



God's Creation Marred By Sin



THE MISSION AIM

Sin is what brings trouble to our lives, and worst of all, it separates us from God.



KEY VERSE

Romans 3:23 (NIV): "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."



Pre-Mission Activity



Supplies Needed

- Stop watch
- Rubber snake
- Piece of paper
- Marker
- Parcel wrapped in several layers for "pass the parcel"
- Music player

Directions

SAY: Welcome, we have quite a week ahead of us so let's take some time to get our energy out and do some moving. I have a rubber snake here. We're going to play a game of over and under. So, let's get in a line and place your legs a shoulder width apart. The person at the front will pass the snake over, the next under, and so on. Then when it gets to the end the person at the end will run to the front and write down something bad or sinful a person might do on the piece of paper at the front i.e. lie, cheat. Once they have written something down then the snake will be passed again until everyone has had a turn to write down a sin. The idea is to see how quickly we can do this task.

AND/OR:

SAY: Welcome, we have quite a week ahead of us so let's take some time to get our energy out and do some moving. We're going to play a game of pass the parcel but each time you take a layer off you must tell us one thing that you think of as a sin. Once you've given your idea we'll start the music again.



Mission Uplink 1



Have ready YouTube playlist: "Season 1 - In the Beginning Episode 4: God's Creation Marred by Sin"

Play "In the Beginning (S1) Episode 4 (1/4)". Episode begins with the *Ready to Serve* theme song, followed automatically by the MISSION # 1 VIDEO. Pause the video when the MISSION # 1 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 1.

If using PPT for video, have ITB-Episode_4-Creation_Marred_by_Sin.pptx ready and play slide one. Pause on the MISSION # 1 CARD so you and your recruits can complete Mission # 1.



Mission #1



Supplies Needed

- Have 13 rocks; on each rock write one word of Romans 3:23 and then on the last one, write the reference. On the back of each rock write a sin. (i.e. lying, not calling a sick friend, cheating, choosing not listen to your parents, thinking badly about a person from school, taking someone's pencil case for yourself, calling the new kid at school a loser, eating too much junk food, hitting your younger brother because he borrowed your toy, thinking that you are better than your friend from school, bullying, being lazy, watching a show your parents told you not to)
- (For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23)
- Put the rocks in a container that would allow them to fall out easily i.e. a dishpan, and give to the actor who will bring them into your space later on
- Empty knapsack (for the rocks)
- Blank sheet of paper and marker to write the recruits ideas for sin
- Write out the following definition of sin so that it can be posted on the wall for the recruits to see it. Leave space around the definition or under it so that recruits can add specific examples of sins. Don't post it until after it has been discussed. "It says in Matthew 15:16-20 – that sin comes from the depths of our heart. Sin can be an action, a thought, or even not doing something that we know we should. Sin is anything that keeps us from God and brings trouble to us, our family, our friends, and our world."



Mission Assignment

SAY: Well my friends, that sure was a lot to take in and we have some heavy duty work ahead of us. Michael left us with a simple sounding, yet very challenging mission. So, let's look ahead and read our mission together, (reading mission card from the satellite uplink), "Mission # 1 – Discover what the Bible says about sin and come up with a definition for it."

SAY: Before we really get into a definition of sin, let's learn our key verse because it reminds us that this lesson is for all of us. Yes, all of us have sinned and fall short of God's expectations for us, of His glory.

DO: While you are talking have a leader come in and spill all the rocks out of a container onto the floor nearby.



SAY: Oh no, what a mess you've made. This is terrible, we were just trying to get started on learning our key verse and now, we have this mess to clean up. What were you thinking? You have to be more careful and why did you have to come right through our session anyway?

ACTOR: I'm so sorry, I didn't mean to spill them, I was just carrying them around, thinking about all of the things that I've done wrong this week. It's just so much easier to carry them than to leave them somewhere where someone might find them.

DO: Look down on a rock.

SAY: Hey, this rock has the reference of Romans 3:23 on it?

DO: Pick it up.

SAY: Hey, it has some sins written on the other side but I think these rocks might actually give us some help with our mission. Recruits, let's gather these all up and see if we might be able to find out what Romans 3:23 says. Let's see if we can put the rocks in order to make this verse.

DO: Have the recruits try to put the verse together. If they have difficulty, remind them to use their Bibles to look up Romans 3:23.

