

ADULT

The Masquerade of Sin

A series by Eugene Wilson



SERIES BIG IDEA

Because Satan masquerades the destructive nature of sin, we must be honest with ourselves about the carnage sin brings.

Lesson 3.1

Lesson 3.2

Lesson 3.3

Lesson 3.4

The Disguise of Sin

The Pleasure of Sin

The Folly of Sin

The Unmasking of Sin



The Masquerade of Sin:

The Disguise of Sin

A series by Eugene Wilson

Lesson Big Idea: The consequences of sin are usually not seen at the beginning of one's engagement in sinful behavior.

Foundation

Scripture Focus: Genesis 3:1–5

Tell the story of the gasoline thief and the story of Adam and Eve on page 78.

Frame

- A. Lucifer was an archangel who was cast out of Heaven.
 - » Isaiah 14:12–15
 - » *What was Lucifer's great sin and what can we learn from it with regards to our maintaining a proper relationship with God?* ⚙️
 1. Lucifer fully understood the devastating consequences of sin, but he did not **share** this insight with Eve.
 - » Genesis 3:4–5
 2. We would do well to recognize the **deceptive** nature of Satan.
 - » *In what ways is Satan deceptive?* ⚙️
- B. Because Adam and Eve fell, sin entered the world.
 1. Sin, at its core, is **disobedience** to God.
 - » *Why should disobedience to God be taken seriously?* ⚙️
 2. Sin is a failure to live up to God's standards.
 - » *Why should we be concerned about coming short of the glory of God?* ⚙️
- C. There are consequences to missing the mark (*hamartia*—"miss the mark").
 1. When we miss the mark, we experience **shame**.
 2. Missing the mark causes us to become fearful.
 - » *What are some fears that a person might have as a result of sin?* ⚙️
 3. When we miss the mark, we experience loneliness.
 4. Missing the mark **fractures** our relationships with others.
 - » *In what ways does sin fracture relationships?* ⚙️
 5. Missing the mark leads to more sin.
 - » *Why does one sin lead to another sin?* ⚙️
 6. Missing the mark ultimately results in eternal death.
 - » Romans 6:23


D. We would do well to recognize the deceptive nature of our frailty; we miss the mark.

1. It is imperative for us to recognize the deceptive nature of our own heart.
 - » *How might we recognize the deceptive nature of our own heart?* ⚙️
2. The consequences of sin are often **hidden**, not readily seen or realized.
 - » *Do you think a better understanding of the consequences of sin is beneficial? If so, why?* ⚙️
3. We must not be ignorant of the devil's **devices**.
 - » II Corinthians 2:11
 - » II Corinthians 11:14

Finish

Tell the story of Bob Harris, weatherman who lied, on pages 81-82.

Foundation

Scripture Focus: Genesis 3:1–5 

The *Daily Record*, a Scottish tabloid newspaper, shared the following story of a thief who tried to steal gasoline from a motor home. John, the owner of the motor home, said: “We made sure everything was safe and secure and settled down for the night. The following morning, we were disgusted to find that under the cover of darkness, a thief had attempted to siphon off diesel from the fuel tank.” But the thief made a huge mistake. Instead of attaching the hose to the gas tank, he had mistakenly attached it to the septic tank. A plastic siphon tube, an empty fuel container, and vomit were found next to the camper. John said, “Fortunately for us, he did not get any diesel.” Unfortunately for the would-be-thief he ended up with a very nasty taste in his mouth.

Although this story is funny, sin is no laughing matter. Sin is real. And just because the consequences of sin are not always seen initially, does not mean there are no consequences. Sin costs, and sin’s cost is huge.

This was something Adam and Eve soon came to realize—there are consequences to sin even though the consequences may not be readily recognized. In the beginning though, everything was perfect. There was nothing wrong with their marriage. There was nothing wrong with their health. There was nothing wrong with their emotions or mental state. There was nothing wrong, whatsoever, with anything. Adam had the perfect job; there was nothing wrong at work. His boss had given him full reign. He could do anything he wanted, anytime he wanted, and however he wanted. Except for one exception. And there were consequences to this one exception. Howbeit, these consequences were not readily seen or recognized, but this did not make them any less real.


That there were consequences to one’s actions was something a different character in our story understood very well. Satan knew. He, himself, had experienced them. However, he omitted that part of his story when he engaged in conversation with this perfect couple who had everything going for them. If he had left them alone, perhaps nothing would have happened. But he talked, and everything he told them was a lie. He deceived them. He suggested what the boss had said wasn’t entirely true, that the boss was holding back some things from them because the boss knew if the instructions were violated, the couple would be blessed more than they already were. But that’s not what happened. And we know this to be true because we know the rest of the story. The consequences of their actions were devastating, not just for the couple but also for all of humanity.

Frame



What can we glean from this story? What lessons can we learn concerning the deceptiveness of the serpent, the deceptiveness of sin, and the deceptiveness of self?


Scripture reveals **Lucifer was an archangel who was cast out of Heaven**. At one time he was the covering or guardian angel. According to Ezekiel 28:14, he was created to dwell in the throne room of Heaven in the very presence of God. Adorned with gold and precious stones, Lucifer’s beauty and splendor were unrivaled by any of the other angels. But this did not last; rather, his place of prominence came to an end. Why? The answer is simply because there are always consequences to sin, even though they may not be initially seen.

