

Session 2: Sin.

What's wrong with the world?

ROMANS 1.18–3.20

KEY VERSE:

**'For there is no distinction: for all have sinned
and fall short of the glory of God ...'**

ROMANS 3.22–23 (ESV)

Key themes

- God is revealed through creation
- Humans try to replace God with things he has created
- The effect of sin that wreaks havoc and pain
- The dangers of self-righteousness
- Human sexuality ('God gave them over ...' and the consequences)
- Universal sin – no one can save themselves

Possible issues

HUMAN SEXUALITY INCLUDING ISSUES ARISING FROM SEXUAL IMMORALITY AND ABUSE

Response: Consider helpful pastoral resources and responses you can signpost for those affected by these issues.

EARNING GOD'S ACCEPTANCE

Response: Many want to earn God's acceptance, but no one can save themselves. Salvation is by faith in the good news of Jesus.

CHRISTIANITY

Response: Christianity is not primarily about rituals or rules, it's about a relationship with Jesus.

SUGGESTED OUTLINE

- Refreshments:
Remember this is important to help people feel at ease. Some group members may be happy to help.
- Welcome and review
(4 minutes total):
- Welcome back! Make sure any new guests are welcomed. Remind people of the format of the session. Ask how everyone got on with the daily readings. Provide a short (1 minute) recap of last session's content (see previous notes).
- Optional discussion starter question
(5 minutes):
Have you been in danger and unable to save yourself? Share experiences. (If you are a large group, divide into threes to share.)
- Video part 1
(15 minutes)

Wrap up

- In summary:
 - Creation reveals God
 - Sin separates us from God
 - Self-righteousness offends God
 - The diagnosis is dark, but the gospel shines brightly
 - All have sinned. No one can save themselves
 - God gave people over to their sinful ways and the consequences are awful. God himself provides the remedy and the consequences are wonderful

- Reminder of daily readings in the participants' guide. To get the most out of the course, make the daily readings a priority, as they cover some key passages for next session. Have you set up a WhatsApp group? How is this going? Encourage the group to do the readings and share what they are learning through the week.

- Next week in Session 3 we will look at how we can be made right with God, but only as a gift – the wonder of free grace. When we are justified by faith, we are called to live by faith.

SUGGESTED OUTLINE

- Discussion time (questions in participants' guide)
(25 minutes)
- Video part 2
(10 minutes)
- Personal prayer/reflection
(10 minutes):
Five minutes personal reflection (see participants' guide for this) and five minutes for prayer in smaller groups or all together.