

## WHAT THIS MEANS FOR US

Because we know that we have all sinned and that sin separates us from God;

- We realise that we cannot reach God through our own efforts
- We realise that we cannot think we are better than other people
- We realise that, no matter what we have done, we all need God's help and forgiveness

### NEXT TIME ...

We investigate the only way to restore this relationship with God

### Further Reading

Genesis (chapters 2 and 3)

Articles from [www.everystudent.com/Life's Questions](http://www.everystudent.com/Life's_Questions)

- Why is life so hard?
- Where is God in tragedy?

# OUR CONDITION

WE ARE SEPARATED FROM GOD BY OUR SIN,  
SO WE CANNOT KNOW HIM OR EXPERIENCE HIS LOVE

When we look at the world around us it is obvious that something is wrong. We live lives that are threatened by war, crime, addictions, and loneliness, to name but a few of the problems.

*// What do you think is the biggest problem in the world today?*

*// Who or what caused those problems?*

*// What would you do to help solve this problem?*

In this discussion guide we will look at

- What sin is
- We are all sinful
- The consequences of sin

## WHAT IS SIN?

*// What do you think of when you hear the word 'sin'?*

We were created to have a relationship with God but we rejected Him and the relationship was broken. This rejection of God and the building of our lives around anything else is what the Bible calls sin. We show this by having selfish actions and attitudes, by disobeying God or displaying indifference toward Him.

Nº. 1 GOD'S  
PERSPECTIVE

Nº. 2 OUR  
CONDITION

Nº. 3 GOD'S  
RESPONSE

Nº. 4 OUR  
RESPONSE

Nº. 1 GOD'S  
PERSPECTIVE

Nº. 2 OUR  
CONDITION

Nº. 3 GOD'S  
RESPONSE

Nº. 4 OUR  
RESPONSE



Sin (which is from the Greek word *harmatia*) was originally an archery term. It meant “missing the mark” It is used in the Bible to describe our state before God - we have missed the mark of God’s perfect standard (the bullseye).

// Is sin an attitude or an action?

## OUR CONDITION IS THAT WE ARE ALL SINFUL

For most people, it goes without saying that we are imperfect. We even describe it as being “only human”.

*“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.”* | Romans 3:23

*“Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.”* | James 4:17

*Jesus speaking: “You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.”* | Matthew 5:21-22

While we may be unsure whether a particular thing is sin or not, we can all admit that we have done things that we did know were wrong.

// When you think about yourself, do you think of yourself as sinful according to God’s standards?

## SIN HAS CONSEQUENCES

If we are not perfect, there inevitably will be consequences. What are the consequences:

- Physically? (for example: sickness) \_\_\_\_\_
- Mentally? \_\_\_\_\_
- Socially? \_\_\_\_\_
- Morally? \_\_\_\_\_

Nº. 1 GOD’S PERSPECTIVE      Nº. 2 OUR CONDITION      Nº. 3 GOD’S RESPONSE      Nº. 4 OUR RESPONSE

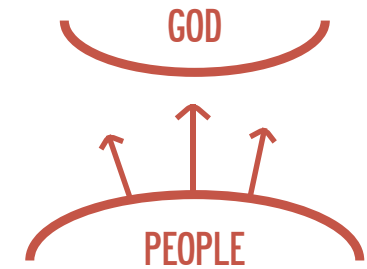
## SPIRITUAL CONSEQUENCES

*“Listen! The Lord’s arm is not too weak to save you, nor is his ear too deaf to hear you call. It’s your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.”* | Isaiah 59:1-2

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”* | Romans 6:23

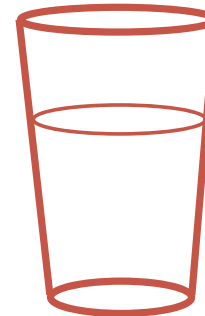
“Death” means separation. Physical death is the point when our bodies and spirits are separated. This verse is also referring to spiritual death, which is our spirits being separated from God. This means that we will miss out on the relationship with God that he wants to give us now, as well as the eternal life with God in the future.

This diagram illustrates that God is perfect and people are sinful. There is a great gap between us because of our sin. We may try to bridge this gap by good deeds or following a religion. However all our efforts fail because they cannot solve the problem of sin that keeps us from God.



// What might be a reason that sin results in separation from God?

// Should God just ignore sin?



*Imagine you had a glass of pure water. How confident would you be to drink that water? Now imagine someone adds just one drop of poisonous cyanide to the glass. The tiny drops spreads through the whole glass. How confident would you be to drink the water? Would you want to “just ignore” the poison?*

This illustrates the effects of sin on our relationship with God. Even though God loves us, our sin is repulsive to God, and he cannot have anything to do with it. In the same way that the small amount of cyanide contaminated the whole glass, the amount of sin we have is less important than the fact that it is there.

Nº. 1 GOD’S PERSPECTIVE      Nº. 2 OUR CONDITION      Nº. 3 GOD’S RESPONSE      Nº. 4 OUR RESPONSE