



DATE(S)

March 26-27, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

Gospel – Week 2 (Sin)

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

The Gospel says sin separates us from God.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Genesis 1:26-27
Psalm 51:3-5
Romans 8:38-39

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements

OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

“The Impossible Shot”

It's March Madness! That means it's time for The Impossible Shot. Set up a small basketball hoop in your room and give students a chance to make it. Remember – it's supposed to be difficult! You can let everyone go if you have a smaller group, or you can allow first-time guests and the ones who brought them to go or choose students (or a group) at random. The prize needs to be BIG!

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

You've just been grounded! You have to choose a punishment between these two options – would you rather be banished to a remote island by yourself...OR...be stuck in a large crowd in the city with no ability to speak or interact with them?

When you're finished (and there's time), pray for our time of worship/singing.

ACTIVITIES

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

Gospel – Week 2 (Sin)
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Ok, I'm sure all of you (if you had to pick) have a favorite subject in school. How many of you like science the best? Ok, for those of you raising your hands, you'll love this. For everyone else, it still might put you to sleep even though it's only two minutes long...

(Teacher's Note: Show "Einstein Light" message clip)

In 1905, Albert Einstein observed that light can behave like a particle AND a wave. At the time, this was completely outrageous. Essentially, that's like saying you can walk in the front door and the back door of your house at the same time. Up to this point, science said light only behaved like a wave and many people were like, "There's no way that's true." However, as scientists did more experiments, they soon realized he was right. In 1922, he was awarded the Nobel Prize – one of the highest honors a scientist can win for their work.

Some of you might be thinking, "This is a really weird way to start out a message at church." Here's why I showed you that video – it shows that two seemingly opposite things can both be true. For Christianity, we believe that Jesus Christ was both God and a human – or God in human form. God and humans are extremely different; one is perfect, the other imperfect. Today, we are doing our second week of our "Gospel" series and we are going to talk about another example where two opposite things can both be true.

We, as human beings, are good and sinful at the same time. When God created everything, it says in Genesis 1 that human beings were very good. However, something happens two chapters later in Genesis 3. Adam and Eve are told by God they could eat from any tree in the garden where they lived except for this one specific tree. The serpent in the garden convinces Adam and Eve that God told them that because He is worried that when they eat of that tree, they will become like Him. Not true. Adam and Eve eat the fruit and immediately realize they have sinned against God. It says that God banishes them from the garden and they now are imperfect people living in an imperfect world.

Remember our Lego blocks from last week? Everyone grab their Legos and put the "God" and "Us" ones together **(Teacher's Note: Wait for students to do this before continuing.)**. This represents the relationship between God and humans in the beginning. However, when humans disobeyed God, it fractured their relationship. Human beings sinned; we sinned. Take apart the "God" and "Us" Legos now **(Teacher's Note: Wait for students to do this before continuing.)**. This is where our THP **(Take Home Point)** comes into play for today...

THE MESSAGE

The Gospel says sin separates us from God.

Ever since Adam and Eve's decisions, we have lived in a sinful world and sin has entered into people. It was never intended to be that way. In other words, human beings are still good because we have the image of God on us. That's what Genesis 1:26-27 tells us – *"Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.'"*

However, because of humanity's decision to sin against God, we are now separated from Him. This means that you and I are born into sin, whether we like it or not. Psalm 51:3-5 says, *"For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me."* This verse is essentially saying we were sinful before we were born. Even though God created us, we are separated from Him because of our sin.

At this point, I'm sure some of you have to be thinking, "Ok, this is like a really depressing message to hear at Northview Students!" I can't say I disagree with you, but we talk about REAL things here – and sin is real. Whether we intend to sin, or we try to do everything we can to avoid it, we still sin and make mistakes.

Here is some good news: sin separates us from God, but it doesn't remove His love for us. That's a big deal! God loves us in spite of our sin! I don't know about you, but when I make a mistake, it's hard not to be really hard on yourself. You may think, "No one will trust me ever again. No one will love me after they find out about this."

In October 2017, Mile Svilar, became the youngest goalkeeper to ever play in a soccer match for the Champions League in Europe. In spite of the fact that it was his first match, he was awesome! He had several saves, including a couple in spectacular fashion. In the 64th minute, he caught the ball on a free kick and appeared to make another save. However, when he caught the ball, he stepped back across the line which allowed a goal and his team lost 1-0. Svilar was devastated that he let his team down and gave up the only score of the game. After the match, his teammates came over to console and encourage him because they knew he felt terrible. Here's the crazy part: so did some of his opponents even though his mistake helped them win! Look at this picture. **(Teacher's Note: Show soccer picture).**

THE MESSAGE

I love this picture because I believe it perfectly illustrates how God loves us in spite of our sin...in spite of our mistakes. Sin does separate us from God, but it doesn't prevent Him from loving us. We will get into how that separation can be eliminated next week so make sure you come back! Listen to this verse in Romans 8:38-39 – *“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Here are some questions for you to think about as we close: if our **THP** is true – **The Gospel says sin has separated us from God** – have you ever made a major mistake before and it separated you from a friend? Family member? Has there been a sin in your life that's made you feel separated from God? I think all of us can probably say “yes” to that question. Please know that everyone makes mistakes – you are not alone. However, **NO** mistake or sin can stop God from loving you. Here's why: because of Jesus. We'll find out the reason next week! Let's pray!



CLOSING GROUP TIME

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

Leaders Note: Make sure everyone in your group has their Lego Blocks!

What was the THP today and why was that important during the message?

How did sin separate us from God?

Each and every week of this series, we are going to be using our Lego blocks to learn and explain the Gospel. Does anyone remember the second part of the Gospel (based on our THP) and could explain it using their Lego blocks? **(Leaders Note: Refer to your handouts – steps 3 and 4 – to explain how to do it if your students are having trouble. Feel free to explain it and then ask the question again.)**

After making a mistake or doing something wrong, what is usually your first reaction? Do you struggle with forgiving yourself? Do you feel as though you've disappointed people or they won't love you the same way? Why or why not?

Let's re-read one of the Scriptures we heard in the message today. It's from the New Testament in Romans 8:38-39. Will someone read that for us?

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Why is it important that God loves us in spite of our sin?

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Be specific.

How can this group pray for you this week?

ACTIVITIES

Make sure that all students return their Lego Blocks before they leave!

After your group is finished with your discussion questions, close in prayer!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Lego blocks and hand-outs
- Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
- Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)
- Playlister material

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Lego blocks and hand-outs

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

AppleTV with the Playlister app or simply access the Playlister material on the Northview Church website: www.northviewchurch.us

