

Essentials of the Faith

Sin and Atonement

1. Sin is the problem

- Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
- Romans 6:23a - For the wages of sin is death

2. Jesus is the solution

- Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us
- Romans 10:13 - For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved

Small Group Questions:

- 1.** How would you define sin?
- 2.** Why do you think it's easier to spot sin in others than in ourselves?
- 3.** Why do we tend to minimize our own sin? What's the danger in doing that?
- 4.** How does sin harm us beyond the obvious consequences (broken relationships, pain, etc.)?
- 5.** Imagine standing before a judge with a lifetime of "just ten sins a day." How does that mental exercise shape your understanding of God's justice?
- 6.** When someone says, "I'm basically a good person," how would you use the Romans Road to respond lovingly and truthfully?
- 7.** If salvation is a free gift, why do so many people reject it?
- 8.** How can we talk more honestly about sin without becoming self-righteous or self-loathing?