. Eve listened to the serpent's words with curiosity which led her to doubt God's truth.

**Ask:** Do you remember what God told Adam regarding the tree? Look back in Genesis 2:16-17. How did Satan change God's instruction? (Allow preteens to answer in their discipleship guides.)

**Continue:** Notice how Satan changed what God said when he spoke to Eve. Satan asked if Eve could not eat from any tree. God was specific in Genesis 2:16-17 that it was only the tree of knowledge of good and evil that they could not eat from. By altering the conversation from one tree to any tree, Satan began to plant seeds of doubt in Eve's mind and led Eve to believe God was keeping something good from her.

**Say:** Satan often comes to us with the same crafty curiosity with which he approached Eve. He can lead us to doubt who we are, who really has the

authority to determine what is true about us, or even doubt God and His goodness and His plans for us. Sin is a powerful temptation for us, just as it was for Adam and Eve, and we must take it seriously.

*Ask a preteen to read aloud Genesis 3:2-3.*

**Explain:** Eve corrected Satan when she told him she and Adam could eat from any tree except the one in the middle of the garden. However, she slightly changed what God had said.

**Ask:** How was Eve's response different from God's instructions? (Allow preteens to answer in their discipleship guides. She said they could not even touch the tree.)

*Read Genesis 3:4-7 or ask several preteens to read these verses aloud.*

**Continue:** Satan tempted Eve to doubt God. Eve chose three important actions that led to her sin and disobedience. Read Genesis 3:6 in your discipleship guide and circle these actions. First, Eve saw the tree was good and could give wisdom. She took her focus off the Creator and focused instead on what the tree could do for her. Then, she took fruit from the tree. She decided to pick the fruit and hold it, drawing her more towards sin and away from God's good plan. Lastly, she ate, choosing her own desires over obedience to God.

**Ask:** Adam was with Eve when she ate the fruit. Why do you think Adam did not stop Eve from eating the fruit? (*Guide preteens to understand that sin is powerful and affects you and the people around you.*)

## **🔒 HOW DOES SIN CHANGE MY IDENTITY?**

*Read Genesis 3:8-13 or ask several preteens to read these verses aloud.*

**Say:** Adam and Eve attempted to hide from God because of their shame. Sin may feel good in the moment. We may even feel as if we have escaped guilt and punishment. But in the end, sin will always lead to shame and brokenness before a holy God. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, their identity changed from perfect reflections of God's image and glory to broken by sin. Ever since Adam and Eve sinned, every person except Jesus has sinned and disobeyed God. Because of our sin, our identities and our relationship with God are broken.

## 🔒 WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN?

Read aloud Genesis 3:14-24 or invite preteens to read these verses.

**Ask:** Do you think God was unkind or kind to send Adam and Eve away from the garden? (Allow preteens to answer in their discipleship guides.)

**Say:** Because God is holy and just, He must punish sin and He is right to do so. In His kindness, God sent Adam and Eve away from the garden. Otherwise, they could have eaten from the tree of life and lived forever in their brokenness. Instead, God removed them from that temptation and provided the perfect solution to their sin problem through Jesus.

## MAKE THE CONNECTION

**Say:** Adam and Eve disobeyed God and their identities were marked with sin, brokenness, and suffering. We, too, are sinful and have disobeyed God, choosing lesser things that we want more than we want God. **We are broken by sin.** Because of our sin, we are separated from God and don't reflect Him in the world the way we were made to do, but we are not without hope. Matthew 4 tells about another temptation story, when Satan tempted Jesus. Satan used crafty arguments and doubt to tempt Jesus to sin, just as he tempted Eve. Yet, Jesus did not give into temptation. He never sinned. He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for the punishment we deserved, and rose again in victory. When we trust in Jesus for salvation, He changes our identities from broken to child of God and that is very good news!

## 🔑 KEY VERSE

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23*

### YOU WILL NEED

- Bibles (1 per preteen)
- Painter's tape
- Ball

### PREPARE

- Make a large square on the floor and divide into 4 equal squares to create a grid.

Guide preteens to open their Bibles to Romans 6:23, and select a volunteer to read it aloud.

Lead preteens to play a game of four square. Form the group into four teams. Each player on the team will take a turn bouncing the ball in a different square and saying one word of the key verse.

