

(S)INFECTION

THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

What is sin, and how does it impact my life and my relationship with others?

BIG IDEA

Sin is an infectious disease that destroys life, both spiritual and physical. But God made a cure for sin: the gospel. The gospel delivers us from the sickness of sin, and gives those who put their faith in Christ a new life.

SCRIPTURE USED

Genesis 3:1-7 *The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" 2"Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. 3"It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, "You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'" 4"You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. 5"God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil." 6The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. 7At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.*

Psalms 16:11 *You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.*

For this lesson you will need:

- A small light ball (e.g., Whiffle balls, ping pong or you can even wad up paper)
- Masking Tape
- Paper and pencils
- Slime (there are several ways to make slime, or it can be purchased online)
- Poncho or spare clothes
- Tarp or kid's pool
- Water bucket or hose with running water

OPENER

Game: *Get Rid of it*. Use masking tape to divide the room into two parts. Count off by twos and have each group go to a side of the room based on their number. Once each group is on their side, tell them that they are not allowed to cross the line. Start placing an equal number of balls on both sides of the room (the more balls, the better). The object of the game is to get rid of all the balls from your own side. You don't want your students to be successful at accomplishing the task, so make sure it is extra difficult by adding plenty of balls. If by chance you have one side that is close to getting rid of all the balls, you can sabotage them by dumping extra balls onto their side. Have the game go on for four to five minutes. (Note: if you have students who are likely to figure out a way to get all the balls over to the other side, you can create different requirements like throwing only one ball at a time.)

The purpose of this game is to teach your students that it is impossible to get rid of all of our sin.

EXPLAIN

That was a crazy game! I can't believe no one won. What happened? (Pause. Your students will start to hurl complaints about how the game was rigged. Act surprised.) **There were some moments where I thought you just might get them all off of your side, but, then, like pouring rain, a barrage of balls came flying your way. Can I let you in on a little secret? There was no possible way for you to win. The game was rigged and was impossible to win!**

Why did I rig the game? Because of sin... No, not my sin. The game illustrates how messy and difficult it is to deal with real sin. You see, most people don't want to talk about sin, and for good reason. Sin is an uncomfortable topic that requires us to search our hearts and face our issues. But as uncomfortable it is to talk about sin, it is one of the most important topics that we could ever discuss.

ASK

- What do you think sin is?
- Do you believe there is such thing as sin?
- What makes sin an uncomfortable topic?