Point 1: Help group members see the damage of sin on others.

Make copies of the following article, “The Parable of the Sting,” and distribute to group members. Give them a few minutes to read and then ask a few of them for their insights. The intent of the article is to relate the “sting” of our sin on others.

“The Parable of the Sting”

They may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation. (1 Peter 2:12)

I can still see Jay Elliott’s shocked face as I burst through his front door almost 50 years ago with a “gang” of bees swirling around me. As I raced out his back door, I realized the bees were gone. Well, sort of—I’d left them in Jay’s house! Moments later, he came racing out his back door—chased by the bees I had brought to him.

I had more than a dozen stings, with little effect. Jay had a different experience. Though he’d been stung only once or twice by “my” bees, his eyes and throat swelled up in a painful allergic reaction. My actions had caused a lot of pain for my friend.

That’s a picture of what’s true in our interpersonal relationships too. We hurt others when our actions aren’t Christlike. Even after an apology, the “sting” sticks.

People would be right to expect an absence of harshness and an air of patience from those who follow Christ. We forget sometimes that people struggling with faith, or life, or both, watch Christians with expectation. They hope to see less anger and more mercy, less judgment and more compassion, less criticism and more encouragement. Jesus and Peter told us to live good lives so God is given the glory (Matt. 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12). May our actions and reactions point those around us to our loving Father.

Point 2: Engage group members through a song.

The main precept we focus on in this section is that God provides an intercessor on behalf of His people. Play the song “Before the Throne of God” available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tx8W4yvYAc (3 minutes, 34 seconds).

Tell group members to jot down one or two ideas as they listen to the song that they glean about Christ’s intercessory work as our Great High Priest. Ask 2-3 members to share their insights.

Point 3: Engage their thinking by using “Think-Pair-Share” technique.

Show the video clip “One Person’s Worth” from the movie Schindler’s List. This clip is available at http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/schindlers-list/one-persons-worth (1 minute, 32 seconds).

During this short video clip, Goeth and Shindler have a conversation in which Schindler asks the question “What’s a person worth to you?” Goeth responds and says, “No, no, no, no, what’s one worth to you?”

Think-Pair-Share: As your group members watch the video, ask them to think about the questions put forth in the clip. Say, “Think for 30 seconds about these questions. Now I want you to discuss this in pairs with a person on your left or right who is not your spouse.” (Pause for 60 seconds.) Call on 3-4 pairs to share one idea.

Conclusion: Challenge for application.

Jesus was willing to suffer shame, arrest, rejection, and death so that we could live. He endured these things out of obedience to the Father and love for us. Have your group members spend some time thanking God for His Son’s sacrifice and then instruct them to ask God put on each of their hearts one person who they know needs to hear the message of the gospel. Then challenge them to talk to their respective person this week.

Teaching Tip of the Week

Engaging learners is an important component of change—the goal of teaching. Most teachers don’t do this, and so the student remains a passive listener. If you want to increase learning and retention, pursue active learning techniques and link the lesson to previous experiences.