Isaiah reveals the fall of Lucifer from Heaven, which resulted in his status as the creature he is today: “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the

farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High. Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit" (Isaiah 14:12–15, NKJV). 

What was Lucifer's great sin and what can we learn from it with regards to our maintaining a proper relationship with God?

Lucifer had wisdom. He had beauty. He had ability. He was a cut above the others. And, yet, he wanted more. He wanted to be like God, to be worshiped like God, and to function as God. Hence, he sought to exalt himself. But instead of exaltation, he was brought low. He was demoted. He was cast out. **Lucifer fully understood the devastating consequences of sin, but he did not share this insight with Eve.**  Instead, he lied. (See Genesis 3:4–5.) 


Such is the deceptive nature of Satan, formerly known as Lucifer. His purpose, his intent, his aim, his desire is to thwart the plan of God. He comes only to steal, to kill, and to destroy. In contrast, Jesus said His purpose was that we might have life and have it to the full. (See John 10:10.) But that is not the serpent's purpose. That's not his aim. He aims to destroy everything good and perfect in our lives. He tells us the consequences of sin are not real and that God does not have our best interest at heart. But he is a liar. He is deceitful. **We would do well to recognize the deceptive nature of Satan.** 

In what ways is Satan deceptive?

According to Romans 5:12, **because Adam and Eve fell, sin entered the world.** Likewise, the consequences of sin were passed on, too. Daily, now, we are confronted with the devastating consequences of sin. We also daily encounter the deceptive nature of the serpent, of sin, and of self. We are told lies every day that the consequences of sin are not real. But they are. Unfortunately, many are unaware of the devil's schemes and unaware of his deceptive nature. And many are unaware of the devastating consequences of sin.

Considering the devastating consequences of sin in the lives of Adam and Eve, everybody should want to avoid sin at all cost. But what are we to avoid, exactly? In other words, what is sin? If we want to refrain from sinning, we might want to consider what sin is.

The Old Testament reveals eight Hebrew words for sin, which have been translated into English as bad, wickedness, guilt, sin, iniquity, err, wander away, and rebel.

These words and their usage in the Old Testament offer some insight into the essence of sin, and from them we learn this simple truth—**sin, at its core, is disobedience to God.** 

Why should disobedience to God be taken seriously?

In the New Testament there are at least twelve English words used to describe sin. These words are translated in English as bad, evil, godless, guilt, sin, unrighteousness, lawlessness, transgression, to be ignorant, to go astray, to fall away, and hypocrite.

The use of these words lets us know that **sin is a failure to live up to God's standards.** Notice, sin is not just disobedience to God; sin is failure to live up to God's standards.

Interestingly, there is one Greek word for sin that is used more than others. This word is *hamartia* (*ham-ar-tee-ah*), which simply means missing the mark. Paul used a version of hamartia, *hamartano*, when writing Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Coming short of the glory of God is the same as missing the mark.

Why should we be concerned about coming short of the glory of God?

LESSON BIG IDEA: The consequences of sin are usually not seen at the beginning of one's engagement in sinful behavior.

We all have missed the mark. That is, we all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. We all have failed to live up to God's standards.

There are consequences to missing the mark (*hamartia*—"miss the mark"). **When we miss the mark, we experience shame.** ✍️ 📖 Shame is what Adam and Eve experienced, and shame is why they sought to cover themselves. **Missing the mark causes us to become fearful.** Adam and Eve were filled with fear after missing the mark.

⚙️ What are some fears that a person might have as a result of sin?

When we miss the mark, we experience loneliness. This, too, is what Adam and Eve endured. Closeness with God was replaced with loneliness when Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden. **Missing the mark fractures our relationships with others.** ✍️ 📖 It keeps us from growing closer to God, and it also keeps us from growing closer to others. Missing the mark separates, fractures, and breaks apart what is meant to be together.

⚙️ In what ways does sin fracture relationships?

These are overwhelming consequences of missing the mark. But perhaps even more devastating is that **missing the mark leads to more sin.** Things do not get better; they get worse. The aftermath of Adam and Eve missing the mark bears witness to this. Adam and Eve missing the mark, in time, led to Cain missing the mark and killing his brother Abel.

⚙️ Why does one sin lead to another sin?

Lastly, **missing the mark ultimately results in eternal death.** (See Romans 6:23.) ✍️ 📖

Thus, **we would do well to recognize the deceptive nature of our frailty; we miss the mark.**

Considering the devastating consequences of sin, we must ask, "Why would anyone want to miss the mark?" But perhaps a different question should be asked, because most people do not want to miss the mark. A better question might be, "What causes people to miss the mark?" In searching for the answer to this question, there is a possible answer—people miss the mark when they buy into the lie that the consequences of sin are not real. Hence, **it is imperative for us to recognize the deceptive nature of our own heart.**

⚙️ How might we recognize the deceptive nature of our own heart?


One would think when considering the devastating results of sin, we would not sin; yet sin abounds. We know sin is costly and that there is a hefty penalty, yet when we succumb to sin, we fail to consider the penalty. Why is this true? It is really quite simple. **The consequences of sin are often hidden, not readily seen or realized.** ✍️ 📖 And because they are hidden, or not readily seen, we are prone to think they do not exist.





