



**Junior
Sabbath
School Lessons**

FIRST YEAR, FOURTH QUARTER

**VICTORY
OVER SIN**

JUNIOR SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

FIRST YEAR, FOURTH QUARTER

VICTORY OVER SIN

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Beginning of Sin

'Tis fearful building upon any sin:
One mischief entered brings another in;
The second pulls a third, the third draws more,
And they for all the rest set ope the door:
'Til custom takes away the judging sense,
That to offend we think it no offense.

—William Smith

1



Defining Sin, Part 1

MEMORY VERSE: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." 1 John 3:4.

1. How does the Bible define sin? 1 John 3:4.

A dictionary gives one definition of sin as "a serious offense." Both of these definitions point to one and the same fact—that violation of the law is sin. God cannot and will never set aside His law, the Ten Commandments, to save man, for sin fully corrupts.

2. What is the root of sin? James 1:15.

Many people are confused when they try to find a reason for the existence of sin. They see all the wickedness that is taking place and its results, and they question how all this can happen under the rulership of God, who is so wise, powerful, and loving. "Here is a mystery of which they find no explanation...."

"It is impossible to explain the origin of sin so as to give a reason for its existence." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 492.

3. Was God responsible for sin? Genesis 1:31.

"Nothing is more plainly taught in Scripture than that God was in no wise responsible for the entrance of sin; that there was no arbitrary [depending on choice] withdrawal of divine grace, no deficiency [lack]

in the divine government, that gave occasion for the uprising of rebellion. Sin is an intruder, for whose presence no reason can be given. It is mysterious, unaccountable;..." –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 492, 493.

4. What is the cause of trouble in this world? Romans 5:12.

Sin is the basic cause of all of the world's ills. "Look at the first act of transgression in the garden of Eden. To Adam and Eve were plainly stated the laws of Paradise, with the penalty for willful disobedience. They disobeyed, and disobedience brought its sure result." –*In Heavenly Places*, p. 153.

If God's commandments had always been obeyed, there would have been no sin. Never think of sin as something trivial. Even the smallest breaking of the law is sin.

5. With whom did sin originate? 1 John 3:8.

In this Bible text is given the name of the original sinner. "Before the entrance of evil there was peace and joy throughout the universe. All was in perfect harmony with the Creator's will. Love for God was supreme, love for one another impartial:...

"But there was one that chose to pervert this freedom. Sin originated with him who, next to Christ, had been most honored of God and who stood highest in power and glory among the inhabitants of heaven." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 493.

6. What sin did Satan commit? Isaiah 14:13, 14. What commandment did he break?

"Pride in his own glory nourished the desire for supremacy." The high honors given to Lucifer did not make him appreciate them as the gift of God. "He gloried in his brightness and exaltation, and aspired to be equal with God." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 495.

RESEARCH

Why did God allow sin to continue? Why did He not put a stop to it right at the beginning? To find the answer, read *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 34, last paragraph, and p. 42, third paragraph.

ILLUSTRATION

There are two kinds of nerve cells. One kind is found in the frog. When this nerve cell is stimulated, it has only two ways it can act. One way connects with the frog's croaking mechanism; and the other one, with his legs. So the frog either croaks or jumps or both. There are no other choices for him. He cannot sit down and reason, "Now, I wonder what is the wisest thing to do." Man has a higher order of nerve cells, which has many outlets. This gives him many choices. He can reason things out. He can make decisions. He is capable of making a decision to worship God voluntarily.



2



Defining Sin, Part 2

MEMORY VERSE: "And God spake all these words, saying, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before Me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it." Exodus 20:1-11.

1. How did the apostle Paul describe the Ten Commandments? Romans 7:12.

"To man alone, the crowning work of His creation. God has given a conscience to realize the sacred claims of the divine law, and a heart capable of loving it as holy, just, and good; and of man prompt and perfect obedience is required." –*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 40.

2. What is the first commandment, and how can a person break it? Exodus 20:1-3; 23:13.

God alone, who is the Creator of all, is entitled to man's supreme reverence and worship. "Man is forbidden to give to any other object the first place in his affections or his service." –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 305.

Anything that lessens our love for God is sin. If we have activities that we would rather do instead of worshiping God, they are a sin.

3. What sin is condemned by the second commandment? Exodus 20:4-6, 23.

"The second commandment forbids the worship of the true God by images or similitudes. Many heathen nations claimed that their images were mere figures or symbols by which the Deity was worshiped, but God has declared such worship to be sin." –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 306. When a man tries to represent God with material objects, his idea of God is brought down to a low level.

4. How can the third commandment be broken? Exodus 20:7.

"This commandment not only prohibits false oaths and common swearing, but it forbids us to use the name of God in a light or careless manner, without regard to its awful significance. By the thoughtless mention of God in common conversation, by appeals to Him in trivial matters, and by the frequent and thoughtless repetition of His name, we dishonor Him." –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 306, 307.

5. How severely was a person punished in Old Testament times for breaking this commandment? Leviticus 24:10-16.

"There are those who will question God's love and His justice in visiting so severe punishment for words spoken in the heat of passion. But both love and justice require it to be shown that utterances prompted by malice against God are a great sin." –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 408.

6. What does the fourth commandment say? Exodus 20:8-11.

The Sabbath was founded at creation. It is a memorial of God's work of creation and is holy time. The Sabbath is a sign between Him and His people. The fourth commandment contains all of the elements of a seal, so it is the seal of His law.

All unnecessary work on the Sabbath must be strictly avoided. Children who play on the Sabbath in the house or out of doors, as they would on a common day, are sinning. Also, those who sleep away the Sabbath hours are guilty of breaking this commandment. By thinking thoughts on the Sabbath that are not holy, you sin. This includes talking about your work or school or making plans for the week.

