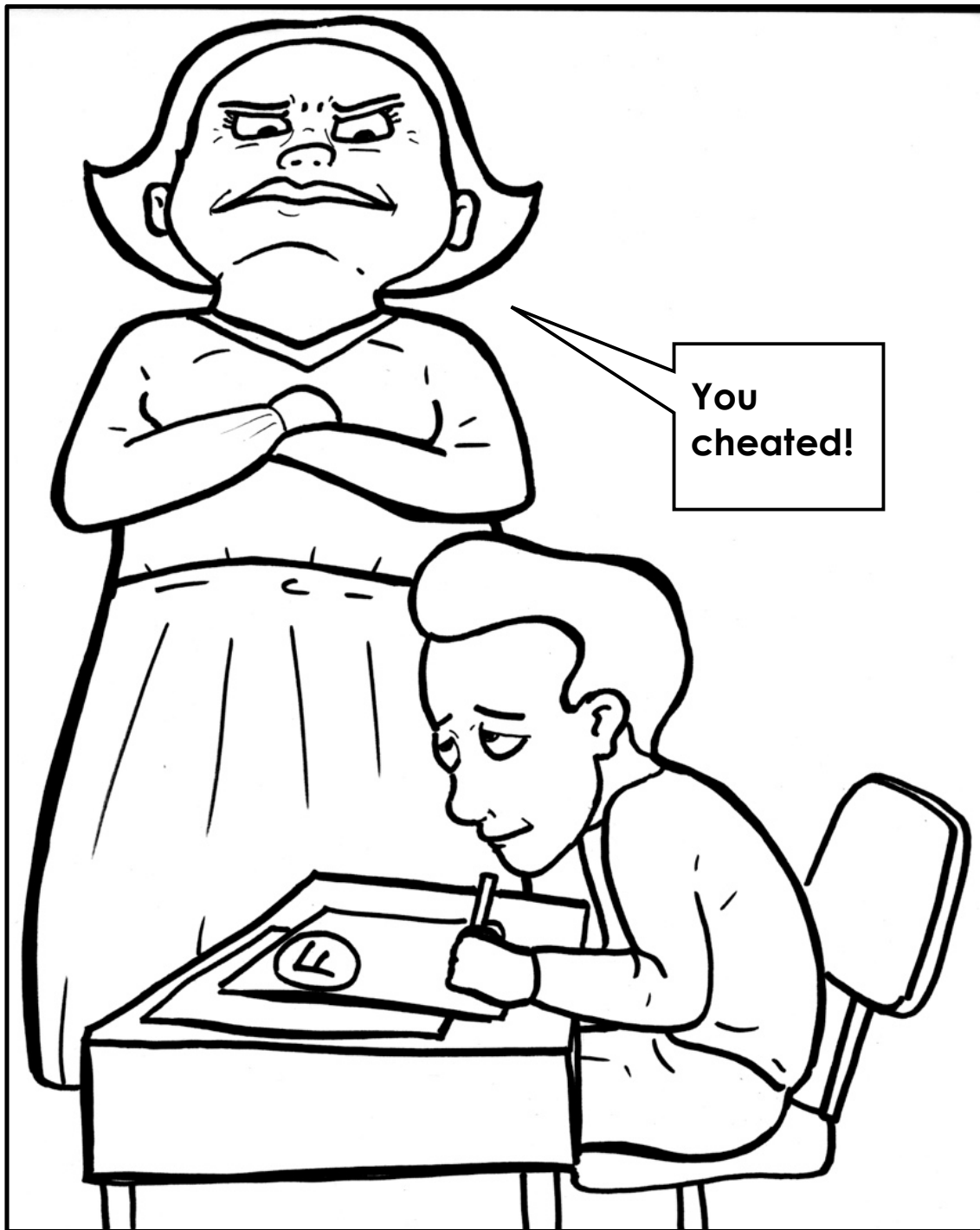


46. I am Alive:

First, the Bad News – Sin Separates

Romans 3



There is no one who does good, not even one.

Romans 3:12

First, the Bad News: Sin Separates

Jesus told the people about his heavenly Father. He said that God loves everyone. He wants us to be together with him forever. That means you!

But... there's a problem. Our hearts are not clean. We don't always obey God. Sometimes, we don't even want to obey! Have you ever:

- * lied to a friend?
- * hurt a sister or brother?
- * disobeyed your parents?
- * yelled out mean words?