Though the consequences of sin are not readily seen, they are reality. Consider radio waves. They cannot be seen, but we use them every day. Or consider atoms. They are the smallest building block of matter. Everything in the universe, which can be seen, is made of trillions of atoms that cannot be seen. How about matter? Eighty percent of the matter in the universe is made up of dark matter, which cannot be seen. It is amazing that though we cannot see oxygen, it is essential for keeping us

alive. What about gravity? We can measure it. We experience the effects of it. And yet no one has ever seen it. Consider our minds. Scientists know how to observe the brain and its chemical reactions, but we cannot see thoughts. Finally, consider emotions. We can see people's facial expressions, observe body language, and so on, yet emotions are completely intangible.

We think because the consequences of sin are hidden, somehow they are not real. But they are very real. Lucifer, Satan, the devil is a liar and a deceiver. And he wants us to believe the lie that the consequences of sin are not real. But that is not true, and we are deceived when we believe otherwise.

But we have an advantage Adam and Eve did not have. We can see the devastating consequences of their sin. They had no example to consider, but we can learn from their mistake. Perhaps if they had known the struggle of living life outside of the Garden, they would have made a different decision. If they had known the guilt they would experience, and how they would hide from God because of that guilt, they would have made a different decision. If they had known of the pain and heartache they would feel as parents when Cain killed his brother, Abel, they would have never eaten of the fruit.

 **Do you think a better understanding of the consequences of sin is beneficial? If so, why?**

We must not be ignorant of the devil's devices.   (See II Corinthians 2:11.)  We should never expect him to tell the truth; the truth is not in him. However, we should expect him to masquerade himself as an angel of light. (See II Corinthians 11:14.)  But he is not an angel of light. He is a fallen angel—a rebellious, evil, cunning, conning, deceiving devil. He is a liar.

Finish

Nancy Shulins, in the *Journal News*, Nyack, New York, tells the following story of the art of deception and its aftermath.

Bob Harris, weatherman for New York TV station WPIX-TV and the nationally syndicated independent network news, had to weather a public storm of his own making in 1979. Though he had studied math, physics, and geology at three colleges, he left school without a degree but with a strong desire to be a media weatherman. He phoned WCBS-TV, introducing himself as a PhD in geophysics from Columbia University. The phony degree got him in the door. After a two-month tryout, he was hired as an off-camera forecaster for WCBS. For the next decade, his career flourished. He became widely known as "Dr. Bob." He was also hired by the *New York Times* as a consulting meteorologist. The same year both the Long Island Railroad and then Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn hired him.

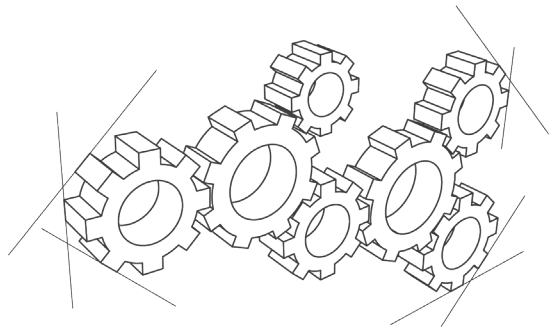
Forty years of age and living his childhood dream, he found himself in public disgrace and national humiliation when an anonymous letter prompted WCBS management to investigate his academic credentials. Both the station and the *New York Times* fired him. His story got attention across the land. He was on the *Today Show*, the *Tomorrow Show*, and in *People Weekly*, among others. He thought he'd lose his home and never work in the media again. Several days later the Long Island Railroad and Bowie Kuhn announced they would not fire him. Then WNEW-TV gave him a job. He admits it was a dreadful mistake on his part and doubtless played a role in his divorce. "I took a shortcut that turned out to be the long way around, and one day the bill came due. I will be sorry as long as I am alive."

LESSON BIG IDEA: The consequences of sin are usually not seen at the beginning of one's engagement in sinful behavior.

The consequences of sin are real. To believe otherwise is to believe a lie. Sadly, this is what Eve believed. She believed she would live forever. But she died. The serpent told her she would obtain great knowledge and would be like God. But, instead, her relationship with God became impaired. She thought she would obtain untold wisdom. But her decision to believe a lie made her a fool.

We can learn from her mistake; we can learn from her example. We should not be ignorant of the devil's devices. Instead, we must be wise. He is a liar and the father of all lies. Don't believe a liar; believe the one who cannot lie.

Small Group Leader's Guide



The Masquerade of Sin: *The Disguise of Sin*

Opening Question: If you were attending a social event and wanted to keep your identity hidden, how would you disguise yourself?

Scripture Focus: Genesis 3:1–5

Tell the story of the gasoline thief and the story of Adam and Eve on page 78.

