
“Come, Let Us Reason Together” About the Bible
Understanding Life’s Greatest Questions Through the Bible
Bible Study Series

“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. (Isaiah 1:18)

LESSON FIVE

Sin and a Savior

Estimated time to read this lesson: 7 – 9 minutes

Sin, in its essence, is disobedience to God, it’s lawlessness. The Bible defines it clearly: **“Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness”** (1 John 3:4). While that verse is from the New Testament, the foundation of this truth stretches all the way back to the beginning, in the Old Testament.

It all started in the Garden of Eden. God placed Adam and Eve in a paradise and gave them one restriction: **“...of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die”** (Genesis 2:17). Appearing as a serpent, Satan deceived Eve. He told her, **“You will not surely die... For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil”** (Genesis 3:4–5). Eve believed the lie. She took the fruit, ate it, and gave some to Adam, who also ate. This disobedient act ushered sin and death into the world.

Paul explains it this way: **“...through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men”** (Romans 5:12). That one act of rebellion didn’t just affect Adam and Eve. It affected us all.

God confronted them. He pronounced judgment: the serpent would crawl on its belly (Genesis 3:14), the woman would experience pain in childbirth and be subject to her husband (Genesis 3:16), and the man would toil and work to survive until returning to the dust from which he was made: **“For dust you are, and to dust you shall return”** (Genesis 3:19).

Yet even in the midst of this judgment, God offered a glimmer of hope—a promise of redemption. He said to the serpent, **“And I will put enmity (hostility) between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel”** (Genesis 3:15). This is the Bible’s first prophetic promise of a Savior, one who would defeat Satan, sin, and death.

As time went on and humanity spread, so did sin. The Bible says, **“Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually”** (Genesis 6:5). God was grieved: **“And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart”** (Genesis 6:6). So, He decided to send a flood to wipe out mankind. But there was hope. **“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord”** (Genesis

6:8). God instructed Noah to build an ark, and Noah obeyed: **“Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did”** (Genesis 6:22). Through Noah, life on earth was preserved after the flood.

Yet even after the flood, sin continued. God chose Israel as His covenant people, rescued them from bondage (slavery) in Egypt, and gave them His law at Mount Sinai. But over and over, they broke His commandments. While Moses was on the mountain, the people made a golden calf and worshiped it rather than worshipping Him as they had been commanded: **“They made a calf in Horeb... Thus they changed their glory into the image of an ox that eats grass”** (Psalm 106:19–20). Later, they mingled with the Gentiles and adopted pagan practices, despite God’s clear instructions: **“They did not destroy the peoples... but they mingled with the Gentiles and learned their works”** (Psalm 106:34–35).

During the time of the judges, the pattern continued: **“Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals (idols)... they forsook the Lord”** (Judges 2:11–13). Even when they demanded a king, it was seen as a rejection of God’s rule: **“They have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them”** (1 Samuel 8:7). King Jeroboam led the people into further idolatry with golden calves: **“Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan”** (1 Kings 12:30).

God sent prophets to call the people back, but they were often ignored: **“Yet the Lord testified against Israel and against Judah... saying, ‘Turn from your evil ways...’ Nevertheless they would not hear”** (2 Kings 17:13–14). Eventually, judgment came. Israel faced captivity, destruction, and exile. **“But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; so He turned Himself against them as an enemy”** (Isaiah 63:10).

The New Testament deepens our understanding of sin. The Greek word for sin—*hamartia*—means “to miss the mark,” like an archer missing the target. Paul says, **“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”** (Romans 3:23). Sin is not just breaking a rule; it’s failing to reflect God’s perfect holiness.

Paul also describes **“the works of the flesh”** in Galatians 5 as behaviors like **“adultery, fornication, idolatry, hatred... envy, murders, drunkenness”**, and he warns, **“those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God”** (Galatians 5:19–21). These sins are willful choices that lead to spiritual death.

Jesus emphasized that sin is not only about actions—it starts in the heart. **“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts... All these evil things come from within and defile a man”** (Mark 7:21–23). He also taught that people often *prefer* darkness over light: **“Light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light”** (John 3:19). Rejecting truth isn’t always ignorance. It’s sometimes deliberate.