These wrongs are called sin. In the book of Romans, we read, "There is no one who does good, not even one." And, "We all fall short of the glory of God." That means when we are selfish, we disappoint our perfect Father in heaven.

The bad news gets worse. The whole world is in trouble because of sin. Now, we have a huge, awful, ugly problem. God is holy. He can't even look on sin.

Our sin separates us from God. It's like a warm, sweet friendship has been broken. We've hurt God. We need to start fresh. We need a whole, new heart.

What can we do to be made clean? Will God forgive us? Will God punish us? Will we go to hell? Jesus, help us!

Questions

1. What is the bad news? How bad is it?
2. How does our sin affect God? Ourselves?
3. What are some common sins that kids do?
4. Ask yourself, "What sins do I struggle with? What can I do to stop myself?"

Pray this prayer:

Dear Lord,

I know I have a sin problem. It seems that every time I try to stop sinning, I do it again. Can you help me?

Thank you.

Amen

Draw a line across the two cliffs. Write on it: "Lord, my sin has kept me apart from you. Will you help me to deal with it and get close to you? How?"

Write your
name here:

**With sin
between us,
I am far away
from God.**

**My sin separates me
from God.**

Write some sins here.

God

**God is perfect.
He is holy. He
cannot even
look upon sin.**

Write a prayer
here asking for
help:

Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

Before you read:

Activate Prior Knowledge

- a) Has a friend ever done something wrong against you and the friendship then ended? How did that wrong make the friendship end?
- b) What is sin? Why do people sin?
- c) How do you think our sin affects our friendship with God?

After you read:

The Law Leads us to Christ

Sometimes we think, "I'm not so bad. I don't hurt anyone," and that is probably true. But when we start to look at each one of God's holy Ten Commandments, the blazing light of truth cuts through our weak attitude and reveals our sin nature. The Bible tells us that the Law (Ten Commandments) were given to us as a school teacher to lead us to Christ. His laws show us our sin and our need for a savior (Galatians 3:24a and Romans 3:20).

Have the kids write in gel marker one commandment each on a long piece of black streamer, about 10 feet long (ten pieces for ten rules). One child sits in a chair; across from him is an empty chair that has the word GOD written in fancy letters on a piece of card stock. Use the fanciest chair you have. Stretch the streamers, words down, from one chair to the other, symbolizing our unbroken relationship with God. Now, go through the commandments and ask, "Have you ever (lied, disobeyed parents, said a swear word, etc.)? If so, cut the streamer. This shows how sin affects our relationship with God.

God's Holiness; Our Sin

Besides breaking the Ten Commandments, Jesus named other sins we commit, such as not forgiving and judging each other, not believing in him, and even worrying. To illustrate the concept that sin distances us from a holy God, write each of these sentences (from Scripture) on a piece of paper, one at a time: God is too pure to look on evil; God is holy; God is perfect; God cannot look upon sin; Jesus never sinned; God cannot stand sin; God's heart is hurt by violence; God's face hides from sin; God's ears close because of sin; God is light; There is no darkness in God. Now, write down each commandment and other sins on its own piece of paper in this form: We lie; we cheat; we kill; we hate; we don't forgive; we don't believe, etc. Put the papers together in a pile in the center of the room. Let the kids sort through the stack separating our "sin" stack from God's holiness stack on opposite sides of the room. Go through Isaiah 59:2 and Romans 3:9-20 in the New Living Translation and talk about our sin dilemma. Is the situation hopeless? Tune in next lesson for the wonderful answer to our sin problem.



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (part 1)

Photocopy Part 1 and 2 pages for each child. Recite often.



*When you learn this handy little poem,
You'll always have God's top ten at your fingertips.*

Ten friends in my pocket, five on each hand. (pull hands out of your pockets)
So I can remember what God commands!
(point to yourself and then heaven)

1. God is one and there is no other.

(Point one finger up, wave across your chest.)

He is the Lord above all others. (Raise finger toward the sky.)

You shall have no other gods before me.



2. An idol makes God number two.

(Hold up one finger on each hand, hold hands together.)

And second place for God won't do. (Cross the two index fingers)

You shall not make an idol.