Group Discussion:

- What was Lucifer's great sin and what can we learn from it with regards to our maintaining a proper relationship with God?
- In what ways is Satan deceptive? ⚙️
- Why should we be concerned about coming short of the glory of God?
- In what ways does sin fracture relationships?
- Why does one sin lead to another sin? ⚙️
- Do you think a better understanding of the consequences of sin is beneficial? If so, why?
- What is wisdom?
- What are some negative consequences you have experienced due to some of your past actions?
- Would you have done anything differently had you known the consequences beforehand? Explain.
- How has your heart deceived you in the past? ⚙️
- How did you come to recognize you were being deceived?
- How can people keep from being deceived by their own heart? ⚙️
- How does the devil lie to people today?
- How can you recognize when the enemy is telling you a lie?
- How have the enemy's lies destroyed the spiritual lives of some people? ⚙️

Prayer Focus

Lord, grant me wisdom so I am able to grasp the consequences of my actions before I act. Thank You for giving me life more abundantly. I want to live in obedience to You and Your Word. Help me to never become deceived by my own heart. I refuse to believe the lies of the enemy.

YOUTH

The Masquerade of Sin

A series by Eugene Wilson



SERIES BIG IDEA

Because Satan masquerades the destructive nature of sin, we must be honest with ourselves about the carnage sin brings.

Lesson 3.1

Lesson 3.2

Lesson 3.3

Lesson 3.4

The Disguise of Sin

The Pleasure of Sin

The Folly of Sin

The Unmasking of Sin

The Masquerade of Sin

The Disguise of Sin

BLUEPRINT

SERIES BIG IDEA

Because Satan masquerades the destructive nature of sin, we must be honest with ourselves about the carnage sin brings.

LESSON BIG IDEA

The consequences of sin are usually not seen at the beginning of one's engagement in sinful behavior.

LEARNING TARGET

To realize sin really does have consequences even if they take time to show up.

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Genesis 3:1–5

SUPPLIES

online access, books on the Fall and prior to the Book of Genesis

FOUNDATION

The *Daily Record*, a Scottish tabloid newspaper, shared the following story of a thief who tried to steal gasoline from a motor home. John, the owner of the motor home, said: "We made sure everything was safe and secure and settled down for the night. The following morning, we were disgusted to find that under the cover of darkness, a thief had attempted to siphon off diesel from the fuel tank." But the thief made a huge mistake. Instead of attaching the hose to the gas tank, he had mistakenly attached it to the septic tank. A plastic siphon tube, an empty fuel container, and vomit were found next to the camper. John said, "Fortunately for us, he did not get any diesel!" Unfortunately for the would-be thief, he ended up with a very nasty taste in his mouth.

Although this story is funny, sin is no laughing matter. Sin is real. And just because the consequences of sin are not usually initially seen does not mean there are no consequences. Sin costs, and sin's cost is huge.

This was something Adam and Eve soon came to realize—there are consequences to sin even though the consequences may not be readily recognized. In the beginning, though, everything was perfect. There was nothing wrong with their marriage. There was nothing wrong with their health. There was nothing wrong with their emotions or mental state. There was nothing wrong with anything. Adam had the perfect job; there was nothing wrong at work. His boss had given him full reign. He could do anything he wanted, anytime he wanted, and however he wanted, with one exception. And there were consequences to this one exception. Howbeit, these consequences were not readily seen or recognized, but this did not make them any less real.

That there were consequences to one's actions was something a different character in our story understood very well. Satan knew. He, himself, had experienced them. However, he omitted that part of his story when he engaged in conversa-

LESSON BIG IDEA: Beware the Consequences

tion with this perfect couple who had everything going for them. If he had left them alone, perhaps nothing would have happened. But he talked, and everything he told them was a lie. He deceived them. He suggested what the boss had said wasn't entirely true, that the boss was holding back some things from them because the boss knew if the instructions were violated, the couple would be blessed more than they already were. But that's not what happened. And we know this to be true because we know the rest of the story. The consequences of their actions were devastating, not just for the couple but also for all of humanity.

Opening Discussion


- What was Lucifer's great sin?
- What can we learn from this sin with regards to maintaining a proper relationship with God?

Middle-School Exercise

1. Consider fielding questions about Satan and his fall.
2. Allow students to ask about things prior to the Book of Genesis and probe them to see what they might be wondering.
3. Make sure you read up and are able to offer insightful answers, or have someone in class who is able to respond, like your pastor or another teacher.


Senior-High Exercise






1. Consider discussing Satan, his fall, and the sin of Adam and Eve.
2. Give students an opportunity to ask questions pertaining to this topic.
3. Help them to understand the setting and the implications.
4. Make sure you read up on the topic and do not be afraid to work with students then and there to find the answers to some questions.
5. Consider having the pastor or another teacher for support.

 *Have one or two of your students share a story of a time when they faced consequences they did not anticipate. How did they learn from their mistakes? Likewise, consider sharing a time when you personally dealt with these same issues.*



FRAME


I. The Birth of Sin


- A. Lucifer was an archangel who was cast out of Heaven.
 1. At one time he was the covering or guardian angel. According to Ezekiel 28:14, he was created to dwell in the throne room of Heaven in the very presence of God.
 2. Adorned with gold and precious stones, Lucifer's beauty and splendor were unrivaled by any of the other angels. But this did not last; rather, his place of prominence came to an end.
- B. *Read Isaiah 14:12–15.* 
 1. Lucifer had wisdom. He had beauty. He had ability. He was a cut above the others.
 2. And, yet, he wanted more. He wanted to be like God, to be worshiped like God, and to function as God. Hence, he sought to exalt himself. But instead of exaltation, he was brought low.
 3. He was demoted. He was cast out.