Player 1 will bounce the ball inside the square of Player 2 while saying the first word of the key verse. Player 2 will catch the ball and say the second word, then Player 3, and so on. After the players take a turn, they will rotate with a different player on their team and play continues. Lead preteens to repeat the verse correctly as time allows. For an added challenge, allow preteens to bounce the ball in any square but their own as they say the next word of the key verse. When a player misses a catch or his ball bounces more than once in a square, pause the game. Lead kids to say the key verse before continuing the game.

**Explain:** We are broken by sin and our identities reflect that brokenness. But, God loves everyone, and He wants everyone to trust in Him and receive God's gift of restoration and eternal life. However, God will not force someone to trust in Him. God offers salvation to everyone, but each person is responsible for his own decision regarding his relationship with God.

## FIRE IT UP!

### DEFINING SIN **PDG**

#### YOU WILL NEED

- Preteen Discipleship Guides (1 per preteen)
- Bible dictionary
- Study Bible
- Concordance
- Bible commentary

**TEACHING TIP** Bring a phone or computer and demonstrate how to locate electronic versions of these resources. Download any applications needed to demonstrate before the session begins.

**Say:** Today we've been talking about how sin has broken our identities and relationship with God. How would you define sin?

Call attention to "Sin Defined" (PDG, 24). Invite a volunteer to read aloud the questions and guide preteens to answer and discuss. Guide preteens

to list three or four ways they struggle to obey God and are tempted to sin in their discipleship guides.

**Ask:** How can we find out what the Bible says about these sins?

Display the Bible dictionary, concordance, study Bible, and commentary.

**Say:** A concordance lists all the Scripture references where specific words are located in the Bible. Today we are doing a study of the word "temptation." You can read these verses and learn what the Bible says.

Read Matthew 26:41 and discuss the meaning of the verse in context. Invite preteens to suggest additional words to study. Encourage them to find two scripture verses to help them resist temptation to sin based on what they wrote in their discipleship guides.

**Continue:** These books are great tools to help you learn more about the Bible. We don't all have these tools in our homes, but these resources are also available online. You can download apps for the Bible, Bible dictionaries, and even commentaries on your phones or tablets. You can also search credible websites to help you study the Bible too. (Suggest preteens gain parental permission before searching sites or applications.)

## IS IT EVER OKAY?

### YOU WILL NEED

- 10 sheets of construction paper
- Marker

### PREPARE

- Write the numbers 1-10 on separate sheets of construction paper.

Display the numbers in order on the floor. Place as much space between the numbers as possible.

**Say:** Let's look at these numbers as a number scale. I will read a statement. If you completely agree with the statement, move to the number ten. If you completely disagree with the statement, move to the number one. Remember, ten is strongly agree, one is strongly disagree. You may stand at any of the numbers in between if you slightly agree or disagree. If you really do not have an opinion, stand on number five. It means you do not agree or disagree.

Read aloud the statements one at a time. Pause as preteens select where to stand. Invite one or two preteens to state why they selected their position to stand.

- The best flavor of ice cream is strawberry.
- It is OK to lie to avoid getting in trouble.
- It is OK to shoplift food if you are hungry and cannot afford to buy it.
- God loves you even when you disobey Him.
- You should always obey your parents, even if you do not agree with them.
- If a friend forgets her homework, it is OK to allow her to copy yours.
- People should not be held responsible for their sins because it is too easy to sin.
- Satan is ultimately responsible for the choices I make.
- It is OK to think something, as long as you do not act upon your thoughts.
- Each person is responsible for his choices.
- Sin affects more than just you; it affects the people around you and every aspect of creation.
- No matter how hard you try, you cannot live a life without sinning.

**Say:** Opinions (ice cream flavors) and absolute truth (sin is always wrong) are two very different notions. As we learn about our culture and the ideas that surround us, it is important we realize what is an opinion and what is true from God's Word.

**Continue:** Sin is much more powerful than we often think it is. One way we can stand against the power of sin is to read the Bible and know truth. The more you know from the Bible, the stronger you can stand against sin. Another way to stand against sin is to pray for God's help. God understands everything you face, and He will help you resist temptation. Let's take a few minutes and pray.

Guide preteens to the daily discipleship pages found in their guides. Review and discuss the daily pages completed from the last session. Point out the Family Guide pages for preteens to use at home.

## BREAK IT DOWN

**Finish:** Sin changed everything. Every aspect of creation was impacted by the sin of Adam and Eve. (See Romans 8:20-22.) **We are broken by sin,** but God made a way for us to be restored. God is holy and just to punish sin, and in His justice and love He provided the sacrifice for our sin. God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. Through the sacrifice of Jesus, we can have forgiveness for our sins and restored life with God.