SAY: Great work.

DO: Have the recruits read the verse together. Continue to read the verse a few times and each time have one or two recruits come and put some rocks in a knapsack until all of the rocks are in the bag. Now lift the bag and pretend to strain as you do (you may not have to pretend). Pass the bag on to any recruits who want to try to lift it.

SAY: Wow! This knapsack is heavy. I hope I don't have to carry it around too long. So, there we have it, we have all sinned and are separated from God. That stinks!

SAY: So, if we've all sinned, what on earth is sin? Does anyone have any thoughts?

DO: Write the recruit's ideas down on a large sheet of paper.

SAY: Wow! You sure have some great ideas here. Just to bring it all together for us, so that we have the same definition, let's have a drum roll here as I unravel a definition that brings together all of your ideas. "It says in Matthew 15:16-20: that sin comes from the depths of our heart. Sin can be an action, a thought, or even not doing something that we know we should. Sin is anything that keeps us from God and brings trouble to us, our family, our friends, and our world."

DO: Put this definition of sin up on the wall so that all the recruits can see it.

SAY: Can anyone think of some examples of actions that are sins? Tara's sin of lying is one that comes to mind. (*Cheating, hitting, disobeying parents, calling people names, excluding people at school*).

DO: Write these down on the chart with the definition of SIN.



SAY: How about thoughts? (*Thinking negatively about someone, thinking about how you hate your parents, thinking about how much you want something that you can't have, being jealous*)

DO: Add these ideas to your chart.

SAY: How about things that you know you should do but don't? (*Talking to the new person at school, sticking up for the person your friends are putting down*)

DO: Write the responses on your chart.

SAY: God loves us but He hates sin. He hates the fact that it hurts us and others and that it separates us from Him. He is perfect. He knows what is best for us. This is a tough one! Sin is so hurtful and keeps us from God. It was a lot of work, but we have completed our mission. We know that we have sinned and what sin is. So let's lift this heavy bag into the air and make a whoosh sound to send it back to the team. Before we go back to the team, I think we really need to spend some time in prayer.



Prayer Huddle



YouTube: Play "In the Beginning (S1) Episode 4 (2/4)". Pause the video when the PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.



Supplies Needed

- Small pieces of white cloth for each recruit (a white sheet from a thrift store would be ideal to cut up as you will need some more later today); please keep for use again with Lesson 6
- Permanent markers (if you are brave) otherwise just markers for writing on the cloth
- Paper to place under the cloth when recruits write on it
- Quiet worship music that can be played during prayer huddle

Directions

SAY: We have talked in general terms about what sin is but now is the time that we need to get down to the nitty gritty personally. We saw the Commander's shirt and how it's covered with ink. Well that sure reminded me of our sin and how messy it can be. So, I have some little pieces of cloth here and some markers. We are going to play some quiet music and as we do, I'd like you pray and ask God to show you the sin in your life. You can say, "God, I know I'm not perfect like you are and I need to know the areas of my life that are keeping me from you. Please show them to me now." As the Holy Spirit shows you the sin in your life, write or draw on your piece of cloth those sins. If you are finished before the others, quietly come and make a circle with me.



Be sure to have recruits work at a table or space where you have paper beneath the cloth so that the markers don't destroy surfaces if they leak through.



DO: Play music softly and quietly observe and pray over the recruits as they do this task. If everyone is focused, encourage the leaders to do this task as well. Authenticity is so valuable for the young people.

SAY: Now that we are all in our circle, put your piece of cloth in your right hand and allow the person beside you to hold a piece of it. (All the recruits should now be linked together). Now, let's raise our hands to heaven and I will pray for you.

DO: Pray that God will help them to sense His grace this week and to see the sin in their lives and how it is keeping them from being in full relationship with Him.

SAY: As we prepare to find out with the team is up to next, put your cloth in your pocket to take home with you to remind you of the mess that we make when we sin. If you don't have a pocket find a spot that you can keep it so that you will not forget it on the way out. Let's get back to our team.



Mission Uplink 2



YouTube: Play "In the Beginning (S1) Episode 4 (3/4)". Pause the video when the MISSION # 2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when MISSION #2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission #2.