- C. Lucifer fully understood the devastating consequences of sin, but he did not **share** this insight with Eve.  
- Such is the deceptive nature of Satan, formerly known as Lucifer. His purpose, his intent, his aim, his desire is to thwart the plan of God.
 - He comes only to steal, to kill, and to destroy. In contrast, Jesus said His purpose was that we might have life and have it to the full. (See John 10:10.) But that is not the serpent's purpose.
 - That's not his aim. He aims to destroy everything good and perfect in our lives. He tells us the consequences of sin are not real and that God does not have our best interest at heart.
- D. Read *Genesis 3:4–5*. 
- E. We would do well to recognize the **deceptive** nature of Satan.  



II. Enter Sin

- A. Because Adam and Eve fell, sin entered the world.
- Likewise, the consequences of sin were passed on.
 - Daily, now, we are confronted with the devastating consequences of sin. We also daily encounter the deceptive nature of the serpent, of sin, and of self.
 - We are told lies every day that the consequences of sin are not real. But they are.
 - Unfortunately, many are unaware of the devil's schemes and unaware of his deceptive nature. And many are unaware of the devastating consequences of sin.
 - The Old Testament reveals eight Hebrew words for sin, which have been translated into English as bad, wickedness, guilt, sin, iniquity, err, wander away, and rebel.
- B. Sin, at its core, is **disobedience** to God.  
- In the New Testament there are twelve basic words used to describe sin.
 - These words are translated in English as bad, evil, godless, guilt, sin, unrighteousness, lawlessness, transgression, to be ignorant, to go astray, to fall away, and hypocrite.
- C. Sin is a failure to live up to God's standards.
- Interestingly, there is one Greek word for sin that is used more than others. This word is *hamartia*, which means "to miss the mark."
 - Paul used a version of *hamartia*, *hamartano*, when writing Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Coming short of the glory of God is the same as missing the mark.

 *Why should we be concerned about coming short of the glory of God?*

 *This would be an excellent time for a personal testimony. Alternatively, consider asking ahead of time for a volunteer in the class to share his or her story.*

III. Missing the Mark

- A. There are consequences to missing the mark (*hamartia*—"miss the mark").
- B. When we miss the mark, we experience **shame**.  
- Shame is what Adam and Eve experienced, and shame is why they sought to cover themselves.
 - Adam and Eve were filled with fear after missing the mark.
- C. Missing the mark causes us to become fearful.
- D. When we miss the mark, we experience loneliness.
- This, too, is what Adam and Eve endured. Closeness with God was replaced with loneliness when Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden.
 - It keeps us from growing closer to God, and it also keeps us from growing closer to others. Missing the mark separates, fractures, and breaks apart what is meant to be together.

LESSON BIG IDEA: Beware the Consequences

- E. Missing the mark **fractures** our relationships with others. ✍️ 📖
- F. Missing the mark leads to more sin.
 - 1. Things don't get better; they get worse. The aftermath of Adam and Eve missing the mark bears witness to this.
 - 2. Adam and Eve missing the mark, in time, led to Cain missing the mark and killing his brother Abel.
- G. Missing the mark ultimately results in eternal death.
- H. *Read Romans 6:23.* 📖

IV. The Frailty of Humanity

- A. We would do well to recognize the deceptive nature of our frailty; we miss the mark.
 - 1. Considering the devastating consequences of sin, we must ask, "Why would anyone want to miss the mark?" But perhaps a different question should be asked, because most people do not want to miss the mark.
 - 2. A better question might be, "What causes people to miss the mark?" In searching for the answer to this question, there is a possible answer: people miss the mark when they buy into the lie that the consequences of sin are not real.
- B. It is imperative for us to recognize the deceptive nature of our own hearts.
 - 1. One would think when considering the devastating results of sin, we would not sin; yet sin abounds.
 - 2. We know sin is costly and that there is a hefty penalty, yet when we succumb to sin, we fail to consider the penalty.
 - 3. Why is this true? It is really quite simple.
- C. The consequences of sin are often **hidden**, not readily seen or realized. ✍️ 📖
 - 1. We think because the consequences of sin are hidden, somehow they are not real. But they are very real.
 - 2. Satan is a liar and a deceiver. And he wants us to believe the lie that the consequences of sin are not real. But that is not true, and we are deceived when we believe otherwise.
- D. We must not be ignorant of the devil's **devices**. ✍️ 📖
 - 1. We should never expect him to tell the truth; the truth is not in him.
 - 2. However, we should expect him to masquerade himself as an angel of light.
 - 3. *Read II Corinthians 11:14.* 📖

FINISH

Nancy Shulins, in the *Journal News*, Nyack, New York, tells the following story of the art of deception and its aftermath.

Bob Harris, weatherman for New York TV station WPIX-TV and the nationally syndicated independent network news, had to weather a public storm of his own making in 1979. Though he had studied math, physics, and geology at three colleges, he left school without a degree but with a strong desire to be a media weatherman. He phoned WCBS-TV, introducing himself as a PhD in geophysics from Columbia University. The phony degree got him in the door.

After a two-month tryout, he was hired as an off-camera forecaster for WCBS. For the next decade, his career flourished. He became widely known as Dr. Bob. He was also hired by the *New York Times* as a consulting meteorologist. The same year both the Long Island Railroad and then Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn hired him.