7. How should we spend the Sabbath day, and what are the results? Isaiah 58:13, 14.

"All who love God should do what they can to make the Sabbath a delight, holy, and honorable. They cannot do this by seeking their own pleasure in sinful, forbidden amusements." –*Child Guidance*, p. 536.

RESEARCH

Do people worship idols or images in this modern day? Do they know the second commandment? Find out about this in *The Great Controversy*, pp. 52, 446.

Write a short story about spending the Sabbath day in your home. In class, discuss the different ways that you keep all of the Sabbath as holy time.

3



Defining Sin, Part 3

MEMORY VERSE: *"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's."* Exodus 20:12-17.

1. How are the Ten Commandments summarized, according to Jesus? Matthew 22:37-40.

The first four commandments describe how to honor God, and the last six commandments show us how to be a blessing to our fellowmen.

2. What is special about the fifth commandment? Exodus 20:12.

The degree of love and respect that you show to your father and mother will be greater than that which you give to any other person. In the early years of a child's life, his or her parents represent God to their children. The child who does not obey his parents disobeys God. Children are not only to obey their parents but also to give them love and care, to help them in every way they can, not to speak bad about them, and to help and comfort them in old age. This commandment also includes respect to be shown to ministers and rulers and for all to whom God has given authority.

- 3. What is special about this commandment? Ephesians 6:2, 3.**
- 4. How can the sixth commandment be violated? Exodus 20:13; 1 John 3:15.**

One might think that this is a commandment that he would never break. Even the thought of killing does not enter his mind. But let us take a look at all that is involved in this. Perhaps a friend at school did something to you that made you think, Wait until I get a chance, and I will get even with you! You are really going to get it then! Just you wait! You absolutely burn inside with the thought of what you will do to this person. This is when you had better stop at once, for you are committing a sin—breaking the sixth commandment. This commandment includes hatred, revenge, injurious acts, or even thoughts wishing harm to others.

- 5. What does the seventh commandment teach? Exodus 20:14.**

“Purity is demanded not only in outward life but in the secret intents and emotions of the heart.” – *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 308.

“When the thought of evil is loved and cherished however secretly, said Jesus, it shows that sin still reigns in the heart.” – *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 60.

- 6. What does the eighth commandment forbid? Exodus 20:15.**

Taking something unlawfully that belongs to someone else is a sin. Robbery is included in this commandment. “The eighth commandment condemns man stealing [kidnapping] and slave dealing, and forbids wars of conquest.” – *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 309. If you take advantage of someone through his ignorance or weakness, you commit a sin. If you are paid for doing work but

during your working time you do not work diligently when the boss is not watching, you are stealing from your boss. Also, if you do not faithfully pay your tithes and offerings to God, you are stealing from Him.

7. How can one break the ninth commandment? Exodus 20:16.

There was a little girl whose mother had caught her lying a number of times, until one day the mother realized that her daughter was not aware that she was breaking one of God's commandments. So, the next time the mother caught her lying, she said to her, "Thou shalt not bear false witness." The little girl looked up at her mother for the longest time; and then as the truth dawned on her, she bowed her head and said, "I'm sorry. Mom, I'll never do that again."

"An intention to deceive is what constitutes falsehood. By a glance of the eye, a motion of the hand, an expression of the countenance, a falsehood [lie] may be told as effectually as by words." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 309. Exaggeration or a misleading statement is sin. Talking bad about your friends behind their backs to others is a sin. If you do not speak up for truth when a lie is spoken by someone, you commit a sin.

8. What sin does the last commandment warn against? Exodus 20:17.

This commandment condemns all selfish desires as well as selfish acts. The tenth commandment "strikes at the very root of all sins" by instructing God's children to be content with what He has given to them for their well being.

PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. The first sinner
2. Only He can forgive sins
3. The place where the first sin was committed
4. ___ nature on Sabbath!
5. Falsehood
6. ___ of worldly things on Sabbath breaks the fourth commandment
7. The fifth commandment tells us to ___ ministers
8. This commandment contains the seal of God
9. Worship of these is forbidden in the second commandment
10. Even the ___ breaking of the law is sin
11. Sin is the ___ cause of all ills
12. In Old Testament times, a person was ___ for breaking the fourth commandment
13. The Lawgiver
14. The first four ___ show us our responsibility to God
15. The fifth commandment tells us how to treat our ___
16. The origin of sin ___ be explained
17. This sin is a violation of the sixth commandment
18. ___ is the breaking of the law

DOWN:

The Decalogue

1.	___	___		___	___	___
2.	___	___		___	___	___
3.	___	___		___	___	___
4.	___	___		___	___	___
5.	___	___		___	___	___
6.	___	___		___	___	___
7.	___	___		___	___	___
8.	___	___		___	___	___
9.	___	___		___	___	___
10.	___	___		___	___	___
11.	___	___		___	___	___
12.	___	___		___	___	___
13.	___	___		___	___	___
14.	___	___		___	___	___
15.	___	___		___	___	___
16.	___	___		___	___	___
17.	___	___		___	___	___
18.	___	___		___	___	___

4



Defining Sin, Part 4

MEMORY VERSE: *"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."* James 2:10.

1. How can a person know that he has sinned? Romans 3:20; 7:7.

When someone becomes aware of God's law, the Ten Commandments, he will know when he sins. For example, if a person never heard that Sunday worship is wrong, he would not know that he is committing a sin when he worships on Sunday instead of on God's holy Sabbath day. But once he is aware of the law, which condemns his actions, he immediately recognizes his actions as sinful before God.

