

## Transform Your Nature, Using Jesus as Your Example: *You Don't Win with Sin*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

#### Facilitator Notes:

- For Your Journey episodes can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube](#) channel *and* in the [NAC USA mobile app](#)

#### I wonder...

- What is sin?
- Why do we sin?
- Where does it come from?
- What is the consequence of sin?

#### I believe...

- Sin is everything that is contrary to the will of God and is contrary to His being. (Catechism Q&A question 229)
- The origin of sin (fall into sin) is Adam and Eve's disobedience of God's commandment to not eat fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. (Catechism Q&A question 223)
- I am born with the inclination to sin (concupiscence). (Q&A question 227)
- Sin causes separation between God and me, though God continues to love me. (Catechism Q&A question 227)

#### Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- Chart paper or whiteboard and markers (optional)
- For Your Journey –
  - [Episode 23 – Aligning our lives](#)

#### References:

- Bible verses: Genesis 3:1-6, Psalm 139:23-24, Matthew 16:22-24, Romans 6:23
- Catechism Q&A questions 215-223, 227, 229, 232-237
- Catechism Q&A page 253, The Ten Commandments

### PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

Part of growing up and maturing is realizing that choices have consequences. Join us tomorrow for small group at \_\_\_\_\_ when we'll discuss the consequences of sin.

### POST DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

#### Facilitator Notes:

- Please customize with local information as necessary.
- Consider including a link to one of the referenced videos for this discussion.

Dear Parents,  
 This week the "I Wonder...." questions are about sin, what it is, where it comes from, why we sin, and the result of sin. The students were asked to read a story about a righteous judge and to compare elements of the story to our lives as sinners. The students were then asked to watch "Aligning our Lives to the Gospel" (Ep. 23 - For Your Journey), to see how sin impacts our future with Christ. In the coming week, consider taking time to discuss sin with your son/daughter.

## SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (Up to 10 minutes)

### Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?
- What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?
- So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
- Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

## HOOK (Up to 15 minutes)

### Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.
- Facilitator should not allow students to explain the 'why' for their behavior, or allow them to justify the behavior.
- Refer to the Ten Commandments, Catechism Q&A page 253.
- Facilitator may have to assist students in deciding if the sin is a direct or indirect violation of a commandment. It is important to develop an understanding that all sin falls under at least one of the commandments. The emphasis should not be if the sins are direct or indirect, but that either is a violation.

- How are you and how are you feeling today?
- Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week?
- Ask a student to read, or encourage the students to read silently, Psalm 139:23-24 and reflect on it for a moment, then tell us about one thing you did today that you wish you didn't, was a bad choice, was not very Christ-like, or was just plain rotten.
  - Make a list of the responses
- Listen to the following and decide if the action could be considered a sin?
  - You stole a dollar out of someone's backpack
    - Yes, it is in direct violation of a commandment
  - You embarrassed your friend in the hallway in front of a girl he has a crush on (stole his peace, dignity)
    - Yes, it is an indirect violation of a commandment
- Refer to the list of responses from the Psalm 139 reading. Was anyone without sin? What made you sin?
- Have you ever used the phrase "The devil made me do it?" Read Matthew 16:22-24. Who is the devil in this passage? What made Peter sin?
  - Lead the students to the idea that it was Peter's self-serving or prideful heart that caused him to make this statement. Christ had to be very direct with Peter to make him understand that it was not Peter's thoughts or ideas that would be fulfilled, but God the Father. Without Christ fulfilling His Father's will, humankind would not have the ability to be saved from sin.

## SET THE STAGE (Up to 1 minute)

### Facilitator Notes:

### I wonder...

- What is sin?
- Why do we sin?
- Where does it come from?
- What is the consequence of sin?