Forty years of age and living his childhood dream, he found himself in public disgrace and national humiliation when an anonymous letter prompted WCBS management to investigate his academic credentials. Both the station and the *New York Times* fired him. His story got attention across the nation. He was on the *Today Show*, the *Tomorrow Show*, and in *People Weekly*, among others. He thought he'd lose his home and never work in the media again. Several days later the Long Island Railroad and Bowie Kuhn announced they would not fire him. Then WNEW-TV gave him a job. He admits it was a dreadful mistake on his part and doubtless played a role in his divorce. "I took a shortcut that turned out to be the long way around, and one day the bill came due. I will be sorry as long as I am alive."

Discussion Questions:

- What are some fears a person might have as a result of sin?
- In what ways does sin fracture relationships?
- Why does one sin lead to another sin?

Middle-School Finish:

1. Discuss consequences.
2. Discuss the benefits of being corrected and punished.
3. Why does growth and change hurt?
4. What do you think you need to change most about your spiritual walk with God?

Senior-High Finish:


1. Discuss consequences of past mistakes.
2. What has been your biggest learning experience in the last month?
3. How has it helped you to become a better person?
4. What can you strive to do better?

The Big Picture

- Sin has consequences and accompanying troubles.
- We must guard ourselves while also striving to live better lives for God.

Final Reflections

- In what ways is Satan deceptive?
- What can we learn about sin from the Hebrew words used for sin?
- What can we learn about sin from the Greek words used for sin?
- Why should disobedience to God be taken seriously?

 *Allow students time to share what they have written.*

SELAH

Using the following points, take this time to guide your students in prayer.

- Lord, grant me wisdom so that I am able to grasp the consequences of my actions before I act.
- Thank You for giving me life more abundantly.
- I want to live in obedience to You and Your Word.
- Help me never to become deceived by my own heart. I refuse to believe the lies of the enemy.

 *Allow time for students to update their Personal Discipleship Guide.*

CHILDREN

The Masquerade of Sin



SERIES BIG IDEA

Because Satan masquerades the destructive nature of sin, we must be honest with ourselves about the carnage sin brings.

Lesson 3.1

Lesson 3.2

Lesson 3.3

Lesson 3.4

The Disguise of Sin

The Pleasure of Sin

The Folly of Sin

The Unmasking of Sin



The Masquerade of Sin:

The Disguise of Sin

BLUEPRINT

SERIES BIG IDEA

Because Satan masquerades the destructive nature of sin, we must be honest with ourselves about the carnage sin brings.

SERIES MEMORY PASSAGE

“Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:12).

LESSON BIG IDEA

The consequences of sin are not usually seen when it is first presented.

STUDENTS WILL investigate the trickery of sin.

Early Elementary (Grades 1-3)

TOOL BOX

FOUNDATION

- PowerPoint 3.1
- 3 opaque plastic cups, ping-pong ball, permanent marker
- Adult volunteer, famous person costume
- *Disguise box*: masks, costumes, eye glasses, wigs

FRAME

- Series 3 memory verse poster (TRP)
- 20 sticky notes, series review questions (TRP)
- Blank masks (TRP) (1 per student), scissors, markers
- Garden décor, tree with a serpent
- *Sound effects*: Nature Sounds
- Visual: Adam and Eve (TRP)

FINISH

- Activity papers, colored pencils
- Chairs

SELAH

- *YouTube*: “The Devil Is a Sly Old Fox”
- *Series song and lyrics*: “Masquerade”

Late Elementary (Grades 4-6)

TOOL BOX

FOUNDATION

- PowerPoint 3.1
- 3 opaque plastic cups, ping-pong ball, permanent marker
- Gift bag, trash, rotten fruit
- Paper (1 per student), markers

FRAME

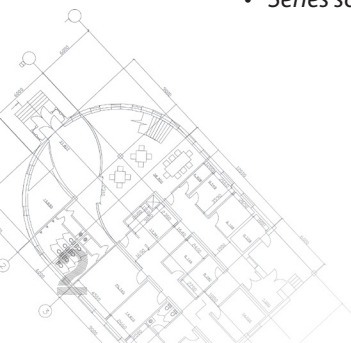
- Series 3 memory verse poster (TRP)
- Pencils, fruit template (TRP) (1 fruit per student), scissors, tape
- Index cards (3 per student), markers
- Garden décor, tree with a serpent
- *Sound effects*: Nature Sounds
- Visual: Adam and Eve (TRP)

FINISH

- Activity papers, colored pencils
- Writing paper
- Optical illusions book, or website www.Optics4kids.org
- Paper plates (1 per student), black markers

SELAH

- Paper (1 sheet per student), pencils
- *Series song and lyrics*: “Masquerade”



Foundation

Early Elementary (1-3)

Tricky Cup Shuffle

Place three opaque plastic cups upside down on a table. Place a ping-pong ball under one cup and shuffle the cups. Students guess which cup the ball is under. Play several times.

Explain that the world is full of trickery and sin. The devil attempts to fool us into thinking we will enjoy sin.

- (On one cup write **SIN**.) Sin has pleasure associated with it, but this is a trick to take us farther from God.
- (Write **IS** on another cup.) We may think we see what is happening, but if we are not careful, we will become lost and confused.
- (Write **TRICKY** on the last cup.) Satan likes to tempt us to sin by tricking us.