3. Three fingers keep our words in check. (Put three fingers over your mouth.)

Speak God's name with respect. (Hold three fingers out.)

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

4. Two feet, two feet - that makes four, (Hold up two fingers on each hand.)

walking into my church doors. (Turn the four fingers down and walk them as though they are going into church.)

Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.

5. God gave you parents when you're small. (Hold five fingers down low.)

Obey them while you're growing tall. (Raise them up slowly.)

Honor your father and mother.

6. Five fingers for a body, one finger for a sword. (Hold up five fingers on one hand and one on the other hand. Poke the one finger into the other hand.)

"Do not kill another," is the commandment of the Lord. (Remove finger.)

You shall not kill.

7. God made a husband and a wife

(Hold up two fingers.)

to stay together all through life.

(Lay the other hand over them as though they are being tucked under a blanket.)

You shall not commit adultery.



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (part 2)

8. Ten take away two is eight. (Hold up ten fingers.)

Stealing is a sin God hates. (One hand “takes away” two fingers on other hand.)

You shall not steal.

9. You aren't 10; you're number 9! (Hold up ten fingers.)

Speak the truth; you'll do just fine. (Put one finger down.)

You shall not lie.

10. Ten fingers pulling in, in, in. (Turn palms up.)

To want, want, want, can be a sin. (Repeat grabbing motion.)

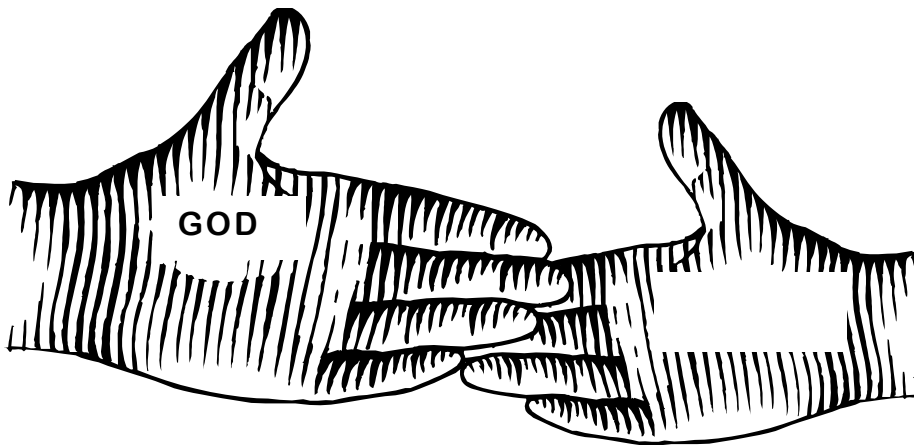
You shall not covet.

God's laws are good. (one hand turned upward)

God's laws are grand. (other hand turned upward)

I will obey what He commands! (point to yourself and then heaven)

Tips: Teach the children what each commandment means. Repeat often. Find all of God's commandments in Exodus 20. These are God's special rules for his treasured people. Write your name in the box on the right if you will promise to try and keep his commands.



God said, “If you keep my covenant and obey me fully, then out of all the nations, you will be my treasured possession.” Exodus 19:5a

Some hand motions were adapted with permission from “Evangelizing Today's Child.”

Top Ten

Compare these commandments below to the ones that Moses received from the hand of God in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. Explain what each one means. Who can memorize them? Who can keep them? What will happen if we break God's laws?

God's Holy

1. *Let nothing come first before God.*
2. *Do not worship anyone or anything but God.*
3. *Speak God's name with respect.*
4. *Set aside a special day for God.*
5. *Obey and respect your parents.*

Commandments

6. *Do not kill.*
7. *Be true to your husband or wife.*
8. *Do not steal.*
9. *Do not lie.*
10. *Do not want what others have.*

Broken Law, Broken heart

Photocopy this page onto card stock so each child has several hearts. They cut the hearts out and in two along the lines. On the left side, write: "We need a fresh start." On the right side, write: "We need a new heart." On the back of each side of the heart, write a sin that kids do. Play a game by collecting all the pieces into a pile. Each child takes the top piece until they are gone and tries to make a match so sides of the heart fit into each other. Who made the most sets? Turn them into a prayer, for example: "Because of our cuss words and not obeying our parents, we need a new heart. We need a fresh start." Talk about God's heart being broken because of our sin.