2. If we close our eyes so we cannot see and our ears so we cannot hear, can the law condemn us? Matthew 13:15; Hebrews 12:25.

If a person never had the opportunity to learn some of the truth, he would be judged by those things that he knew. However, if he willingly turns away from learning the truth, he would be held accountable for those that he might have known had he only been willing. "Every time you refuse to listen to the message of mercy, you strengthen yourself in unbelief." *—Christ's Object Lessons, p. 237.*

"The degree of light given is the measure of responsibility." *—In Heavenly Places, p. 153.*

3. How did John define sin? 1 John 5:17.

The word “unrighteousness” means wrong-doing. The line that separates sin from righteousness should be very clear in our minds. Unrighteousness includes all sins—the breaking of any or all of the holy commandments.

4. What did the apostle James say about those who know to do good but do not do it? James 4:17.

“Transgression is disobedience to the commands of God.... Justice requires that men shall have light, and it also requires that he who refuses to walk in the Heaven-given light, the giving of which cost the death of the Son of God, must receive punishment. It is a principle of justice that the guilt of the sinner shall be proportionate to the knowledge given but not used, or used in a wrong way.” —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 153.

5. To what is God’s law compared? What does it show the sinner? James 1:23-25.

“The law is God’s great moral looking glass. Man is to compare his words, his spirit, his actions with the Word of God....

“Here is a mirror into which we are to look, and search out every defect of character.” —*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 935.

6. What is the purpose of God’s law? Galatians 3:24.

“The law has no power to pardon the transgressor, but it points him to Christ Jesus....” —*Review and Herald*, May 7, 1901.

“In this scripture, the Holy Spirit through the apostle is speaking especially of the moral law. The law reveals sin to us, and causes us to feel our need of Christ....” —*Manuscript 23a*, 1896.

RESEARCH

Ellen G. White wrote: "Books of heaven record the sins that would have been committed had there been opportunity." –*Signs of the Times*, July 31, 1901.

"Forgetfulness is sin." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 12.

Write down examples from everyday life to illustrate the truth of the above two statements.



5



Man's Sinful Nature

MEMORY VERSE: "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3.

1. Did man always have a sinful nature? Genesis 1:27; Ecclesiastes 7:29.

When man was first created, he was given noble powers and a well-balanced mind. His thoughts and aims were pure and holy. In his sinless state, man was in joyful communion with God. Adam and Eve were very happy in Eden. They had unlimited control over every living thing. Adam and Eve praised God and Jesus for the gifts of love that surrounded them in Eden.

2. What happened that changed this? Romans 5:19, first part.

"But through disobedience, his powers were perverted, and selfishness took the place of love. His nature became so weakened through transgression that it was impossible for him, in his own strength, to resist the power of evil....

"After his sin, he could no longer find joy in holiness, and he sought to hide from the presence of God. Such is still the condition of the unrenewed heart. It is not in harmony with God, and finds no joy in communion with Him." –*Steps to Christ*, p. 17.

3. How many people have been able to live sinless lives? Romans 3:23.

"It is impossible for us, of ourselves, to escape from the pit of sin in which we are sunken. Our hearts are evil, and we cannot change them." –*Steps to Christ*, p. 18.

4. What is the sinful nature's reaction to God's divine nature? Romans 8:7.

"The sinner could not be happy in God's presence; he would shrink from the companionship of holy beings. Could he be permitted to enter heaven, it would have no joy for him.... His thoughts, his interests, his motives, would be alien to those that actuate the sinless dwellers there. He would be a discordant note in the melody of heaven. Heaven would be to him a place of torture; he would long to be hidden from Him who is its light, and the center of its joy. It is no arbitrary decree on the part of God that excludes the wicked from heaven: they are shut out by their own unfitness for its companionship. The glory of God would be to them a consuming fire." –*Steps to Christ*, pp. 17, 18.

5. How do holy things appear to the sinful nature? 1 Corinthians 2:14.

"Precious jewels of truth, that are of the highest value to the meek and lowly ones who believe in Christ, are as foolishness to him who is wise in the world's estimation." –Manuscript 29, 1899.

6. Can a man change his sinful nature by using his will power? Job 14:4.

“Education, culture, the exercise of the will, human effort, all have their proper sphere, but here they are powerless. They may produce an outward correctness of behavior, but they cannot change the heart; they cannot purify the springs of life.”
 –*Steps to Christ*, p. 18.

7. What is the only way the sinful nature can be changed? John 3:7; Ezekiel 36:26.

Often the phrase “a new heart” is not understood. Some think it is a change in their feelings, and this change in feelings they call conversion. But this is one of Satan’s weapons to make people think that they are converted, because of a special feeling that they have. “When Jesus speaks of the new heart, He means the mind, the life, the whole being. To have a change of heart is to withdraw the affections from the world, and fasten them upon Christ.” –*The Youth’s Instructor*, September 26, 1901.



CRYPTOPUZZLE

(Extrapolate from the following clues: J=S, R=E, K=N)

“JEVEK JVYRKNVQRKJ VQR MRJVYASVFZR
 VRKMRKSFRJ UC OEK’J KEVAYR. QR DYFKNJ FK
 RKZW, PRETUAJW, JRTCFJQKRJJ, SUZRVUAJKRJJ,
 ROATEVFUK, EKM JVYFCR CUY VQR QFNQRJV
 XTESR.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 238.

6



Result of Sin

MEMORY VERSE: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23.

1. What is the result of every sin? Ezekiel 18:4, last part.

God's law is a reflection of His character. He can accept into His kingdom only those who are in harmony with it. "Every departure from obedience to the law is rebellion.... Upon those who choose to continue in transgression the death sentence must at last be pronounced." –*Review and Herald*, March 15, 1906.