Students take turns performing the cup trick.

Reflection

- **How did I fool you with this activity?**
- **How does Satan use tricks to entice people to sin?**
- **How does the devil hide the consequences of sin?**

Late Elementary (4-6)

The Disguise of Sin

Invite an adult or teen to visit your class in a costume depicting a famous person. Tell the guest to convince students they are the famous person.

Give students a box of disguises and have them dress up. Students take turns sharing their disguises with the class. The class guesses who each is impersonating.

Reflection

- **Did you believe our guest was who he claimed to be? Why or why not?**
- **Did the disguise trick you into believing? Why or why not?**
- **How does a disguise trick you?**
- **How does Satan try to trick us?**
- **What is sin?**
- **How does the devil disguise sin to make it look attractive?**

The Deception of Sin

Prior to Class

Place trash and rotten fruit inside the gift bag.

Guided Practice

Show the gift bag. Students guess what is in the bag. Show students the contents of the bag.

Explain how the beautiful bag is like sin. It looks enticing on the outside, but the inside is filled with a disappointing mess.

Discuss how sin looks attractive, but it destroys lives. The devil tries to make sin look better than it is. For example, he may say cheating is much easier than studying, or lying is better than telling the truth. He may convince you it's okay to hurt someone to get what you want.

Satan's tricks are lies to make sin look good. The truth is, sin brings nothing but heartache, misery, loneliness, and failure. Do not be deceived by lies!

Reflection

Divide students into groups of three. Give each group a sheet of paper and a marker. Students write three or four tempting sins on the paper. When each group is finished, one student from each group shares the results.

- **How does Satan try to trick us to sin?**
- **How does the devil disguise sin to make it look attractive?**
- **What is the pleasure of sin? What is the end result of sin?**
- **Is it easy or difficult to avoid sin? Why?**
- **How can we resist the temptation to sin?**

Frame

Early Elementary (1-3)

Late Elementary (4-6)

Memory Verse

"Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:12).

Unmask the Verse

Display the verse (TRP) . Use sticky notes to cover the words in the verse.


Have students answer series review questions (TRP). Remove one sticky note for every correct response. Say the verse together once it is uncovered.

Reflection


- **How can we deny ungodliness?**
- **What does it mean to live righteously?**
- **How does the devil try to trick people to sin?**

Unmask Sin

Prior to Class

Make copies of the blank mask (TRP) , so each student will have one. Cut them out.

Guided Practice


Display the verse (TRP) . Give each student a blank mask and markers. As students decorate their masks, discuss how the devil disguises sin to make it look pretty.

Read the verse and discuss how God wants us to live in this world.

Reflection

- **What does it mean to live a godly life?**
- **What does it mean to live an ungodly life?**
- **How does this verse help us overcome Satan's tricks?**

Missing Words

Display the verse (TRP) . Give three index cards to each student. Instruct students to choose three words from the memory verse and write each one on a separate card.

Students bring their cards and tape them to the wall as they say the verse. Leave blank spaces for any words not given and tape duplicate words on top of each other. Point to words as students recite and see if they can recall the words for the blank spaces.

Say the verse several times.

Reflection


- **Why does God want us to deny ungodliness?**
- **Why does God want us to live righteously?**

Fruit of Righteousness

Prior to Class

Copy the fruit template (TRP) , one fruit per student. Cut them out.

Guided Practice

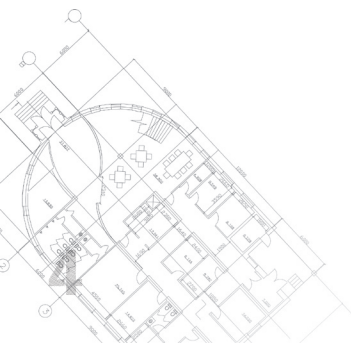
Display the memory verse (TRP) , reading it aloud together. Explain to students that sin brings forth death, but living righteously brings life.

Give each student a pencil and a fruit cutout. Students list the effects of living righteously on the fruit.

Discuss student lists as a class.


Reflection

- **Compare and contrast righteous living to sinful living.**
- **How can memorizing Scriptures help you overcome Satan's trickery?**




Early Elementary (1-3)

Bible Lesson: *The First Sin (Genesis 3:1–13)*

Prior to class decorate the classroom to look like a garden. Place a tree with a serpent in the middle of the classroom. Play nature sounds  to give the garden an outdoor ambience.

- **What is your favorite fruit? Why?** 

Instruct students to close their eyes and use their imaginations.

Show the *Adam and Eve visual* (TRP) . Imagine this room is the Garden of Eden. Instead of a hard floor, there is nothing but warm, soft, green grass tickling your bare feet. Banana and mango trees fill the air with a fruity scent. Lush flowers grow by a rushing river. Birds sing as friendly animals scurry around your feet.

You look in the distance and see a different kind of tree. That is the only fruit tree in the garden that God has forbidden you to eat. He blessed you with hundreds of trees, but you keep looking at that one tree you can't have. It's like a magnetic force is drawing you to the tree.

Even though the trees around you are beautiful and filled with delicious fruit, the tree in the distance is so intriguing. Why is it intriguing? Because you cannot have it. You think to yourself, what if the fruit on the tree is going to waste? No one is eating it. You wonder if the fruit is disgusting and if that is the reason God doesn't want you near it.