John adds this strong warning: **“If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth”** (1 John 1:6). Sin separates us from God. And unless it’s addressed, it leads to eternal death: **“For the wages of sin is death”** (Romans 6:23).

That's why we need a Savior.

Throughout the Old Testament, God foretold the coming of that Savior:

- **“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel (God with Us)”** (Isaiah 7:14).
- **“For unto us a Child is born... His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God...”** (Isaiah 9:6).
- **“Out of you [Bethlehem] shall come forth... the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting”** (Micah 5:2), which was fulfilled in Matthew 2:1.

These prophecies point directly to Jesus Christ. When the angel announced His birth, he said: **“You shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins”** (Matthew 1:21). Jesus Himself declared, **“The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost”** (Luke 19:10). And Peter proclaimed, **“Nor is there salvation in any other... by which we must be saved”** (Acts 4:12).

Jesus lived a sinless life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of mankind: **“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us...”** (2 Corinthians 5:21). He bore the penalty we deserved: **“So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many”** (Hebrews 9:28). And His resurrection sealed the victory: **“But now Christ is risen from the dead...”** (1 Corinthians 15:20).

Because of Jesus, you can be justified, declared righteous, before God: **“Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”** (Romans 5:1). We're no longer enslaved to sin: **“For sin shall not have dominion over you”** (Romans 6:14). And best of all, **“The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”** (Romans 6:23).

Sin is real, and its consequences are severe. But God, in His love, provided a Savior. Jesus Christ is that Savior, our Redeemer, our Deliverer, and our only hope. Through Him, we find forgiveness, freedom, and everlasting life.

Sin and a Savior – Lesson Five: Questions to Confirm Understanding

Estimated time to answer the questions: 5 – 7 minutes; with scripture lookup: 30 minutes

Answer the following questions by circling True / False. Look up the scripture references in your Bible to confirm the answers. An answer key with explanations of the correct answers is provided below the questions.

1. **True | False** Sin is lawlessness and disobedience to the will and commands of God. (1 John 3:4)
2. **True | False** Sin entered the world through the disobedience of Adam and Eve. (Romans 5:12)
3. **True | False** God told Adam that eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil would bring death. (Genesis 2:17)

4. **True | False** Satan deceived Eve by saying she would not die but become like God. (Genesis 3:4–5)
 5. **True | False** Eve was deceived, but Adam sinned knowingly. (1 Timothy 2:14)
 6. **True | False** God’s curse after the first sin included pain in childbirth, toil in labor, and physical death. (Genesis 3:16–19)
 7. **True | False** Genesis 3:15 contains the first prophecy of a coming Savior who would defeat Satan. (Genesis 3:15)
 8. **True | False** The wickedness of mankind before the flood grieved God’s heart. (Genesis 6:6)
 9. **True | False** Noah was saved from the flood because he found grace and obeyed God. (Genesis 6:8, 6:22)
 10. **True | False** Israel repeatedly sinned against God, even after receiving His Law. (Psalm 106:19–20; Judges 2:11–13)
 11. **True | False** (1 Samuel 8:7)
 12. **True | False** All people have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)
 13. **True | False** The works of the flesh include behaviors such as envy, hatred, and idolatry. (Galatians 5:19–21)
 14. **True | False** Unbelief in Jesus Christ results in God's wrath remaining on a person. (John 3:36)
 15. **True | False** Sin comes from within the heart, not just from external actions. (Mark 7:21–23)
 16. **True | False** People love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. (John 3:19)
 17. **True | False** Jesus was born to save His people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21)
 18. **True | False** There is salvation in no one else but Jesus Christ. (Acts 4:12)
 19. **True | False** Jesus, who knew no sin, became sin for us so we could become righteous in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
 20. **True | False** The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)
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Answer Key

Estimated time to read the answers: 6 – 8 minutes; with reflection and contemplation: 30 minutes

1. Sin is lawlessness and disobedience to the will and commands of God. **True**

"Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness." (1 John 3:4)

The Bible explicitly defines sin as lawlessness. This means sin is not just making mistakes but is active rebellion against God's laws.

