

1 • SIN

"Sin is..." How would you finish that sentence? We hear that word a lot, but what does it mean? Most importantly, what does God mean when he talks about "sin"?

Interestingly, in Hebrew (the language of the Old Testament) and Greek (the language of the New Testament), the word doesn't have to be describing something moral or religious.

SIN literally means to " _____ " or " _____ ."

The Hebrew word is used in [Judges 20:16](#) to describe warriors of the tribe of Benjamin who could "sling a stone at a hair and not _____ ." It's used in [Proverbs 19:2](#) to wisely warn us that "whoever makes haste with his feet misses his _____ ."

But this situation gets serious when we realize that we can sin **against** _____. That's exactly what Joseph realized in [Genesis 39:7-9](#) when he asked Potiphar's wife:

"How then can I do this great _____ and sin against God?"

Scripture is also full of examples and warnings about the fact that we can sin **against other** _____. For example, listen to King Saul as he confesses to David:

"I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will no more do you harm, because my life was precious in your eyes this day. Behold, I have acted foolishly, and have made a great _____."

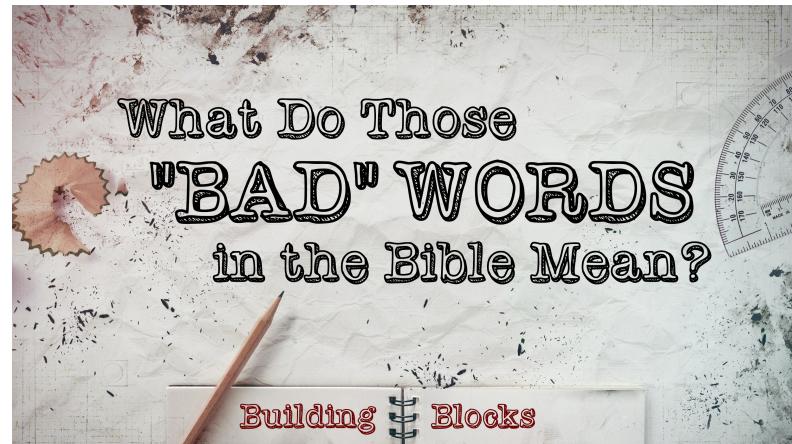
Is all of this really that big of a deal? It is when we realize this serious news:

For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall _____ of the glory of God... ([Rom 3:22-23](#))

We were created to glorify God and when we "fail" to do that, God describes our failure as "sin." In [Genesis 4:5-7](#), he even goes so far as to warn Cain, "if you do not do well, sin is _____ at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

But I haven't always "ruled over" sin, have I? Which is why I need a Savior, and that's exactly how Jesus is described in [1 Peter 2:21-24](#):

He committed no sin...but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself _____ our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die _____ sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been _____.



For Class & Family Discussion:

- › When we say, “I was created to glorify God,” what do we mean by that? Most importantly, what does God mean by that in passages (for example) like [Isaiah 43:6-7](#)? In everyday terms, what does it look like to “glorify God”?

- › On the flipside, what does it really mean to “fall short” of his glory? Is that a big deal? If so, why?

- › What should we make of God’s vivid description of sin to Cain in [Genesis 4:5-7](#)? Is that description still accurate? If so, in what ways?

- › Let’s think through Joseph’s refusal and response to Potiphar’s wife in [Genesis 39:7-9](#). In what ways was this a humble, wise, *great* reaction to temptation?

- › How can we equip ourselves to respond to temptation like Joseph did? [Psalm 119:9-12](#) might be very helpful here...

- › Why is it a very serious thing, not just to sin “against God,” but to sin “against” other people? How does that happen today?

- › Jesus had much to say about this in [Matthew 18:7-35](#). What can we learn from this section of his teaching?

- › There is such good, life-changing, vitally-important news in [1 Peter 2:21-25](#). What should we learn? What do we need to carry with us this week?