2. Does every sin have results? Galatians 6:7.

"A slight deviation from truth, a little variation from the requirements of God, is thought to be, after all, not so very sinful, when pecuniary [having to do with money] gain or loss is involved. But sin is sin, whether committed by the possessor of millions or by the beggar in the streets." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 311.

Just as Adam and Eve suffered the terrible consequences of disobeying God's commandments, so will everyone who commits a sin, whether it be small or great.

3. What does a person become when he sins? John 8:34.

When we commit a sin, we become Satan's agents. "Satan uses men and women as agents to solicit to sin and make it attractive. These agents he faithfully educates to so disguise sin that he can more successfully destroy souls and rob Christ of His glory. Satan is the great enemy of God and man.... Satan has many in his employ, but is most successful when he can use professed Christians for his satanic work.... Whoever entices to sin is his agent." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 137.

4. How does sin affect a person's relationship with God? Isaiah 59:2.

'The Lord has not closed heaven to us, but our own course of continual backsliding has separated us from God....

"In the apostasy, man alienated himself from God. The separation is wide and fearful;... The power of evil is so identified with human nature that no man can overcome except by union with Christ." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 217, 230.

5. What choice that was given to the people of Israel still has to be made today? Deuteronomy 28:15.

6. Is all sickness a result of sin?

"It is a sin to be sick, for all sickness is the result of transgression....

"Our heavenly Father does not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men. He is not the author of sickness and death." –*Counsels on Health*, pp. 37, 563.

7. Every action has consequences. What are some results of obedience? Deuteronomy 28:1-6.

“Devotion to God and strict adherence to His laws still bring many immediate rewards. What are some of the blessings available to dedicated followers of Christ? Better health is one. Undebatably, people who abstain from alcohol and tobacco, eat moderately of foods permitted by God's Word, and treat their bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit, avoid many diseases and enjoy better health. A clearer mind is another blessing. A happy home is a third. People who love God supremely will love one another.” –Kenneth H. Wood, Jr., *Meditations for Moderns*, p. 312.

RESEARCH

Was the affliction of Job a result of sin? Find the proof for your answer in *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 129.

Ellen G. White wrote the following: “There is wickedness in our world, but all the suffering is not the result of a perverted [corrupted] course of life.” Compare this statement with the note after question 6, and discuss in class how they relate to each one another.

DOOM OF THE SINNER

Woe, woe to the sinner, who lives in his sin;
Unrighteous without, and unholy within:
Each thought of his heart, and each look of his eye,
Is tainted with sin, and his doom is to die.

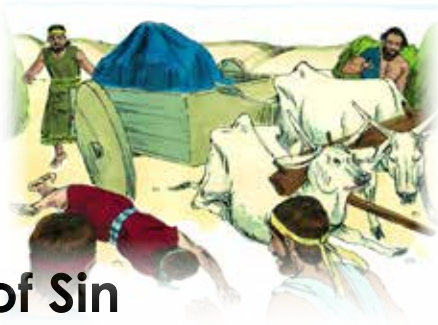
Woe, woe to the sinner; his hopes, bright but vain,
Will turn to despair, and his pleasures to pain;
To whom in the day of distress will he fly?
Forsaken of God—and his doom is to die.

Woe, woe to the sinner; his deeds of dark night
Shall all be revealed by eternity's light;
Like spectres of horror shall each meet his eye;
Too late then to pray—for his doom is to die.

–William Hunter



7



Result of Sin **(Examples)**

MEMORY VERSE: "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Romans 5:12.

- 1. Adam and Eve disobeyed God's law. Upon whom was the first curse pronounced as a result? Genesis 3:14.**

To deceive Eve, Satan chose a serpent as his instrument. The serpent was the wisest, most beautiful animal on the earth, and Eve was entranced by its beauty. But because the serpent was used to deceive her, God turned it into what we know today as a snake, which slithers along on its belly.

- 2. How were Adam, Eve, and their descendants affected by the curse of sin? Genesis 3:16, 17.**
- 3. How were the earth itself and its vegetation affected by man's sin? Genesis 3:17, 18.**
- 4. What additional curse came on the earth as the result of the first murder? Genesis 4:12, first part.**
- 5. Who else disobeyed God's commandment, and how? 1 Samuel 15:3, 4, 9.**

"This victory over the Amalekites was the most brilliant victory that Saul had ever gained, and it served to rekindle the pride of heart that was his greatest peril....

"Saul had now been subjected to the final test. His presumptuous disregard of the will of God, showing his determination to rule as an independent monarch, proved that he could not be trusted with royal power as the vicegerent of the Lord."
—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 629.

6. What was the result? 1 Samuel 15:22, 23.

Everything was taken away from Saul, because he failed to obey all that the Lord had commanded him. Saul's example shows that God requires strict obedience to His commands. When people think their sacrifices to Him can take the place of obedience, they do not know Him or His power to help them obey. God knows the temptations and the trials that we go through. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." 1 Corinthians 10:13. Saul did what he and the people wanted instead of what God wanted. When your friends want you to do something you should not do, think of Saul and the result of his sin.

7. What did Uzzah do, and what were the consequences? 2 Samuel 6:3, 6, 7.

They had handled the movement of the ark entirely wrong, not at all in keeping with the specific instructions given to Moses by God to preserve the ark's sacredness. It was to be touched only by the descendants of Aaron. Uzzah reached out to touch the ark, and he was not Aaron's descendant. Furthermore, God had instructed that the ark was to be carried on the shoulders of the sons of Kohath, who were specially appointed for the task.