Mission #2



Supplies Needed

- Genesis 3:1-7 script (see attachment on page 8)
- Extra pieces of cloth scattered on the floor (these can be used in future weeks)
- Bowl of fruit roll ups
- Video recording device (just for acting so it doesn't really have to work)



Mission Assignment

SAY: By the sounds of it sin has been around for a long time. Let's do what Christie said and do some investigating! Let's have a count down from 3 for our second mission of the day. 3-2-1 (reading mission card from the satellite uplink), "Mission # 2 – Recruits, your task is to find out where sin started and how it hurt those involved."

SAY: Okay recruits let's go back to the beginning of the Bible, to the book of Genesis. Genesis 3 tells us the truth of sin and its entrance into the world. I'm going to read Genesis 3:1-7 and I'll tell you how to act it out as we go. We're going to record it so that we can send it back to the team so do your very best acting.



DO: Use dramatized script and have the recruits act and speak it out.

SAY: Whoa! A piece of fruit! It seems like such a little thing in some ways but Satan totally tricked Adam and Eve. He made them think that they were missing out on something. They thought God was holding out on them. Then, they felt so ashamed, so guilty. They even covered themselves up to try and hide from God. Can we really do that? Hide from God? *(No)*

SAY: No, we certainly can't! Boy, this is so depressing. God created this beautiful garden for Adam and Eve and they had all they needed but they just wanted the one thing they couldn't have. **GRRR!!** We'd better let the team know what we discovered. Let's send off our video and get back to them. Hopefully they have some better news for us but somehow I doubt it.



Mission Uplink 3



YouTube: Play "In the Beginning (S1) Episode 4 (4/4)". Pause the video when the FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.



Field Mission Project



Supplies Needed

- Four kinds of real fruit or paper fruit in a basket (have enough fruit for each recruit to choose one; use the four types of fruit to create four different groups, i.e. for 16 recruits – four apples, four bananas, four oranges, four pears); clipart of fruit can be found at <http://clipart-library.com/search2/?q=fruit#gsc.tab=1&gsc.q=fruit&gsc.page=1>
- A blank picture of the four fruit that you have chosen which will be written on to answer the questions from the template below
- The template "Our Relationship With God When We Sin" (from attachment on pages 9-10) cut into its four parts (Answers can be found on attachment pages 11-12)
- Markers and pencils

Mission Project

SAY: Wow recruits, these have been very tough missions today and now, mission number #3 comes up and I'm wondering if it's going to be even more difficult. Let's pull it up and read it together. (Reading mission card from the satellite uplink), "Mission # 3 – Use your Bible to take a look at how seriously God sees sin."

SAY: Well, we shouldn't avoid this mission. It's far too serious so let's get started. I need each of you to choose a piece of fruit from the fruit basket but don't eat it.



DO: Make sure that the fruit gets divided up fairly evenly.

SAY: Now that you have a piece of fruit, find everyone else in the room that has the same type of fruit as you do. Once you have found everyone with your fruit, then you need to send someone to come up and get a worksheet, marker and a pencil from me. You will notice a Scripture passage and some questions written on your piece of paper. You will have a few minutes to read your passage of Scripture and answer the questions.

DO: Try to assign a leader or an older recruit to each group so that the groups can proceed well. Give the groups about 7-10 minutes to look up the references and discuss their answers.

SAY: Well recruits, what have we found out? How does God view our sin? Let's have the group who read Genesis 3:8-13 read what they have written on their piece of fruit.

DO: Continue to have each group share.

SAY: Wow, you have learned a lot about sin. There are certainly consequences to our sin that we have to live with. It is evident that God absolutely hates sin but loves us. Sin causes us to be in poor relationship with not only others but primarily with God. Thank God that despite our sin, He loves us and He desperately wants to be in relationship with us.

SAY: We will certainly send your answers off to the team. This has been a tough mission week. Sin stinks and the challenge for us today is that we are not going to find out what we can do about our sin this week. I am sure that the Recon Team is not going to forget about us. I'm positive that in the next week or two we will find out more about a plan for what to do when we sin. For now though, I want you to really think about your sin, to hold onto your piece of cloth as a reminder that your sin makes a mess of you, your family, your friends and most importantly your relationship with God. Let's pray.

DO: Pray for the recruits that they will really have a sense of God's hatred toward sin but His incredible love for them.

SAY: Have a great week and please come back next week so that you can find out some good news. This is kind of a "To Be Continued" week.

