



*Side By Side - Chapter 15*  
*“Prepare to Talk About Sin”*  
February 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>

**Reflections on Sunday’s Sermon (Genesis 38):**

1. What is an important truth that stood out to you in Genesis 38 that you will commit to thinking and praying about this week?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What do you feel that the Lord has been teaching you about yourself, Jesus, and/or the gospel through His Word and through the sermon on Sunday (February 18<sup>th</sup>)?

**Prayer**

As you begin your study this week, spend a few moments thanking God for how He has dealt with both the power and the penalty of sin through His Son’s atoning work on the cross. Ask Him to prepare your heart and mind to talk openly about sin with others He has placed into your life. Pray for the wisdom, gentleness, and boldness to speak the truth in love into other people’s lives as necessary. As you pray, consider the following words of this prayer taken from Prone To Wander by Barbara Duguid and Wayne Houk and make them your own before the Lord.

*“Compassionate Father,*

*We confess to you that we don’t want to need your mercy. When we see ourselves as righteous before you, we become lovers of ourselves instead of lovers of mercy; we perform to try to impress you instead of showing mercy because we ourselves have been profoundly rescued. Religious duties become more important than loving people, and we easily become blind to the needs of those around us. Sometimes caring for others even becomes the very duty we use to justify ourselves. God, forgive us and have mercy on us.*

*Father, you have shown us great mercy through the sacrifice of your Son. You piled the awful weight of our sin on Jesus and crushed him in our place, and through his atoning death we have inherited every spiritual blessing imaginable. Dissolve our cool, indifferent hearts with the blazing truth of your astonishing love for us in Christ...*

*Holy Spirit, keep us mindful of our weakness and sin so that we will come to love the righteousness of Jesus. Melt our stony hearts with gratitude for the mercy we have received until compassion and love flow out of us like a river. Help us to die to our own desires, schedules, agendas, and wisdom, and open our eyes to see the people you want us to love...Cover our shameful lack of mercy and love for others with the glorious obedience of Jesus, and may our growing love for him compel us to face a needy world with peace and real power to help. Amen.”*

**\*The following content is directly copied from the Study Guide for**

# Side by Side

Walking with Others in Wisdom and Love

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# 15

## Prepare to Talk about Sin

### *Overview*

Do you find it easier to talk with friends about your suffering than about your sin? If so, you're not alone. Most of us find it difficult to bring our sin into the light. Yet it's even more challenging when the sin that needs discussion is not our own but our friend's. We're not sure what to say without coming across as judgmental, so we debate whether to say anything at all. But walking side by side with others can't exclude discussions about sin. What we need is wisdom in how to go about it.

### *Questions for Discussion or Reflection*

1. Talking about sin is typically perceived as impolite. Why is this the case?
2. Welch writes, "Suffering hurts more, but sin is more serious" (p. 134). How is that true?
3. Why is humility a prerequisite to helping others deal with sin?
4. Why is patience an essential feature of love? Give biblical backing in your answer. When is patience *not* the best course?
5. We read on page 136, "Patience is more interested in direction and less interested in how fast people are changing." Based on that insight, how are you doing with patience?