8. **What was King Ahab and Queen Jezebel's sin, and what was their end? 1 Kings 16:30-33; 21:25; 22:34, 35; 2 Kings 9:33, 35.**

9. **What happened to Judas after he betrayed Jesus? Matthew 27:3-5; Acts 1:18.**

10. **What did Annanias and Sapphira do, and what was the result? Acts 5:1-10.**

"That sin exists none can deny. Why it was permitted has perplexed many minds. But He who can bring light out of darkness, make the wrath of man to praise Him, and turn a curse into a blessing, can bring good out of evil, and turn mistakes and downfalls into steppingstones to higher ground. Heaven will be happier for the sorrows of earth. In the final outcome it will be seen that all things have worked together for good to them that love God."
—*Bible Readings for the Home*, pp. 46, 47.

RESEARCH

Give reasons for the following:

Do you think that the consequences of Saul's actions were correct? Look for answers in *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 61.

Was Uzzah's death necessary? Why or why not? Read about this in *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 706.

In class, discuss other examples of sin and its result, as found in the Bible.



Our Only Hope

MEMORY VERSE: "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

1. What is the only way to escape from sin? Romans 5:8.

"Through Christ a door of hope was opened, that man, notwithstanding his great sin, should not be under the absolute control of Satan. Faith in the merits of the Son of God would so elevate man that he could resist the devices of Satan. Probation would be granted him in which, through a life of repentance, and faith in the atonement of the Son of God, he might be redeemed from his transgression of the Father's law, and thus be elevated to a position where his efforts to keep His law could be accepted." –*The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 1, p. 50.

2. In what condition is everyone without Christ? Ephesians 2:11, first part, 12; Job 8:13, 14.

"A life in Christ is a life of restfulness. There may be no ecstasy of feeling, but there should be an abiding, peaceful trust. Your hope is not in yourself; it is in Christ. Your weakness is united to His strength, your ignorance to His wisdom, your frailty to His enduring might. So you are not to look to yourself, not to let the mind dwell upon self, but look to Christ." –*Steps to Christ*, p. 70.

3. What is the Christian's hope of glory? Colossians 1:27.

"You are just as dependent upon Christ, in order to live a holy life, as is the branch upon the parent stock for growth and fruitfulness. Apart from Him you have no life. You have no power to resist temptation or to grow in grace and holiness." –*Steps to Christ*, p. 69.

4. What does this hope become for the Christian? Hebrews 6:19.

5. What alone makes the forgiveness of sin possible? Matthew 26:28.

"The atoning sacrifice is full and sufficient. It is the new covenant, sealed with His blood, which was shed for many for the remission of sins. This Christ declared at the last supper." –*The Faith I Live By*, p. 301.

6. How can a person be reconciled to God? Romans 5:10.

Everyone who believes in Jesus, trusting in the power of the risen Saviour, who suffered the death penalty for all, and who fights and overcomes temptation will be given the divine nature. This comes through faith in Christ's atoning sacrifice, man's only hope.

7. What did the apostle Peter say was the foundation of the hope which the apostles preached? 2 Peter 1:16-18.

8. What is the state of a person whose hope is in Christ? Psalm 146:5; Jeremiah 17:7.

"Christ is our only hope. We may look to Him, for He is our Saviour. We may take Him at His word, and make Him our dependence. He knows just the help we need, and we can safely put our trust in Him."
—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 486.

RESEARCH

Was it easy for Christ to become man's hope? Find the answer to this question in *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 116, 117; *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 45; and *Education*, p. 78.



CHRISTIAN HOPE

Jesus lives, and so shall I;
Death, thy sting is gone forever!
He who deigned for me to die,
Lives, the bands of death to sever:
He shall raise me with the just;
Jesus is my Hope and Trust.

Jesus lives and reigns supreme;
And, His kingdom still remaining,
I shall also be with Him,
Ever living, ever reigning;
God has promised; be it must;
Jesus is my Hope and Trust.

Jesus lives, and by His grace
Victory o'er my passions giving,
I will cleanse my heart and ways,
Ever to His glory living;
Me He raises from the dust;
Jesus is my Hope and Trust.

Jesus lives! I know full well,
Naught from Him my heart can sever;
Life, nor death, nor powers of hell,
Joy, nor grief, henceforth forever:
None of all His saints is lost;
Jesus is my Hope and Trust.

Jesus lives, and death is now
But my entrance into glory;
Courage, then, my soul, for thou
Hast a crown of life before thee;
Thou shalt find thy hopes were just;
Jesus is thy Hope and Trust.

—C.F. Gellert

9



Repentance

MEMORY VERSE: "Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" Romans 2:4.

1. Who is called to repent? Luke 5:32.

"... Repentance does precede the forgiveness of sins; for it is only the broken and contrite heart that will feel the need of a Saviour. But must the sinner wait till he has repented before he can come to Jesus? Is repentance to be made an obstacle between the sinner and the Saviour?"

"The Bible does not teach that the sinner must repent before he can heed the invitation of Christ, 'Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.' Matthew 11:28. It is the virtue that goes forth from Christ, that leads to genuine repentance." –*Steps to Christ*, p. 26.

2. Who convicts a person of the fact that he or she is a sinner? John 16:8.

"... When the heart yields to the influence of the Spirit of God, the conscience will be quickened, and the sinner will discern something of the depth and sacredness of God's holy law, the foundation of His government in heaven and on earth.... Conviction takes hold upon the mind and heart. The sinner has a sense of the righteousness of Jehovah and feels the terror of appearing, in his own guilt and uncleanness, before the Searcher of hearts." –*Steps to Christ*, p. 24.

3. What question shows that a person is convicted of sin? Acts 2:37; 16:30.

“The poor publican who prayed, ‘God be merciful to me a sinner’ (Luke 18:13), regarded himself as a very wicked man, and others looked upon him in the same light; but he felt his need, and with his burden of guilt and shame he came before God, asking for His mercy. His heart was open for the Spirit of God to do its gracious work and set him free from the power of sin.” –*Steps to Christ*, pp. 30, 31.

