

w/b 25<sup>th</sup> August 2019

THEME: BIG ISSUES - TO SIN OR NOT TO SIN - LIFE APPLICATION

## INTRODUCTION

There are many paradoxes in the bible. A paradox consists of a seeming contradiction where two truths appear to be opposites but actually comfortably exist side by side. One is that when we are saved we both choose and are chosen. Another which was the theme of last Sunday's preach is that we will continue to sin right up to our last breath but that we are also expected to overcome sin. In this study the plan is to help us do the overcoming bit more effectively

## LAUNCH

Have you ever criticized somebody for doing something and then realized you have done exactly the same thing yourself. Discuss

## DISCOVERY AND UNDERSTANDING

1. Are you more likely to sin when alone or when with certain people? Do you give in to peer pressure? When are you most vulnerable? (Psalm 141:4)
2. Where are you most likely to feel tempted? At home? At work? Somewhere else? Can you avoid this place? (Proverbs 22:5) If not, how can you best deal with the temptation?
3. What are your excuses for sinning? Do you justify your sin? How? Does it seem it "just happens?"
4. Have you even justified or rationalized giving in to temptation by saying: (a) Everybody's doing it, (b) No one is perfect, (c) God will forgive me, so I might as well do it, (d) God wants me to have a little fun, (e) I didn't know it was wrong, (f) Maybe there are some benefits in committing the sin, (g) something else.
5. What is your thought process before you give into temptation (before you sin)? What are your very first steps? How can you avoid taking them?
6. Do you truly believe God allows you to be tempted only within the limits of what he knows you can bear? (1 Corinthians 10:13)
7. What does Ephesians 6:10-11 reveal about how believers can stand against the Devil's schemes?
8. Read Romans 6:11-12. Does this change your perspective about your ability to resist sin? How?
11. Did you ever consider that after we commit a sin, Satan wants us to feel so guilty that we alienate ourselves from God? And when we alienate ourselves from God, it will produce a form of spiritual death—the same kind of spiritual death James talked about in James 2:26 – As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

## APPLICATION

Pray for your group and the church that God's grace in our lives will give us the power to say no to sin.

*Study courtesy of Swapmeet Dave bible studies. Minor adjustments made*