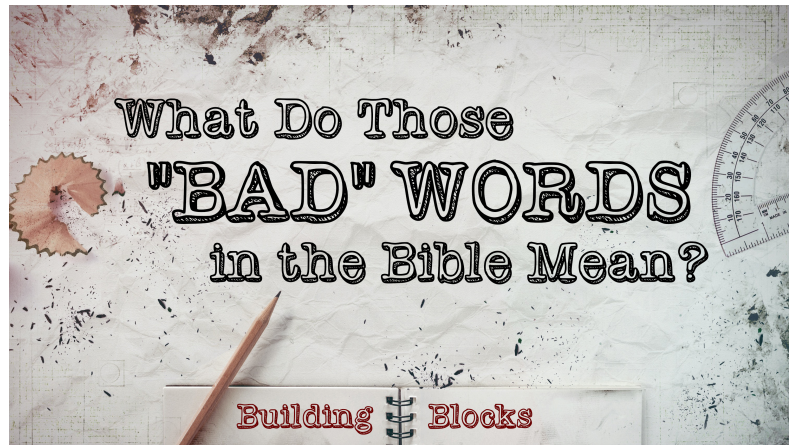# • 2 •
Transgression

"Transgression is…" How would you finish that sentence? We hear that word here and there, but what does it mean? Most importantly, what does God mean when he talks about "transgression"?

Interestingly, just like the word "sin" that we studied last week, this word doesn't have to be describing something moral or religious.

TRANSGRESSION literally means to "_____ _____."

For instance, in Proverbs 8, Solomon tells us that our Creator "assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not _____ his command" (8:29; Job 38:10-11). When a "line" has been established by someone in authority and that line gets crossed? That is "transgression" (Esther 3:3). It's closely related to the concept of "trespassing." If there is no "line" or law, "there is no transgression" (Rom 4:15). But where there is a "line" and I cross it? Where there is a law and I break it? That's **transgression**.

Throughout the Bible, we're given examples of and warned about transgressing "against" other people. A good example can be found in Exodus 22:7-9:

> "If a man gives to his neighbor money or goods to keep safe, and it is stolen from the man's house…if the thief is not found, the owner of the house shall come near to God to show whether or not he has put his hand to his neighbor's property. For every _____ of _____…"

If you trusted your neighbor enough to leave something valuable with them and they ended up stealing from you and then lying about it? That betrayal of trust is described by God as "transgression." Genesis 50:17 is another good example of brothers who knew they had "crossed the line" in the way they treated their brother Joseph.

But it's not just a question of transgressing "against" other people. God is the ultimate authority. Not only has he drawn a line for the seas, he's established boundaries and expectations for people. To disregard his will and violate his commands is to "transgress" (Josh 23:16). And what do "transgressors" deserve? **Punishment**.

And yet, what did God's own Son do for us? "He was pierced for _____ transgressions" (Isa 53:5). "He poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes _____ for the transgressors" (Isa 53:12). Jesus Christ is willing to pay the penalty we deserve to pay for our transgressions.

For Class & Family Discussion:

‣ Our video briefly mentioned that "transgression" is closely related to the concept of "trespassing"? What is "trespassing," in your own words?

‣ In what way were Adam and Eve guilty of "trespassing" in Genesis 3? Can you think of some other examples of "trespassing" in the Bible?

‣ Exodus 20 would be another good chapter to scan. What sort of "lines" did God draw for the children of Israel in that chapter?

‣ "Lines" like that aren't always popular with human beings. Are "lines" like those drawn in Exodus 20 (and throughout the Bible) a good thing? If so, in what ways?

‣ We heard "transgression" attached to "the covenant of the LORD your God" in Joshua 23:16. What's a covenant? In what ways do covenants involve trust? How is violating or "transgressing" a covenant a "breach of trust"?

‣ The apostle Paul reflects on the "trespass" of Adam, the sacrifice of Jesus, and what it all means for us in Romans 5:12-21. What can we learn? What do we need to understand?

‣ In what way was Jesus "numbered with the transgressors" (Isa 53:12)?

‣ He not only "bore the sin of many," he "makes intercession for the transgressors" (Isa 53:12). What does this mean? Why is it such good news that we all need?