4. What answer is given? Acts 2:38; 16:31.

5. What will the truly repentant sinner do? Psalm 38:18.

“Repentance includes sorrow for sin and a turning away from it. We shall not renounce sin unless we see its sinfulness; until we turn away from it in heart, there will be no real change in the life.” –*Steps to Christ*, p. 23,

6. What is the result of godly sorrow? 2 Corinthians 7:10.

7. What did the prodigal son say when he returned to his father? Luke 15:21.

“Arise and go to your Father. He will meet you a great way off. If you take even one step toward Him in repentance. He will hasten to enfold you in His arms of infinite love. His ear is open to the cry of the contrite soul. The very first reaching out of the heart after God is known to Him.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 206.

8. What did John the Baptist say to the Pharisees and Sadducees who came to Jordan to be baptized? Matthew 3:8.

'There are many who fail to understand the true nature of repentance. Multitudes sorrow that they have sinned and even make an outward reformation because they fear that their wrongdoing will bring suffering upon themselves. But this is not repentance in the Bible sense. They lament the suffering rather than the sin.' –Steps to Christ, p. 23.

9. When at God's command Jonah warned the Ninevites of coming destruction, what showed that their repentance was genuine? What was the result? Jonah 3:10.

"The conditions of obtaining mercy of God are simple and just and reasonable. The Lord does not require us to do some grievous thing in order that we may have the forgiveness of sin. We need not make long and wearisome pilgrimages, or perform painful penances, to commend our souls to the God of heaven or to expiate our transgression; but he that confesseth and forsaketh his sin shall have mercy." –Steps to Christ, p. 37.

RESEARCH

Give five examples from the Bible of people who showed that they were truly repentant.

Then, give five examples of people whose repentance was shown not to be heartfelt.



Forgiveness

MEMORY VERSE: "If we confess our sins. He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9.

1. **Through whom is forgiveness granted? Acts 5:30, 31.**

2. **What is necessary for sin to be forgiven? Numbers 5:6, 7.**

If a person has not humbled himself before God by acknowledging his guilt, he has not fulfilled the first condition for forgiveness. "If we have not experienced that repentance which is not to be repented of, and have not with true humiliation of soul and brokenness of spirit confessed our sins, abhorring our iniquity, we have never truly sought for the forgiveness of sin;..." –*Steps to Christ*, p. 38.

3. **How exact should we be in asking God to forgive our sin? Leviticus 5:5.**

"True confession is always of a specific character, and acknowledges particular sins. They may be of such a nature as to be brought before God only; they may be wrongs that should be confessed to individuals who have suffered injury through them; or they may be of a public character, and should then be as publicly confessed. But all confession should be definite and to the point, acknowledging the very sins of which you are guilty." –*Steps to Christ*, p. 38.

- 4. Are there conditions for receiving forgiveness? Matthew 6:14, 15; Ephesians 4:32.**
- 5. What parable did Jesus tell to illustrate God's forgiveness? Matthew 18:23-35.**

"The pardon granted by this king represents a divine forgiveness of all sin. Christ is represented by the king, who, moved with compassion, forgave the debt of his servant. Man was under the condemnation of the broken law. He could not save himself, and for this reason Christ came to this world, clothed His divinity with humanity, and gave His life, the just for the unjust. He gave Himself for our sins, and to every soul He freely offers the bloodbought pardon....

"The whole debt [of the servant] was canceled. And he was soon given opportunity to follow the example of the master who had forgiven him.... But he who had been so mercifully treated, dealt with his fellow laborer in an altogether different manner.... He who had so recently been forgiven was not tenderhearted and pitiful....

"When the debtor pleaded with his lord for mercy, he had no true sense of the greatness of his debt. He did not realize his helplessness. He hoped to deliver himself." –*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 244, 245.

- 6. How will a person show his sincerity in requesting forgiveness? Isaiah 1:16, 17.**

"Confession will not be acceptable to God without sincere repentance and reformation. There must be decided changes in the life; everything offensive to God must be put away. This will be the result of genuine sorrow for sin." –*Steps to Christ*, p. 39.

- 7. How did the believers in Ephesus show that they were sincere in their confession? Acts 19:18, 19.**

“Ephesus was a popular center for the worship of Diana. The fame of the magnificent temple of ‘Diana of the Ephesians’ extended throughout all Asia and the world. Its surpassing splendor made it the pride, not only of the city, but of the nation. The idol within the temple was declared by tradition to have fallen from the sky. Upon it were inscribed symbolic characters, which were believed to possess great power. Books had been written by the Ephesians to explain the meaning and use of these symbols....

“By burning their books on magic, the Ephesian converts showed that the things in which they had once delighted they now abhorred.... Thus they gave evidence of true conversion.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 286, 288.

- 8. What wonderful thing did the psalmist say about the person whose sin is forgiven? Psalm 32:1, 2.**

RESEARCH

What will be the result if one does not confess his sin and ask for forgiveness? Find out by reading Proverbs 28:13; Messages to Young People, pp. 87, 88; and Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, p. 346.



PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. We must confess ___ sins
2. ___ is necessary to receive forgiveness
3. The Ephesians ___ the books on magic
4. God ___ our sins
5. He is our only hope
6. This person was ungrateful
7. A center of idol worship and magic
8. Christ offers us His bloodbought ___
9. A man whose sins are forgiven is ___
10. Forgiveness is necessary for this
11. Death is the ___ of No. 10

DOWN:

Pardon

1.	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
2.	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
3.	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
4.	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
5.	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
6.	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
7.	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
8.	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
9.	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
10.	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
11.	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___

FORGIVENESS

O God! my sins are manifold; against my life they cry,
 And all my guilty deeds foregone up to Thy temple fly.
 Wilt thou release my trembling soul, that to despair is driven?
 "Forgive!" a blessed voice replied, "And thou shalt be forgiven."

