**Week 7: What is Sin?**

**Definition:**

Sin is an immoral act considered to be a transgression against divine law. *(Oxford Dictionary)*

**Introduction**

To sin is to do something that displeases God. Every person born into the world is a sinner. Even the most beautiful, innocent-looking baby will inevitably sin, because it is not the first sinful action that makes that child a sinner, but rather the child commits that sin because he is expressing the sinful nature with which he is born (Psalm 51:5). Natural life is sinful because it is centred upon self rather than upon God. Self is the centre of a child's desires and intentions. He is bent upon pleasing himself and having his wishes fulfilled.

The heart of the problem is that it is natural to please ourselves. When we act naturally, as a result of the selfish nature with which we are born, we inevitably sin and displease God (Romans 3:23). Sin not only displeases God, but also separates the people He created from the glory He intends for them. This shows the destructive nature of sin. Sin divides men from God. Sinners are alienated from Him, they do not know Him, neither can they enjoy fellowship with Him. From birth everyone is separated from God. If this was not the case, every man, woman, and child would know God naturally. Obviously, this is not so!

**Key Scriptures:**

Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Isaiah 59:2

**Some Consequences of Sin**

* It grieves God (Genesis 6:5-7).
* It brings guilt (Psalm 51:3-4).
* It brings separation from God (Isaiah 59:1-2).
* It brings judgement and everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46).
* It enslaves (Romans 6:17).
* It causes spiritual blindness (2 Corinthians 4:4).
* It causes spiritual death (Ephesians 2:1).
* It brings lack of hope (Ephesians 2:12).
* It corrupts (Titus 1:15).
* It condemns (James 5:12)

**Memory Verse:**

**Romans 6:23**

**“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life inChrist Jesus our Lord.”**

**Table Discussion**

**Read**

**Romans 5:12-14; 1 John 2:1-2**

Discuss the above passages in the context of what sin is and how sin is rectified in our lives.

Then discuss the following questions below.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. To ‘Miss the Mark’ is a good definition of the word ‘sin’. Discuss
2. What is the universal consequence of sin and what does that look like in our lives? (Isaiah 59:1-2)
3. Where did sin originate from? (Isaiah 14:12-15)
4. Why don’t most people recognise that they are displeasing God?
5. What happened to Adam when he sinned?