2. Sin entered the world through the disobedience of Adam. **(True)**

"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned." (Romans 5:12)

Adam's act of disobedience brought sin and death into the human condition. Eve was deceived, but Adam's deliberate sin is emphasized as the doorway through which sin entered the world.

3. God told Adam that eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil would bring death.

True

"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:17)

God gave Adam a clear command with a clear consequence: eating from the forbidden tree would bring death. This was both a spiritual and eventual physical reality.

4. Satan deceived Eve by saying she would not die but become like God. **True**

"Then the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'" (Genesis 3:4–5)

Satan contradicted God's command and enticed Eve with the promise of becoming like God. This deception led her to sin.

5. Eve was deceived, but Adam sinned knowingly. **True**

"And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression." (1 Timothy 2:14)

Eve was misled by the serpent, but Adam consciously chose to disobey. This distinction underscores the seriousness of Adam's sin.

6. God's curse after the first sin included pain in childbirth, toil in labor, and physical death. **True**

"I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children." Cursed is the ground for your sake... In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread..." "For dust you are, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:16–19 Selected excerpts)

The consequences of sin affected both man and woman and altered their experience of life, work, and death.

7. Genesis 3:15 contains the first prophecy of a coming Savior who would defeat Satan. **True**

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." (Genesis 3:15)

This is known by theologians as the *protoevangelium* or "first gospel." It promises the ultimate defeat of Satan through the "Seed" (Christ) of the woman.

8. The wickedness of mankind before the flood grieved God's heart. **True**

"And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart."

(Genesis 6:6)

Human wickedness deeply saddened God, showing that sin not only violates law but wounds the heart of the Creator.

9. Noah was saved from the flood because he found grace and obeyed God. **True**

"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." (Genesis 6:8)

"Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did." (Genesis 6:22)

Noah's salvation was both by God's grace and Noah's obedient faith. He built the ark just as instructed by God.

10. Israel repeatedly sinned against God, even after receiving His Law. **True**

"They made a calf in Horeb, and worshiped the molded image." (Psalm 106:19)

"Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord..." (Judges 2:11)

Despite receiving divine revelation and blessings, Israel often fell into idolatry and rebellion.

11. When Israel asked for a king, they were rejecting God's rule. **True**

"They have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them." (1

Samuel 8:7)

God interpreted Israel's desire for a human king as a rejection of His divine kingship.

12. All people have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. **True**

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

This foundational truth stresses the universal need for salvation—no one is righteous apart from God.

13. The works of the flesh include behaviors such as envy, hatred, and idolatry. **True**

"Now the works of the flesh are evident... envy, murders, drunkenness... and the like..." (Galatians 5:19–21)

Paul lists sinful behaviors that characterize those living apart from the Spirit and says they exclude one from the kingdom.

14. Unbelief in Jesus Christ results in God's wrath remaining on a person. **True**

"He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (John 3:36)

Faith in Christ brings life. Unbelief brings judgment—God's wrath is the default state until salvation is received.

15. Sin comes from within the heart, not just from external actions. **True**

"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts... All these evil things come from within and defile a man." (Mark 7:21–23)

Jesus emphasized that sin originates in the heart, making inner transformation essential—not just outward behavior modification.

16. People love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. **True**
"And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." (John 3:19)

People often reject Christ (the Light) not out of ignorance but because they prefer sinful ways.

17. Jesus was born to save His people from their sins. **True**
"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)

Jesus' mission is defined clearly: to rescue humanity from sin. His very name reflects that role ("The Lord saves").

18. There is salvation in no one else but Jesus Christ. **True**
"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

Peter declares the exclusivity of salvation through Jesus. No other religion or person can save.

19. Jesus, who knew no sin, became sin for us so we could become righteous in Him. **True**
"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Corinthians 5:21)

This verse describes the substitutionary atonement—Jesus took our sin and gave us His righteousness.

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

Sin earns death, but God offers life through Christ—not as a wage, but as a free gift of grace.

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