My foemen, Lord, are fierce and fell; they spurn me in their pride;
 They render evil for my good; my patience they deride;
 Arise! my King! and be the proud in righteous ruin driven!
 "Forgive!" the awful answer came, "as thou wouldst be forgiven!"

Seven times, O Lord, I've pardoned them; seven times they've sinned again;
 They practice still to work me woe, and triumph in my pain;
 But let them dread my vengeance now, to just resentment driven!
 "Forgive!" the voice in thunder spake, "or never be forgiven!"

—Bishop Heber



Sin against the Holy Spirit

MEMORY VERSE: "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins." Hebrews 10:26.

1. Can every sin be forgiven? Matthew 12:31, first part.

When someone repents, confesses his sins, and asks God for forgiveness, he will be forgiven. Whether the sin is great or small, if we humbly ask for pardon, it will be granted. Forgiveness is freely offered to all.

2. But what sin cannot be forgiven? Matthew 12:31, last part.

"To ignore the Spirit of God, to charge It with being the spirit of the devil, placed them [men] in a position where God had no power to reach their souls. No power in any of God's provisions to correct the erring can reach them...." –*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 1092.

3. Why is it not possible for blasphemy against the Holy Spirit to be forgiven? Matthew 12:32.

Such a person has resisted the only Spirit that is able to lead him, enlighten him, and save him. "They are following in the path of guilt for which there can be no forgiveness, in this life or in the life to come." –*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 1092. There is no guilt that would be greater than God's mercy, but man's pride and continuous stubbornness lead him to blaspheme against the

Holy Spirit. He gets to a point where the voice of the Holy Spirit can no longer convince his conscience of the error of his ways.

4. What is the sin against the Holy Spirit?

“No one need look upon the sin against the Holy Ghost as something mysterious and indefinable. The sin against the Holy Ghost is the sin of persistent refusal to respond to the invitation to repent.”
–*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 1092.

5. For what did David pray? Psalm 51:11.

“Sin is sin, whether committed by one sitting on a throne, or by one in the humbler walks of life. The day is coming when all who have committed sin will make confession, even though it is too late for them to receive pardon. God waits long for the sinner to repent. He manifests a wonderful forbearance. But He must at last call the transgressor of His law to account.” –*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, p. 1147.

6. What did the apostle Paul warn? Ephesians 4:30.

“At that tribunal [the final judgment] must they render an account who have devoted their God-given talents of time, of means, or of intellect, to serving the gods of this world. They have forsaken their true and loving Friend, to follow the path of convenience and worldly pleasure. They intended at some time to return to God; but the world with its follies and deceptions absorbed the attention. Frivolous amusements, pride of dress, indulgence of appetite, hardened the heart and benumbed the conscience, so that the voice of truth was not heard. Duty was despised. Things of infinite value were lightly esteemed, until the heart lost all desire to sacrifice for Him who has given so much for man.”
–*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 558.

7. Why is it extremely dangerous to sin deliberately? Hebrews 6:4-6.

“God gives light to be cherished and obeyed, not to be despised and rejected. The light which He sends becomes darkness to those who disregard it. When the Spirit of God ceases to impress the truth upon the hearts of men, all hearing is vain, and all preaching also is vain.” –*The Story of Redemption*, p. 364.

8. What will happen to one who willfully rejects Christ's offer of pardon? Hebrews 10:29-31.

“Fire from God out of heaven is rained upon them, and the great men, and the mighty men, the noble, the poor and miserable, are all consumed together. I saw that some were quickly destroyed, while others suffered longer. They were punished according to the deeds done in the body. Some were many days consuming, and just as long as there was a portion of them unconsumed, all the sense of suffering remained. Said the angel, ‘The worm of life shall not die; their fire shall not be quenched as long as there is the least particle for it to prey upon.’” –*Early Writings*, p. 294.

CRYPTOPUZZLE

(Extrapolate from the following clues: B=R, R=E, P=I)

“VBCR BRYRZVGZFR PI XD BR VNGZ IDBBDJ EDB

IPZ. PV PI G BRIDACVR VCBZPZS GHGK EBDX

RWPA.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 557.

12



The Battle against Sin

MEMORY VERSE: "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." Ephesians 6:13.

1. To what did the apostle Paul compare the struggle against sin? 1 Timothy 1:18.

"The Christian life is a warfare.... In this conflict of righteousness against unrighteousness we can be successful only by divine aid." –*Messages to Young People*, p. 55.

"We must watch and pray and toil because there is peril to the soul in relaxing the spiritual vigilance for one moment." –*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 182.

2. Therefore, what is everyone urged to do? 1 Timothy 6:12.

"They have enlisted in Christ's army. The warfare is before them, and they enter it bravely and cheerfully, fighting against their natural inclinations and selfish desires, bringing the will into subjection to the will of Christ." –*Messages to Young People*, p. 74.

3. What help is there for this battle? Ephesians 6:11.

"Unless we are constantly on guard, we shall be overcome by the enemy. Although a solemn revelation of God's will concerning us has been

revealed to all, yet a knowledge of His will does not set aside the necessity of offering earnest supplications to Him for help, and of diligently seeking to cooperate with Him in answering the prayers offered. He accomplishes His purposes through human instrumentalities. God wants every one to stand with the whole armor on, ready for the great review." –*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1119.