You decide to take a closer look at this forbidden tree. You want to be convinced that its fruit is old, rotten, and nasty. You walk beyond the lovely trees of the garden, along the creek trickling with fresh water.

As you approach the tree, you are surprised! You thought the reason the tree was forbidden was because it was full of rotten fruit that would make you sick. Instead, this tree has the biggest and most beautiful fruit you have ever seen! Your mouth waters; the fruit looks so ripe and juicy. Amazed and lost in a trance, still staring at the fruit, a rustling noise startles you. Suddenly a fat, scaly serpent begins to coil up the trunk of the tree to the first branch. Mesmerized and fascinated, you get closer to observe, and then it speaks!

Late Elementary (4-6)

"Hello," the serpent says in a deceptive tone. "Would you like to try this delicious fruit?"

Startled you reply, "Oh, I would love to, but . . ."

"But what?" questions the devious serpent.

You answer without hesitation, "God made this beautiful garden, but He asked that we keep one simple rule: we can't eat from this tree."

The serpent snickers and answers, "Do you know why God gave you that rule? He gave you that rule because He knew if you ate of this tree, you would become like Him and become a god. It sounds like God is keeping an awesome opportunity away from you!"

You reply, "The fruit does look delicious."

Without a second thought, you reach up and grab the fruit. Trembling you hold it in your hands and take a bite. It's true! This fruit is different from any you've ever tasted. The delicious flavors make your taste buds dance as you savor every bite.

With excitement you take a second bite, but something begins to happen. Your mind, which was once filled with thoughts of love, kindness, and goodness, is now filled with thoughts of evil too.

You ask the serpent, "What's happening to me?"

His only reply is wicked laughter. You instantly realize you were tricked by the devil.

This is similar to what happened in the Garden when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. They were the first human beings God made, and they had everything they could ever want in the Garden of Eden. But they listened to the serpent and ate of the one tree God told them not to. The trick of Satan separated them from God and the beautiful Garden.

Instruct students to open their eyes.

Discussion Questions:

- **Why do you think it was easy for Adam and Eve to get so confused?**
- **What should Adam and Eve have done when the serpent started talking to them about how good the tree was?**
- ☆ **What similar situations do we face, like Adam and Eve?**
- ☆ **What tricks does Satan use to deceive us?**

Finish

Early Elementary (1-3)

Late Elementary (4-6)

Family Connection

Review the instructions for page two of the activity paper—Family Connection—and give students a chance to discuss how they will carry out this assignment. If your class has consistent attendance, consider offering a reward for those who return the Family Connection, and provide time in the class to discuss the activity.

Activity Paper: *Consequences*

Provide colored pencils for students to draw a picture of consequences next to the actions in the cartoons.

Fruit Basket Game

Play a variation of the Fruit Basket game. Students sit in chairs in a circle. Assign each player a fruit. Label the players: banana, orange, peach, or strawberry.

Call out a fruit name, and students labeled with that fruit stand up and trade places with each other. Call out each fruit. Students trade places.

Occasionally call out, "Sin has consequences!"

When this is called out, all students stand and trade places.

Reflection

- **What are the consequences of sin?**
- **Can you see the consequences of sin when you first consider it? Why or why not?**

Activity Paper: *False Advertisement*

Students use their detective skills and unmask the lies in these advertisements. In the blank box, students draw their own advertisement for sin. Under their drawing they tell why it is a lie.

Optical Illusion Challenge

Prior to Class

Visit the website www.Optics4kids.org and click on "optical illusions," or bring in a book about optical illusions.

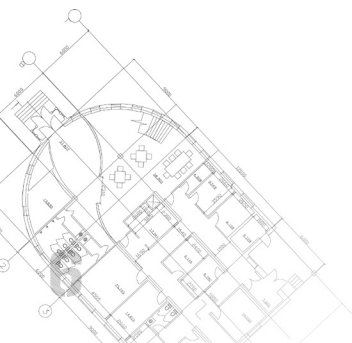
Guided Practice

Share the optical illusions with students.

Give each student a paper plate and black marker. Instruct students to draw a large spiral on the plate to create their own illusion.

Reflection

- **How do illusions trick our brains?**
- **How does Satan use illusions to trick people to sin?**
- **How is sin a trick or an illusion?**



Selah

Early Elementary (1-3)

Forbidden Fruit

Draw a large tree on a whiteboard.

- **What are temptations and tricks we face today?** Write student responses on the tree.

Students spend time repenting of sins and ask for help with temptation.

Reflection

Spend time thanking God for His help and forgiveness.

Late Elementary (4-6)

No More Tricks!

Prior to Class

Search YouTube for "The Devil Is a Sly Old Fox lyrics," posted by Hebron Outreach.

Guided Practice

Students sing along with the lyrics. Discuss the meaning of the song.

Reflection

- **What are the characteristics of a fox?**
- **How is the devil similar to a fox?**
- **How can we be aware of the trickery of the devil?**

Wisdom to Overcome

Pass out paper and pencils. Students write ways they can be wiser than the devil's tricks.

Students share findings with the class.

Reflection

- **How can we be aware of the tricks of Satan?**
- **How can we overcome sin and its trickery?**