## LESSON (Up to 25 minutes)

### Facilitator Notes:

- Let the students read the story and answer the questions with a partner or in small groups before coming back together to share with the whole group.
- Any questions about her reasoning or justification should be responded to using the answers to Catechism Q&A questions 232-237. Avoid a debate about whether she was justified or not. Keep the focus on 'did she break the law or not?' At this point, we want the students to recognize humankind's inability to remain free from sin, the consequence of sin, and our inability to pay the price of sin.
- It may be tempting for the conversation to turn to forgiveness or grace, but that will be discussed in future lessons. Keep the focus of the discussion on sin.

**Read the following story and think of how it parallels what sin is for us. Then answer the following questions (story is included in the student sheets):**

"A young woman was picked up for speeding. She was ticketed and taken before the judge. The judge read off the citation and said, "Guilty or not guilty?" The woman replied, "Guilty." The judge brought down the gavel and fined her \$100 or ten days. Then an amazing thing took place. The judge stood up, took off his robe, walked down around in front, took out his billfold, and paid the fine." (an excerpt from "He's More than a Carpenter, McDowell, 1977)

### **Student Question #1 What part of the story demonstrates the problem?**

- The woman broke the law.
- There is a penalty for breaking the law.

### **Student Question #2 Why did this woman break the law?**

- She may have chosen to ignore the law.
- She thought her circumstances were above the law (maybe she was late, maybe she had a new car and wanted to see how fast it could go, etc.).

### **Student Question #3 Where did the woman's inclination to break the law come from?**

- She had free will to decide whether she was going to obey the law or to disobey the law.
  - God gave us free will, because He loves us and wants us to love Him
- God created Adam and Eve in His image (they were perfect), and He gave them free will. God gave them the commandment to not eat of a certain tree, and they chose to disobey.
  - Have the students read Genesis 3:1-6 and ask them at what point did Adam & Eve sin (not when they ate the fruit, but when they doubted the Lord's command and decided to eat the fruit).
  - Emphasize from that day forward, people were separated from God, because their inclination to disobey God was forever imprinted on their hearts.
- Go back to the story of the woman and the judge, and have the students discuss at what point did the woman sin and how is it like the story of Adam and Eve's fall.

- The part of the story where the judge pays the woman's fine will be discussed next week, so keep the discussion focused on sin.

**Student Question #4** What was the consequence of the woman's disobedience of the law?

- She had to pay the penalty (\$100)
- She could no longer stand before the judge as a law abiding citizen (a separation occurred). Her "position" before the judge had changed.

**Student Question #5** Why couldn't the judge just have mercy on her and let her go?

- It is very important that the students understand that if the judge would just let her go, he would not be a righteous judge. Ask them what would happen to any judge that would just let everyone go? He would lose his position as judge, he would not be viewed as a righteous judge (or a judge who doesn't uphold the law). He would be accused of being dishonest, or lacking integrity.
  - Our God is a righteous God.
- Share the following scenario: My son broke my favorite coffee mug. I'm a loving and forgiving father/mother, so I put my son on my lap and hug him and say, "Don't cry, Daddy/Mommy loves you and forgives you." But who has to pay for the mug? I do.
  - There's always a price/consequence for sin.
- Go back to the list from the Hook activity and determine the "price" of the sin. (If you insult someone publicly, they forgive you, but they bear the price of the insult, which might be embarrassment in front of peers).
  - Therefore, the price/consequence of sin has to be paid by someone.

**Divide the group into two groups and make the following statements:**

**A) We are sinners because we sin.**

**OR**

**B) We sin because we are sinners.**

- Let the two groups discuss statements A and B, and ask them to choose which one they think is most true. Have each group choose one person to report which statement they chose and why.
  - Lead the discussions back to the origin of sin, and that we are born sinners which is why we sin (in other words, we are born with the inclination to sin, which is why we sin).
    - We sin because we are sinners.

