

Session 2 – Sin and sinners. What God says

1) Prayer:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are sorry, and now turn away from our sin before you. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may joyfully obey your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of your Name. Amen.

2) The problem of Sin

- a) The pollution of sin (Mark 7:21-23)
- b) The power of sin (John 8:34)
- c) The penalty for sin (Romans 6:23)
- d) The partition of sin (Isaiah 59:2)

Now look at the list of sins (on a separate sheet). Spend time confessing to God those sins that you recognise in yourself. If you feel that some of the sins are particularly relevant to you and you struggle to control them, you may like to talk them through with a Christian friend who may be able to help you overcome. (That is interdependence)

3) Consequences of Sin

Look together at Genesis 3:1-13

Go into groups of 3 and discuss together:

What was the main effect of Adam's sin on us? How does this make you feel?

What did Jesus come to do about this? How do you respond to this?

If God says something about you, is it true even if it doesn't feel true?

4) God is Truth

See 1 Corinthians 5:8, truth and sincerity are set in contrast to wickedness and evil. Jesus is the absolute expression of the God of truth. Satan is the father of lies and seeks to keep people in deception. It is the truth in Jesus that sets us free. Say this prayer together:

Common Deceptions:

At the start of this section say the following prayer together:

Dear Heavenly Father, I know that You want me to know the truth, believe the truth, speak the truth and live in accordance with the truth. Thank You that it is the truth that will set me free. In many ways I have been deceived by Satan, the father of lies, and I have deceived myself as well.

Father, I pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, by virtue of His shed blood and resurrection, and ask You to rebuke all evil spirits that are deceiving me.

I have trusted in Jesus alone to save me, and so I am Your forgiven child in Christ. Therefore, since You accept me just as I am, I can be free to face my sin and not try to hide.

I ask for the Holy Spirit to guide me into all truth. I ask you to "search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way." In the name of Jesus who is the Truth. Amen

Now take the list of common deceptions (on a separate sheet) and work through them individually. Tick the box if any of these are relevant to you. Use the confession after the section to bring these to God and to seek his forgiveness. (Source: Freedom in Christ)

Ways that you can be deceived by the world
Ways to deceive yourself
Ways to defend yourself wrongly

Truths that we have in God our Father

At the close of this session say together the truths that we have in God our Father. (On a separate sheet)

And if you haven't done so already
NOW IS THE TIME TO DESTROY YOUR LIST OF SINS

Common Deceptions

(Source: Freedom in Christ Discipleship Course. Neil T Anderson and Steve Goss)

Ways that you can be deceived by the world

- Believing that acquiring money and things will bring me lasting happiness (see Matthew 13:22; 1 Timothy 6:10)
- Believing that excessive food and alcohol can relieve my stress and make me happy (see Proverbs 20:1; 23:19-21)
- Believing that an attractive body and personality will get me what I want (see Proverbs 31:10; 1 Peter 3:3-4)
- Believing that gratifying sexual lust will bring lasting satisfaction (see Ephesians 4:22; 1 Peter 2:11)
- Believing that I can sin and get away without any negative consequences (see Hebrews 3:12-13)
- Believing that I need more than what God has given me in Christ (see 2 Corinthians 11:2-4, 13-15)
- Believing that I can do whatever I want and no one can touch me (see Proverbs 16:18; Obadiah 3; 1 Peter 5:5)
- Believing that people who refuse Christ go to heaven anyway (see 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
- Believing that I can associate with bad company and not become corrupted (see 1 Corinthians 15:33-34)
- Believing that I can read, see or listen to anything and not be corrupted (see Proverbs 4:23-27; 6:27-28; Matthew 5:28)
- Believing that there are no consequences on earth for my sins (see Galatians 6:7-8)
- Believing that I must gain the approval of certain people in order to be happy (see Galatians 1:10)
- Believing that I must measure up to certain standards in order to feel good about myself (see Galatians 3:2-3; 5:1)

Lord I confess that I have been deceived by _____. I thank you for your forgiveness, and I commit myself to believing only Your truth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Ways to deceive yourself

- Hearing God's word but not doing what it says (see James 1:22)
- Saying I have no sin (see 1 John 1:8)
- Thinking I am something I'm really not (see Galatians 6:3)
- Thinking I am wise in this worldly age (see 1 Corinthians 3:18-19)
- Thinking I can be truly religious but not control my tongue (see James 1:26)

Lord I confess that I have deceived myself by _____. Thank you for Your forgiveness. I commit myself to believing only Your truth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Ways to defend yourself wrongly

- Denial of reality (conscious or unconscious)
- Fantasy (avoiding reality by daydreaming, TV, films, music, computer or video games, drugs, alcohol etc.)
- Emotional insulation (withdrawing from people or keeping people at a distance to avoid rejection)
- Regression (reverting back to less threatening times)
- Displaced anger (taking out frustrations on innocent people)
- Projection (blaming others for my problems)
- Rationalisation (making excuses for my own poor behaviour)
- Lying (presenting a false image)

Lord I confess that I have defended myself wrongly through _____. Thank You for Your forgiveness. I now commit myself to trusting in You to defend and protect me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

List of sins

Dear Heavenly Father, I ask you to bring to mind anything and everything that I have done, knowingly or unknowingly that has involved my seeking significance, security and self-worth in anything else except in You. I want to experience Your freedom by renouncing all counterfeit teachings and practices. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Perfectionism	Unbelief	Drunkenness
Conceitedness	Materialism	Greed
Putting things off	Lack of self-control	Selfishness
Over-protectiveness	Gluttony	Compulsive disorders
Substance abuse	Swearing	Not taking rest
No church /small group	Neglecting parents	Exasperating your child
Spoiling your child	Wasting time	Quarrelling / fighting
Being judgmental	Suicidal tendencies	Anger
Hatred	Rudeness	Obscenity
Sex outside of marriage	Homosexuality	Coarse joking
Lustful thoughts	Lustful actions	Pornography
Unfaithfulness	Over-competitiveness	Apathy / Laziness
Stealing	Slander	Complaining
Criticising	Lying	Dishonesty
Sarcasm	Gossip	Grumbling
Jealousy / envy	Self-harming	Cheating
Covetousness	Foolish talk	

Spiritualism sins

Ouija boards	Levitation	Hypnosis
Spells or curses	Clairvoyance	Séances
Mental telepathy	Witchcraft / Wicca	Crystals
Trances	Satanism	Lucky charms
Spirit guides	Palm reading	Martial arts
Tarot cards	Astrology / horoscopes	Superstitions
Fetishes	Voodoo	Other Occult practices

Sin of participating in other religions / ideologies

Buddhism	Bahai	Islam
Hinduism	Rosicrucianism	Communism
Yoga	Hare Krishna	Secularism
Agnosticism	Atheism	

Sin of entering into cults

Mormonism	Free Masonry	Christian Science
Jehovah's Witnesses	Christadelphians	Unification church - moonies
Scientology	Unitarians	New Age