

Southwest Indian Ministries Camps

Teen Devotional

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September 2022 – It Just Takes One

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First and Last Name: _____ Age: _____

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To fully appreciate the good news of the Gospel, we need to realize that sin isn't just a word for what we occasionally do wrong. It's the condition of our world; we are sinners.

WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT

Sometimes it just takes one person to change everything. One single human can have an enormous impact—for better or for worse. In the passage you're about to read, you'll see how one person can completely turn things around. One of these people made things a whole lot worse, but one of these people made everything right.

Romans 5:12–21

Death Through Adam, Life Through Christ

¹² Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

¹³ To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.

¹⁵ But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶ Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

¹⁸ Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. ¹⁹ For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

²⁰ The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, ²¹ so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We live in a broken world. Just watch the news. The symptoms are everywhere: abuse, disease, violence, orphanages, death, broken promises, betrayal, and hatred. Sin isn't something we individually struggle with from time to time; it is a condition that permeates every corner of creation. From the toddler who doesn't have to be taught to say "Mine!" to the teenager who gossips so people will like him. From the child who lies to avoid trouble to the wife who cheats on her husband. From the arrogant politician to the murderer on death row. You simply cannot look at the world and say that everything is in good shape. We're sinners, and sin is a disease we've always had, since the first humans chose to disobey God in the Garden of Eden.

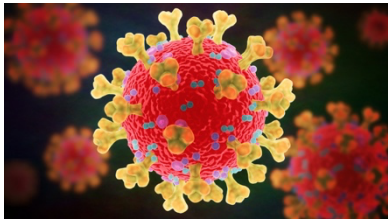


God sent Jesus. Fortunately, God didn't leave us alone, but sent Jesus into our broken world to reverse the course of sin. He was one-hundred-percent man, experiencing everything it means to be human—even death. He was also one-hundred-percent God, living the kind of righteous life in perfect relationship with his Father that we could never have on our own. The Creator was living among his creation and doing it perfectly, untouched by sin.

We can have Jesus' righteousness. How does Jesus coming to earth affect us? When we put our faith in Jesus, he places his righteousness on us. That's the miracle of salvation: Jesus swaps our brokenness for his perfection. We need him to intervene and intercede. We need his holiness to collide with our sinfulness. We need the hope that only he can provide.

Going Viral

Our world has encountered many epidemics including covid-19, the bubonic plague, smallpox, swine flu, and Ebola. When epidemics begin, there is often a search for the individual known as Patient Zero. Patient Zero is theoretically the first person to contract the illness and is often a valuable resource in finding the cure.



In 2014, there was an Ebola scare in the United States. Patient Zero was Thomas Duncan, who contracted the disease while visiting his home country of Liberia. Once he returned to the United States and it was discovered that he had the disease, everyone he had encountered had to be quarantined until it could be determined if he or she had the disease. These precautions were taken to prevent the possibility of the disease spreading further.

It may only take one person to start an epidemic, but sometimes—as in the case with smallpox—it also only takes one person finding the cure to end it. Smallpox had tormented and killed people for centuries until Edward Jenner developed a vaccine, and now the disease is virtually non-existent.

Sin is like a disease of epidemic proportions. It only took one person sinning to bring the consequences to the entire world. Nobody who has ever been born has escaped those consequences. In the same way, it took one perfect life—the life of Jesus—to remedy the situation. His righteousness for our sin. His wholeness for our disease.

Questions:

- How is sin like a disease?

- How does your sin affect other people?

- What remedy does Jesus provide you? Have you accepted it?
- Do you see the world as basically good or basically evil? Why?

THE BIBLE IN YOUR LIFE

The reality of our world is that it's broken. Every person and part of the world is affected by sin. It only took one person to make things this way, but it also only took one person to take care of the sin problem. When Jesus came to earth, died, and rose again, he conquered sin. He trades our sin for his righteousness.

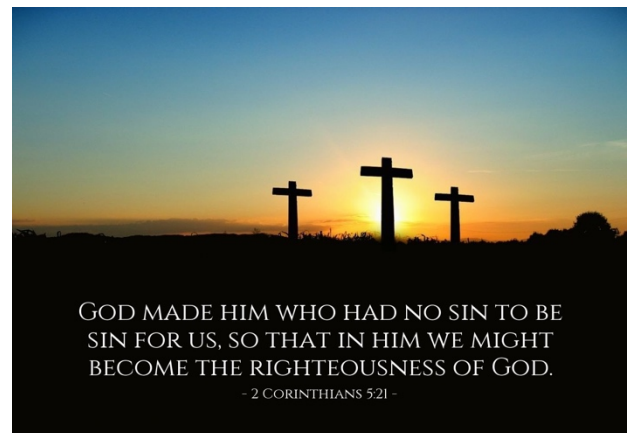
Read Romans 5:12–21 on page 1, then answer the following questions.

Discuss:

- What does Romans 5 say was the effect of Adam's sin on the world?
- Where do you see signs of our world's sinfulness?
- Do you see yourself as a sinner? Why or why not?
- What is the impact of Jesus' "free gift" for Christ-followers?
- How does having Jesus' righteousness change the way you live?

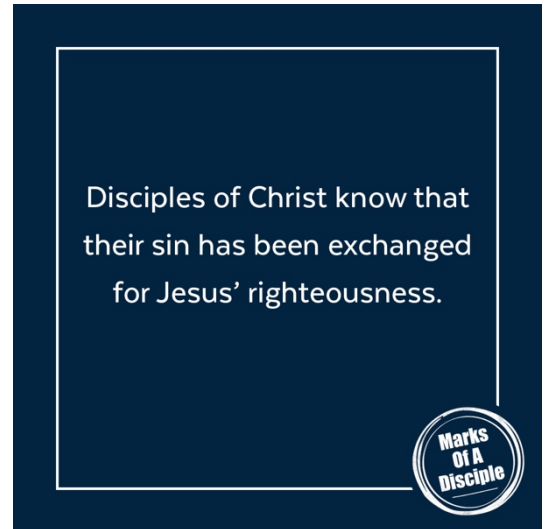
APPLY IT

Experiencing the joy of salvation often means that we need to remember the bad news (we are sinners) before we hear the good news (Jesus loves and saves sinners). Take time to journal about how sin has affected these four areas of your life: relationships, obedience to God, pride, and integrity. Confess these to God, thanking him for his grace. Lastly, look up 2 Corinthians 5:21 and write it in big, bold letters with a permanent marker over the top of your journal entry as a reminder that Jesus has traded your sin for his righteousness.



A QUOTE TO THINK ABOUT

“Suffering, failure, loneliness, sorrow, discouragement, and death will be part of your journey, but the Kingdom of God will conquer all these horrors. No evil can resist grace forever.” – Brennan Manning



THE TAKEAWAY

Sin is a problem that affects every human and every part of the world, and Jesus is the only one who can take care of that sin problem.