4. Who is every person's enemy? Ephesians 6:12.

"Could human beings know the number of the evil angels, could they know their devices and their activity, there would be far less pride and frivolity. Satan is the prince of demons. The evil angels over whom he rules do his bidding. Through them he multiplies his agencies throughout the world. He instigates all the evil that exists in our world." –*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1119.

5. What defenses are available for this battle? Ephesians 6:14-18.

"We have before us a warfare—a lifelong conflict with Satan and his seductive temptations. The enemy will use every argument, every deception, to entangle the soul; and in order to win the crown of life, we must put forth earnest, persevering effort. We must not lay off the armor or leave the battlefield until we have gained the victory, and can triumph in our Redeemer." –*Messages to Young People*, p. 104.

6. How useful is our own strength? John 15:5; Jeremiah 13:23.

"If you see your sinfulness, do not wait to make yourself better. How many there are who think they are not good enough to come to Christ. Do you expect to become better through your own efforts?... There is help for us only in God. We

must not wait for stronger persuasions, for better opportunities, or for holier tempers. We can do nothing of ourselves. We must come to Christ just as we are." –*Steps to Christ*, p. 31.

7. How does Jesus' wonderful promise apply to the battle against sin? John 15:7.

"The heavenly intelligences will work with the human agent who seeks with determined faith that perfection of character which will reach out to perfection in action. To everyone engaged in this work Christ says, I am at your right hand to help you.

"As the will of man cooperates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings." –*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 332, 333.

8. How is the battle won? 1 Corinthians 15:57; Romans 8:37.

RESEARCH

Refer to question 5 and Ephesians 6:14-18 for the Christian armor. Give an example from everyday life showing how each of the pieces of the armor is used.



Justification and Sanctification

MEMORY VERSE: *"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."* Galatians 2:16.

JUSTIFICATION

1. What happened when Jesus hung on the cross? Luke 23:39-43.

The thief had believed in Jesus' coming. He had heard Jesus speaking before and had been convicted by His teachings. However, through the influence of the priests and rulers who discredited Jesus, the man had turned away from Him. He tried to get rid of his convictions by living a life of pleasure. Worldly friends led him further and further into sin until he was arrested for his crimes and sentenced to die on the cross. All during the day of the trial of Jesus, this criminal had watched and heard Jesus, and in his heart he acknowledged Him to be God's Son. Hanging on the cross, he saw in Jesus his only hope, his Redeemer, and he appealed to Jesus in faith. This action of the thief is a beautiful illustration of justification by faith.

2. What is justification by faith? Galatians 2:16, first part.

The dictionary defines "justification" as "acceptance of a sinner as righteous through the merits of Christ." When the repentant sinner, being sorry for his sins, understands that Jesus died in his behalf

and accepts the death of Christ as his only hope, his sins are forgiven. He is justified by faith. "Pardon and justification are one and the same thing." Justification is the work of a moment.

SANCTIFICATION

3. What follows justification by faith in Christ? 2 Corinthians 3:18, last part.

The word "sanctification" is defined as "conformity [agreement] to the will of God." Sanctification is a daily growing more and more like Jesus by abiding in Him and having Him abide in one's heart. Sanctification is the work of a lifetime. It is like a seed that is planted and grows into a strong plant day by day. At first there is just a small green shoot, followed by the stem and leaves; then it continues to grow until it reaches the stage of a full-grown plant and bears fruit.

4. Whose life was a wonderful example of sanctification? Mark 3:17; John 13:23; 19:26.

John spent his early life with the uneducated fishermen of Galilee. He was by nature proud, ambitious, and quick to resent slight or injury. But during his association with Jesus, he became meek and lowly of heart. "Self was hid in Jesus. He was closely united to the Living Vine, and thus became a partaker of the divine nature. Such will be the result of communion with Christ. This is true sanctification."
—*The Sanctified Life*, p. 41.

5. Can someone be sanctified by his own efforts? Isaiah 64:6; John 15:5.

"Many are losing the right way, in consequence of thinking that they must climb to heaven, that they must do something to merit the favor of God.

They seek to make themselves better by their own unaided efforts. This they can never accomplish.... If by any effort of our own we could advance one step toward the ladder, the words of Christ would not be true." –*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 368.

6. What does everyone need to come into harmony with God? Romans 5:17-19.

Righteousness is defined as "the state of being right with God." It is obedience to the law. The law requires righteousness, but the sinner is not able to become righteous by himself. The only way to be righteous is through faith. When we confess every sin and ask God for forgiveness, we are made righteous by Him through Jesus' righteousness covering us. In other words, Christ is our righteousness. However, Christ's righteousness cannot cover us if we continue to practice known sins or if we neglect known duties.

7. What is the goal of God's work of sanctification? Matthew 5:48; Ephesians 4:13.

Again we can take the example of a plant. When the first leaf appears on the stem, the plant is perfect at that stage. As additional leaves and branches appear, the plant is perfect in that stage of development until it reaches full maturity.

The Christian progresses in the same way. When he first becomes acquainted with the truth, he sees many things wrong in his life. He stops smoking, drinking, and swearing. As he learns more about the truth, his life shows this. He will start keeping the Sabbath holy and turn away from worldly entertainment and worldly associates. At each stage, he is being sanctified until he reflects the image of Jesus, whom he loves with all his heart.

8. How important is sanctification–holiness? Hebrews 12:14.

RESEARCH

Name some people in the Bible who lived sanctified lives.

Explain how sanctification and perfection go together. Read Luke 16:10 and *Messages to Young People*, pp. 144, 145.

In class discuss the following statement made by Ellen G. White: “As God is perfect in His sphere, so man may be perfect in his sphere.”
–*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 64.