Sin is an important element of the gospel narrative. God created everything perfectly, and because humankind sinned, that perfect relationship with God was severed. The gospel narrative will be explored in more detail in the "Help Spread the Gospel" semester. The consequence of sin is clear:

**Ask a student to read Romans 6:23**

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

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (Up to 15 minutes)

### Facilitator Notes:

- For Your Journey episodes can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube](#) channel *and* in the [NAC USA mobile app](#)

- Thinking about our sins can be uncomfortable. However, it is an important and necessary step in order to repent and seek forgiveness.

**Wrap up the lesson with why we should want to avoid sin, linking it to our international vision statement and our eternal future with God.**

- *Our Vision is a church in which people feel at home and, inspired by the Holy Spirit and their love for God, align their lives to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and thus prepare themselves for His return and eternal life.*
  - The 'aligning their lives to the Gospel of Jesus Christ...' phrase means that we more and more give Jesus' teaching prominence in our decision making and our motivations.
  - This means we strive to sin less and less.
- If time allows, watch:
  - For Your Journey
    - i. [Episode 23 – Aligning our lives](#)

### Close with the "I Believe..." statements

- As you review each statement, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Allow the students to state an "I Believe..." statement for each of the "I Wonder..." questions in their own words.
- Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already promised and committed to renouncing Satan and trying not to sin.

### I believe...

- Sin is everything that is contrary to the will of God and is contrary to His being. (Catechism Q&A question 229)
- The origin of sin (fall into sin) is Adam and Eve's disobedience of God's commandment to not eat fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. (Catechism Q&A question 223)
- I am born with the inclination to sin (concupiscence). (Catechism Q&A question 227)
- Sin causes separation between God and me, though God continues to love me. (Catechism Q&A 227)

### A Point to Ponder....

- Why do you think the judge paid the woman's fine? Record your response and be prepared to discuss next week.

### A Call to Action...

- This week, reflect on a sin you recently committed. Why was it a sin? Why did you do it? Was there a price to you had to pay? If yes, what was it? How does taking time to reflect on your sin help you transform your nature?

### Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

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What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

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So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

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Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

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**Point to Ponder.....**

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**Call to Action.....**

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## Transform Your Nature, Using Jesus as Your Example: *You Don't Win with Sin*

<b>I wonder...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What is sin?</li> <li>➤ Why do we sin?</li> <li>➤ Where does it come from?</li> <li>➤ What is the consequence of sin?</li> </ul>	<b>I believe...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Sin is everything that is contrary to the will of God and is contrary to His being (Catechism Q&amp;A question 229)</li> <li>➤ The origin of sin (fall into sin) is Adam and Eve's disobedience of God's commandment to not eat fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Catechism Q&amp;A question 223)</li> <li>➤ I am born with the inclination to sin (concupiscence) (Catechism Q&amp;A question 227)</li> <li>➤ Sin causes separation between God and me, though God continues to love me (Catechism Q&amp;A question 227)</li> </ul>
<b>References:</b> Bible verses: Genesis 3:1-6, Psalm 139:23-24, Matthew 16:22-24, Romans 6:23 Catechism Q&A questions 215-223, 227, 229, 232-237, page 253	

**Read the following story and think of how it parallels what sin is for us. Then answer the following questions:**

"A young woman was picked up for speeding. She was ticketed and taken before the judge. The judge read off the citation and said, "Guilty or not guilty?" The woman replied, "Guilty." The judge brought down the gavel and fined her \$100 or ten days. Then an amazing thing took place. The judge stood up, took off his robe, walked down around in front, took out his billfold, and paid the fine." (An excerpt from "He's More than a Carpenter, McDowell, 1977)

**1. What part of the story demonstrates the problem?**

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**2. Why did this woman break the law?**

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**3. Where did the woman's inclination to break the law come from?**

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**4. What was the consequence of the woman's disobedience of the law?**

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**5. Why couldn't the judge just have mercy on her and let her go?**

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**Point to Ponder:** Why did the judge come down and pay her fine?

**Call to Action:** This week, reflect on a sin you recently committed. Why was it a sin? Why did you do it? Was there a price to you had to pay? If yes, what was it? How does taking time to reflect on your sin help you transform your nature?