NOTES



Script for Genesis 3:1-7

Preparation: Have a bowl of fruit roll ups at the front and some pieces of cloth scattered on the floor.

Have the recruits act or speak out parts in bold italics written in brackets.

Genesis 3:1-7 (Bible Gateway.com) New International Version (NIV)

The Fall

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. (***Crawl around on the ground and hiss.***) He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" (Say - ***Did God really say, don't eat from any tree?***)

² The woman said to the serpent, (Say -***Hey serpent!***) "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" (Say - ***You must not TOUCH it?***)

⁴ (Say -***Hissssssss***) "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (***Open your eyes really wide and say, "Your eyes will be opened, you will be like God."***)

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. (***Look longingly at the fruit in the bowl (ok, well a fruit roll up), then take one and pretend to eat it.***) She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; (Say - ***OH MY!***) so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. (***Grab a piece of cloth from the floor and try to cover yourself up.***)

Our Relationship with God When We Sin

Cut apart and give one card to each group of recruits.

Pears: Genesis 3:8-13

Read the reference together and discuss the following questions.

1. What did Adam and Eve do when they heard the sound of the Lord walking in the garden?
2. Why did they hide?
3. Who do Adam and Eve blame for their sin?
4. Based on these verses what could you say the effect of sin is in our lives?

Now write the ideas from number 4 down on your piece of fruit.

Oranges: Genesis 3:14-19

Read the reference together and discuss the following questions.

1. Briefly summarize what happens to the snake.
2. What happens to Eve?
3. What happens to Adam?
4. Summarize the result of sin.

Now write the answer to question 4 on your piece of fruit.

Bananas: Genesis 3:20-24

Read the reference together and discuss the following questions.

1. What did God make for Adam and Eve?
2. What happened to Adam and Eve and their beautiful garden home?
3. Why do you think God made them leave?

Write down your answer to question 3 on your piece of fruit.

Apples: John 3:16

Read the reference and answer the following questions.

1. How does God feel about the world?
2. What did He do?
3. What happened when He gave His Son?
4. How does God feel about being separated from us because of our sin?

Write down on your paper fruit how God feels about being separated from us because of our sin.

Our Relationship with God When We Sin Answer Sheets

Pears: Genesis 3:8-13

Read the reference together and discuss the following questions.

1. What did Adam and Eve do when they heard the sound of the Lord walking in the garden? (*Hide from Him*)
2. Why did they hide? (*They were afraid because they were naked*)
3. Who do Adam and Eve blame for their sin? (*Adam blames Eve, Eve blames the snake; neither of them take responsibility for what they have done*)
4. Based on these verses what could you say the effect of sin is in our lives? (*We run away from God, we hide from Him, we are afraid of what He might do, we blame other people and hurt our relationships with them*).

Now write the ideas from number 4 down on your piece of fruit.

Oranges: Genesis 3:14-19

Read the reference together and discuss the following questions.

1. Briefly summarize what happens to the snake. (*Cursed and will crawl on its belly; the snake represents Satan who will be crushed*)
2. What happens to Eve? (*The woman will be challenged in her relationship with her husband and will struggle with having children*)
3. What happens to Adam? (*Adam will have to work very hard to make a living*)
4. Summarize the result of sin. (*There are consequences for our disobedience which we have to deal with even though God loves us*).

Now write the answer to question 4 on your piece of fruit.

Bananas: Genesis 3:20-24

Read the reference together and discuss the following questions.

1. What did God make for Adam and Eve? *(Clothes because they were ashamed of their nakedness. These clothes represent the first sacrifice that was made for people to have a relationship with God)*
2. What happened to Adam and Eve and their beautiful garden home? *(They had to leave so that they didn't eat from the Tree of Life.)*
3. Why do you think God made them leave? *(He loved them too much to let them eat from the Tree of Life because if they did they would live forever without Him).*

Write down your answer to question 3 on your piece of fruit.

Apples: John 3:16

Read the reference and answer the following questions.

1. How does God feel about the world? *(He sooooo loves the world)*
2. What did He do? *(He gave His only Son)*
3. What happened when He gave His Son? *(Whoever believed in Him might be saved)*
4. How does God feel about being separated from us because of our sin? *(He must hate it; otherwise He would not have sent His only Son to die for us)*

Write down on your paper fruit how God feels about being separated from us because of our sin.